

Bill Cowham

With sincere regrets, we have been informed by Jill Cowham, that our President Bill Cowham, died in his sleep on Monday September 16, aged 87.

It was entirely through Bill's efforts, that our Association got started in Rotorua in 1993 (Yes, 20 years ago). Bill was a member of the 44th Entry which commenced training at Halton during WW2, in February 1942

Jim Butler was in the same entry as Bill. He writes -

Very sorry to learn of Bill's death, Ed. It is getting close to the end of an era for us 44th entry bods here. Bill and I shared a long history. We must have been standing close together at Halton when the service numbers were handed out in 1942 as there would have been only 5 others between us.

We did not come together again until we met at Ohakea about 15 years later. Not that we knew that then, as being of different trades, we were not closely associated.

It was only when we got together at the NZRAFAAA reunions that we discovered we had both been in the 44th Entry. I think I was the oldest, just, in the 44th entry group. I cannot remember where this reunion was held or the name of the fellow next to me. He was the first to go. Then Jock 2 years ago. If Bill wasn't 88, he was close to it, so he has had a good innings. When you are crook and crippled there is no fun in hanging on. I can only shuffle now but get around town quite well on a mobility scooter. I may be good enough for the next reunion, just, if we have another.

Jim Butler



I think that is John Fraser and Des Dawe, with Bill and Jim. Ed.

Ed Austin
Sec/Treas
NZRAFAAA