



THE EDITOR.

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Vol. I6, No. 61.

November, 1964.

ALL-STATES REUNION ON THE GOLD COAST.

Len MacDonnell, the acting Queensland Flight Secretary during Jim Hollidays absence overseas, has announced, on behalf of Q. Flight that the 12th. All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron, will be held on the Queensland Gold Coast.

This is the first time an All-States Reunion has been held outside one of the capital cities and the fact that the host-State has chosen the spectacularly attractive Pacific Ocean beach area of the Gold Coast will cause great Squadron interest.

Len MacDonnell writes: Many factors influenced the decision, including the fact that Anzac Day next year falls on a Sunday, and events will commence on the Friday night, and terminate on the Sunday. Accommodation has been secured at Lennons Broadbeach which provides for

- (a) Bed, breakfast, and other meals if desired;
- (b) Two standards of accommodation;
- (c) Party catering, if desired;
- (d) Grog at all hours, if desired;
- (e) Entertainment with dinner.

Costs ?	Twin rooms (front of hotel) with bath per person per day	£2-2-0 B & B, £3-2-0 D B & B
	Per week	£21-0-0 D B & B
	Twin rooms (Annex), Central Shower block per day	£1-8-0 B & B £2-8-0 D B & B
	per week	&16-0-0 D.B & B

Dinner £1 per head. Fly away holidays-2 weeks minimum.

Some may wish to stay on longer and save on air fares.

The March. The Anzac March will be at either Southport or Surfers Paradise. The Anzac Cup Golf will be at either Southport or Burleigh--the latter is now quite a pleasant course.

We would appreciate early advice as to who is coming, for booking purposes, to ensure that the type of accommodation available is secured.

As has been the practice in Queensland in the past, the only expense to be incurred by visitors whilst at the Reunion on the Coast will be fares and accommodation--the rest will be on the host State.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible and assure you of a wonderful time at the All-States Reunion on our fabulous Gold Coast.

Chas Warren Queensland President as well as Squadron President.

The Annual Meeting of Q. Flight, on October 9th, 1964, elected Squadron President Charlie Warren to the office of Queensland Flight President. He will thus hold the two senior Squadron offices available to a Queensland 458er in the year in which Q. Flight holds the All-States Reunion--of which he will be host.

The Cup. Our Melbourne Cup Sweep was slightly more successful than previously, and, as an annual money-raiser, helps considerably to maintain our funds at a good level.

A Holliday Trip. We're all looking forward to Jim Holliday's return in December, with the news of his overseas trip. The letters we have had have been most interesting, particularly ones regarding Russia.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

from Bill Taylor, 26, Pirie St., Adelaide, S.A.

South Australia has been relatively inactive. Plans are in hand for a Christmas Dinner and we are hoping for a good attendance. Our normal Christmas "Father Christmas" Picnic has been abandoned now for some years due to the fact that most of the children have grown up beyond the stage of Father Christmas.

Lofty Home. We were delighted to see Lofty Chalmers, who called in on his way back from a trip abroad and regaled us with his experiences.

Russell's Not so Slow Boat. Ken Russell currently is in Hong Kong on business for Adelaide Steamship Co. Ltd., of which he is now the Assistant General Manager.

That's London that was. Brian Woodhead had a very rapid trip to London on behalf of his new firm Stewart Moffatt Ltd., but unfortunately he was unable to contact any of the U.K. boys.

Notes on Notabilities. We are delighted to hear that John Dowling is now an Air Commodore and we are particularly interested to hear that he has been posted to Edinburgh as C.O. We are looking forward to seeing him. The old hard working Ron Badger has recently improved his lot by taking a new position with All Cars Ltd.

I am sure all the Squadron will be interested to know that Joyce Bertram is still carrying on Nick Bertram's Engineering Works and is doing a mighty job. She is deserving of the highest praise.

Merry, Happy and Prosperous! All the South Australian boys join me in wishing you all a Merry Christmas and the happiest and most prosperous of New Years.

#### THE BRITISH BULLETIN

from Sid Thompsett, 369, Downham Way, Bromley, Kent.

Things have been pretty dormant over the past months, so not much news to report. But I did have a very pleasant surprise.

Holliday in the Pathfinders Club. I had a very pleasant letter from Jim Holliday informing me he was in London, so I set the gears in motion and got a few of the lads together and we met Jim at the Pathfinders Club. A very pleasant evening it was, most of it talking about old times. It is surprising the bits and pieces that come to mind and what pleasant memories they revive.

And Another. Another pleasant surprise I had a few days before when, one evening, the phone rang and none other than Al Wheat was calling me from London. He was in a party of about 120 who had been visiting Detro looking over the Ford works. Seeing they had a Boeing 707 on charter they all decided to nip over to London and Paris. It was very nice to hear from him but didn't allow us time to meet him. But never mind! Perhaps another time.

All-States in Queensland. Getting back to meeting Jim Holliday, we are notified that Jim expects a strong U.K. contingent at the next All-States Reunion in Brisbane. Nothing would suit us all better; the only thing missing is the money. But we still keep hoping our number will come up one day on the Premium Bonds...and then, watch out in Aussie.

For Christmas! That about winds it up again, Peter; may I take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy Christmas and a prosperous 1965 from all of us over here.

VICTORIAN VIEWPOINT.

from Shorty Wilson, 78, Carnarvon Rd., Strathmore, Vict.

Annual Cabaret Dance. The vicinity of the Melbourne Bowling Club was a hive of activity on Friday evening, 14th. August. Members of this Flight accompanied by their wives and friends attended our first Annual Cabaret Night.

The result was very encouraging to the Committee. The total attendance was 100 people and so successful was the evening that it appears priority bookings will be the order for the future. We intend to limit the bookings to 120 people.

A first-class dance band kept everyone in a real dancing mood. This, combined with the luxuriously carpeted surroundings, an excellent bar attended by two experienced stewards, a fine dance floor and lavish catering all helped to make this an outstanding social success. All who attended spoke highly of the function and expressed their desire to hold the dance at least twice yearly.

It is not usual to give credit to individuals but in this case I would be remiss not to do so. Thanks are due to Harry Ashworth and Ian Alison for organising the use of the Bowling Club premises. The decoration had only recently been finished and we were the first, and possibly the only, outside organisation permitted to use the premises. Thanks are also due to Nancy Cugley for making the lucky leis issued to each lady. In addition, Nancy was a great help to me with advice on table bookings, the dance programme, and also with encouragement which I certainly needed. Many thanks are also due to Norm Cugley who was also of valuable assistance to me. Members in attendance were:

Gordon Wise	Jack Fleming	Gordon Cuthbertson	Ern. Laming	Harry Ashworth	Ian Alison
Don Johnson	Bill Carr	Ian Higlet	Lisle Wurr	Yank Martin	Bob Smith
Kev. Guiney	Keith Clymo	Jim Munday	Frank Wilson	Jack Bilney	Bob McKinna
Ron. Yates	Norm. Cugley.				

Air Force Week.

The Flight President, Ern. Laming, and I represented the Flight at the Air Force Week Church Service at the S. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday 13th. September. This service was attended by the Governor of Victoria, Major-General Sir Rohan Delacombe, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., and representatives of State and Federal Governments and the services, and also a large congregation.

We also represented the Flight, complete with banner at the Battle of Britain Commemoration Service held at the Shrine of Remembrance, St. Kilda Road, on Tuesday 15th. September.

In addition, we attended the Battle of Britain Commemoration Banquet at the Air Force Memorial Centre on 17th. September. This co-incided with the celebration of the 50th. Anniversary of Military Aviation in Australia. By this time I was glad to put the gongs away in the old oak chest until next Anzac Day.

Show Eve Reunion. Melbourne Show Eve, September 23rd., saw the following members gather for this annual event:

Ted Love	L. Wurr	Arthur Green	Norm. Cugley	Dave Firth	Yank Martin
Lloyd Tame	R. Yates	Frank Wilson	Bob McKinna	Jim. Whitem	

This was a discouraging response in numbers. The fallacy of the old saying "I didn't bother to contact you because you know I always turn up" has been finally proved. Normally about 30-40 members attend so it is obvious that a lot of catering was wasted and this is costly. The cost of preventing such a fiasco is a little courtesy and the price of a phone call. It is so simple.

Remembrance Day, November 11th., 1964. On this solemn and important occasion I attended the official Service at the Shrine of Remembrance by invitation of the Government of Victoria.

Christmas Party. The Annual Childrens Xmas Party will be held on the first Sunday of December. All Flight members will be advised by circular.

Gossip. Mine Host Jim Munday is now Licensee of the National Hotel, Moorabool Street, Geelong. No better place for a cool beer and a yarn about Squadron affairs could be selected than this spot. This is a good place for a refresher for Geelong barrackers and also for members en route to local beaches. Jim, we wish you and Joan every success.

Gordon Wise sends good wishes to Wally Archbold; and I do the same to my old tent mates.

The Committee and members of this Flight extend Christmas greetings to all 458 members.



SANDGROPPERS STORY.

by Peter Power, 145, Gildercliffe Street,  
Scarborough, W.A.

Chas. Geddes has contacted me and asked if I could put together a few notes re local news of 458 members in W.A. Although there is not very much to report the following may be of interest:-

Al. Wheat Attended a Ford Convention in U.S.A. and was away about a month. From all accounts had a most interesting trip and contacted some Eastern States members en route. Found that Jim Holliday was in the U.K. the same time. Was most impressed by what he saw overseas.

Henry Etherton: Had another spell in Hollywood Repat. Hospital with a nervous condition. Spent a few days with us at Scarborough on his discharge and was very much the old Henry. We all hope his recovery is permanent;

Chas. Geddes Has returned to Perth after quite a lengthy spell of duty at Carnarvon in the North West and immediately got busy on his Secretarial duties. Great credit is due to Charlie for the manner in which he handled the last All-States Reunion;

Jack Parkin: Has been on the sick list with an eye infection, and his good wife Laurel also had a spell in hospital with a major operation. Met Jack in Perth recently and was happy to hear they are both now quite O.K. They asked to be remembered to all their old friends in South Australian Flight;

General Meeting. This is scheduled for Tuesday 24th. November, 1964, at 8.0 p.m. at Committee rooms of the Air Force Association, 207, Adelaide Terrace, Perth.

Slappy and Co. On Saturday last I had a visit from a bloke named Troy who is a close friend of Alf. (Slappy) Hammond and who was contacting several blokes on Slappy's behalf. He spent some time with Amy and me chatting about things in general and Slappy in particular. Like most "Wise Men from the East." he had developed a liking for our local brew. He wanted Alec Barras' address. He intimated he was going to Gloucester Park to see our local trotting and fortunately a mate of mine had a horse (Blue Blazes) running which I knew all about. I duly passed on the good oil, and I hope he backed it because Blue Blazes won at a nice price.

My eldest daughter is now living in Sydney with her husband at Gladesville and Amy and I will be coming overland to Sydney for two weeks, leaving Perth in May, 1965. Hope to see some of the chaps during that time.

NEW SOUTH NEWSNOTES.

from Cy. Irwin, 17, Vincent Street, Canterbury, N.S.W.

Guesses and Rewards. The first item to report in N.S.W. Flight activities is that the Guessing Competition on the Melbourne Cup was successfully conducted on this year's cup. Thanks of the Flight Committee are expressed to those members who assisted by sale of tickets and return of butts. The nett result on the sale of 104 books was approximately £35. The amount goes a long way towards meeting our printing and postage costs for the year. The winners, as previously advised to ticket sellers, were:

1st. Prize	£30	B. Derin.	Ticket sold by	John McPhee;
2nd. Prize	£15	Miss M. Jollow.		Arthur Jollow;
3rd. Prize	£ 5	H. Barnes	"	Bob Bruce.

Back to Tuggerah. We spent a very enjoyable week-end at Tuggerah on the 16/17th. October. Squadron members, families and friends were booked in at Waikiki Holiday Cabins resort on Lake Tuggerah. There was a social on the Saturday night and on Sunday we held the annual President's Cup golf day. The weather was 'on our side' for the whole week end. The committee have in mind a Tuggerah weekend holiday as an annual fixture.

The winner of the President's Cup (originally presented by Pete Campbell when N.S.W. Flight President) was John Fennell and the runner-up was Jack Bevan, from Wollongong, who we were pleased to see along.

458 at the A.F.A. Federal Conference.

Peter Alexander and

Graeme Coombes recently attended the Federal Conference of the Air Force Association in Hobart, as Federal Secretary and Treasurer respectively. They found time to see Bill Wilkinson, now resident in Hobart, who sends regards to his crewmates and 458ers generally. They also saw Padre Davies, now Bishop of Tasmania.

New South Newsnotes (cont.)

A Country Reunion of members, with their wives has been held in Wollongong in the last few days--fuller details will be given in the next "News". Numbers attending were disappointing but this was no doubt due to the proximity of Christmas and the fact of the recent visit to Tuggerah. But those who went found it well worth while. Jack Bevan of Wollongong and George Unitt of Woonona arranged local details.

Christmas Get-together.

Sydney members are advised that the evening of Wednesday 23rd. December (from 5.0 p.m. onward) has been set for members to meet at the Air Force Club, 213, Clarence Street, Sydney, for an informal Xmas beer and interchange of Christmas wishes. We hope for a good roll-up of members. This will be your only advice of this function.

A Anniversary Dinner

Squadron members, accompanied by their ladies, will be invited to attend a special Dinner, on Friday February 26th, to celebrate TWENTY YEARS AFTER. This year, 1965, will be the 20th year since 458 disbanded at Gibraltar. We feel we should mark the anniversary with a celebration of 20 years of continuing friendship. Invitations will go out shortly. In the meantime please note the date. We want a good attendance on this occasion and hope for members solid support. The charge per head will be very reasonable.

Our Good Wishes to you.

This issue of news will be the last for 1964.

A very happy Christmas and a happy 1965 to you !

FEDERAL AIR FORCE CONFERENCE.

As Cyril Irwin has mentioned above, Graeme Coombes and I have been visiting Hobart to attend the Federal Conference of the Air Force Association. Graeme and I both came into the A.F.A. originally because 458 Squadron in N.S.W. decided to form a 458 branch of the Association. One thing leading to another over the 15 years that have passed since that decision was taken at one crowded Reunion, we find ourselves holding Federal office in the Association: doing a fair bit of work---and mixed up in a lot of very interesting events and discussions.

It being the Squadron's doing---and it being the Squadron's choice to play some part in the wider field of ex-Air Force affairs, it seems fair enough to give members a report on what goes on, through the Squadron News.

Hobart, a green and sunny City.

It was over a decade since an A.F.A. Federal Conference had been held outside Sydney. The last time was in Perth when in fact a 458er, Alan Piggott, was one of the N.S.W. councillors.

We were told to take overcoats down to Hobart, which I did. But I found it nothing but an embarrassment: though cooler than Sydney it was at no time cool enough for a jersey let alone the overcoat. It was sunny and fine <sup>though</sup> the green countryside seen from Mount Wellington and in the area to the south of Hobart, and the English trees--elms, rowans, lindens and hawthorns--did indicate a different prevailing climate.

New Federal President.

We met under the chairmanship of Air Marshal Williams, who had been Federal President ever since the A.F.A. became a Federal body and who recently completed 50 years of continuing service to Australian aviation. This was however to be his final Conference as President, as he decided to retire. He was appointed to a newly created honorary position called President of Honour and will thus not wholly sever his so very long-standing connection with us. Conference then elected Air Marshal Sir John McCauley as the new Federal President. A change of the top office bearer' after so long a regime is quite a revolutionary business and we are currently having a 'new look' at a lot of Air Force matters. Sir John McCauley is a former Chief of Air Staff, R.A.A.F., who served in Europe in World War II.

Defence and Repatriation.

These are perhaps the two most prominent interests of the Association and provided nearly half of the 80 plus agenda items which came from the various State Divisions. One of the suggestions, on which Councillor proved to be equally divided, was that the U.K. Government be asked to station a force of V Bombers <sup>in north Australia</sup>. Sir Richard

Williams thought it unwise to announce to potential enemies the whereabouts of Defence forces and cast his vote against the motion. Conference affirmed that the main form of Australian Defence should, in view of the great distances, be airborne defence; and urged increased defences in New Guinea; and co-ordinated defence with New Zealand. Having the suggested new Trainer aircraft in mind, Conference carried a motion from N.S.W., which originated with 458 Squadron, that the new Trainer should be made in Australia, thus preserving valuable aircraft manufacturing capacity.

Heart Disease The Association having, unsuccessfully, tried to get the Federal Government to accept cancer as war-caused for repatriation treatment purposes, Conference has decided to press for such treatment for heart diseases. Councillors felt there is more positive evidence to support such a case with the Government.

Extension of repatriation benefits for children still studying after 16 is also to be urged, in line with the extension after 16 of child endowment.

Air Training Corps. Some of the Councillors were very active in and well-informed about the A.T.C., and after considerable discussion, several resolutions were carried referring to the size of the A.T.C. establishment, eligibility for the Cadet Forces Medal, and the age of entry and discharge.

"New Australians." The Polish branch of the N.S.W. Division wrote taking exception to the frustrating term "New Australians" and urging its abolition. The Minister for Immigration, so I was able to inform Conference, wrote to the Association stating that it was government policy to avoid the use of the term.

Tasmanian Hospitality. All through the Conference we were given lavish hospitality and warm friendship which all delegates will remember. I was glad to have the chance to see Bill Wilkinson, who is State manager for his company Bankers and Traders Insurance. Bill is little changed; he has some health preoccupations, but retains many interests. Sailing and Scouts are two of them.

Graeme and I went by invitation to the Diocesan Offices and had morning coffee with Bishop Bob Davies who talked to us of many old friends we have in common; and told us of some of the interesting developments arising in Tasmania.

On the Tuesday (we had arrived on the previous Thursday and Friday) delegates left for home, work and the fairly hectic continuing round of ex-Air Force life.

P.C.A.

#### 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL TO MEET.

The Squadron Secretary (Bob Bruce) has issued notices calling a meeting of the Council for 29th. January. Flights have been invited to submit agenda items.

#### VICTORIAN FLIGHT PRESENTS TROPHY TO A.T.C.

Readers will be interested to hear that the Victorian Flight Committee has decided to present a 458 Squadron trophy to 2 Flight, A.T.C. for perpetual competition. Each year's winner will also receive an individual prize

THE EDITOR (P.C.ALEXANDER),

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Squadron members are reminded that with the New Year, annual subscriptions are now payable to their Flight Secretary. Early payment will help.