

CIRCULAR



THE EDITOR.

Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., 2001,  
Australia.

Year 19, No. 76.

August, 1968.

A 200th. ANNIVERSARY FOR 458.

October, 1968, will bring the 200th. Meeting of the N.S.W. Flight Committee. This does not include various informal small gatherings to organise Reunions which occurred before the Flight was formally constituted as a branch of the Air Force Association. This is no small evidence of loyalty to the Squadron, especially as most of the people who were on the first Committee are still active. Those who have presided in N.S.W. as Flight Presidents, in order of time, have been Ralph Bailey, Pete Campbell, Alan Piggott, Peter Alexander, Sam Barlow, Graeme Coombes, Bob Bruce, Stuart Ricketts and John Hosking.

No. 1 Issue of the Squadron News records

the names of that first Committee as:

- President: Ralph Bailey,
- Vice Presidents: Pete Campbell and Alf. Hammond,
- Hon. Treasurer: Sam Barlow,
- Hon. Secretary: Peter Alexander,
- Committee: Alan Piggott, Cec. Nation, Freddy Strom, Bob Bruce and Eric Munkman.
- Auditors: Doug. Bennett and Geoff. Cannon.

The Committee met at either Air Force House, Goulburn Street, or at the A.F.A. Rooms 330, George Street and coped with the problems of organisation. They enjoyed it and probably still do.

There is to be a special 200th Meeting preceded by a Dinner and the present Committee hopes to have, in particular, all those who have been committeemen during the past 20 years and of course every other Flight member. More details pretty soon.

NEW FLIGHT SECRETARY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA. HENRY ETHERTON TAKES OVER.

We have received the latest W.A. Flight news from Henry Etherton who has recently moved down to Perth from Geraldton. Here it is.

W.A. FLIGHT NEWS. from Henry Etherton, 15, Chaffers St., Morley, W.A.

We are now in Perth but I am still working with Massey Harris and was recently promoted to Despatch Clerk. I have been better in health since coming to Perth and having a more suitable job. Vera, my wife, hasn't been too good lately as she had a car accident just before Christmas which really upset her but she is still 458 to the core. Better than a lot of our members.

Bill Clues gave us a full report on his visit to the East. He seems to have had a good time and met a lot of the boys.

We are wondering if there are any of the Squadron Histories left as we would like to have one for our youngest son. We gave our two older children one each so would like another for our young bloke. (Out of print, Unfortunately--Editor).

W.A.Flight News (cont.)

I also wish to advise the passing of C.M.(Bunny) Williams. He was in a road accident some time ago and never recovered.

Anzac Day.

We had a poor roll-up at the March but our ranks were swelled by Associate members and other Air Force members who didn't have a unit to march with. However, the Reunion was a great success even though we "went down" a few dollars. Peter Power and "Binghi" Stewart did a great job on the piano with a lot of the old songs that were known by most of the boys.

Annual Meeting.

The W.A.Flight met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Geddes on June 11th. This was the first meeting I have been able to attend, and I was surprised at the poor "roll-up". However, here are some of the results of the meeting.

Bill Clues was returned as President, Charley Davis as Vice President and myself as Secretary-Treasurer. A vote of thanks was recorded for the past Secretary, C. Geddes, for his devotion to duty as Secretary over the last seven years, and also to Mr. and Mrs. Geddes for the use of their home to hold the Flight meetings in the past.

Vera and I are going to visit some of the old Squadron members as we have a lot of good friends in Squadron mates.

Regards to all the 458 boys.

CROWEATER NEWS.

from Lofty Irwartha, 60, California Street,  
Nailsworth, South Australia, 5083.

The All-States Reunion.

Plans are well in hand for the Reunion to be held in this State in 1969 and it is hoped that when the roll is called down yonder you'll be there.

Squadron Quiz.

A Quiz was conducted to provide a little fruit for the sideboard and was quite a successful venture. State President Bill Taylor wishes to thank all those who participated for their assistance and, in particular, Ted Creighton for printing the tickets and Sid Bartram for providing the beautiful mounted opals which were offered as first prize. Results of the Quiz were:

Opals: Mrs. B. O' Riley

Whisky: W. E. Robertson, Ron McRae, K. Belham

Lottery ticket: John Bax, Mrs. Madge Taylor, Sid Bartram, Hank Ewens

Beer: Mrs. D. Underwood, Mrs. R. Angove

National Training Service.

Overheard recently being discussed in the office related to the merits and demerits of positions offering such as cook, driver, etc. Being recognised as an old soldier considerable interest was displayed in my opinion in this matter, but, strange to say, my suggestion--trainee padre--was overwhelmingly rejected in favour of a Stores N.C.O. These kids catch on quick, Butch.

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Ian Alison, 10A Black Street, Mont Albert, Vic., 3127.

Our first Committee meeting since the Annual Elections, with Ron Russell as Flight President, has set the pattern for the coming year. Great activity seems to be the order of the day.

Trotting.

The dates for two Trotting Nights were finalised:-- November 23rd., and March 8th. respectively. Our ever-reliable Secretary, Bill Carr, also reported that the possibility existed of a third night being available. So it can be readily seen what a popular event this is down south.

Ladies Night.

Our usual Ladies Night at the Melbourne Bowling Club is to take place on September 27th. This is another event that has always been looked forward to by all who have attended before.

Adelaide, Here we come!

Discussed also was the forthcoming invasion of Adelaide. For some reason unknown, Vic. Flight members this time are going en masse--so much so that the Committee has begun to wonder how many will

Victorian Views (cont.)

be left here to march in "dear old Melbourne town".

From the first rough estimates no less than twenty but more probably thirty (including wives) will be briefed for operations in Adelaide next April.

The only debateable thing at the moment is the mode of travel. Some will fly but some, like myself, have an old-fashioned distrust when they see no "fans" up front. The thought of being pointed in the general direction and fired like a projectile, with a blow torch at the back does not appeal.

Anyway, whatever method we use, bank on us being there!

NEW SOUTH WALES FLIGHT NEWS.

from Cy. Irwin, 61, Park Avenue, Ashfield, N.S.W.

2131.

Maybe it was the Anzac Day aftermath (I don't think so— because we are a fairly quiet bunch in N.S.W. these days) but the only function to report since the last News Issue is that our Flight President, John Hosking, attended the 463/467 Squadrons Association Annual Reunion Dinner at the Air Force Club on Friday 12th. July as the representative from our Squadron. Peter Alexander also attended as Federal Secretary of the Air Force Association. We are happy to receive such invitations from other Squadron Associations, for we had, and still have, much in common.

Things to Come.

To report on things to come in the near future ---there are quite a few.

Firstly, our Annual Squadron Picnic (deferred from 21st. July owing to the Petrol Strike) will now be held on 1st. September at Warwick Farm Racecourse, Leger Reserve enclosure. We hope to have a good roll up of Squadron families.

The President's Cup.

The President's Cup Golf Day will be held at Parklea Golf Course on 15th. September. This will be a Picnic Atmosphere Day in which we will engage in our annual teams battle with our old friends, the Armidale Old Boys. As an ex-Armidale College Old "Boy", Sam Barlow leaves our ranks on this day and joins the opposition. The President's Cup was first presented by Pete Campbell when N.S.W. Flight President.

Air Force Ball.

On September 20th., a Squadron Party will attend the Air Force Ball, to be held at the usual venue, the Trocadero. Over the years many daughters of Squadron members have made their debut at the Annual Air Force Association Ball---the Hammond girls, Beryl Munkman, Jan and Mary Beach, to name a few.

The Anniversary Dinner.

Our worthy Editor will no doubt have a plug elsewhere in the News for this item. It is a dinner and social in October to mark the event of the 200th. meeting of the Flight Committee in N.S.W. Quite an occasion, and we hope for a really good night. Final details are not yet arranged. Would N.S.W. Flight members please keep in mind. Especially members who have at any time served on the Committee. We may even resort to arm twists to get you there. Date and full details for this function will be advised to you at a later date.

Finally, from out of the Limbo we have had word by mail from Merv. Hargraves (Coogee) and Dick Watson (lately Djakarta and now in Sydney). Nice to hear from these two members.

Good wishes to members in other States.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Alan (Snowy) Atherton, Ernestina Plains, Oorindi, N.W. Queensland.

Dear Peter,

I feel that I must be like all members of 458 in their intentions ---that is to write more often and then not quite make it. However I am now on the job so will try to make the best of it.

During May we had an enjoyable trip to Cairns for the purpose of attending the wedding of my niece and also to have an ale or two with Earl Hetherington, and both functions went off very well, one not quite as formal as the

Correspondence (cont.)

other, it was indeed pleasant to enjoy the company of old friends, something I don't have much chance of doing these days.

During the past weeks our daughter Diane and elder son Bruce have departed for the Southern States; Diane after a time at the Cloncurry

hospital where she served as a Sister, has gone to Sydney to train for her Midwifery certificate at Crown Street Womens Hospital and will be there for the next twelve months. Bruce has entered the Officers Training School at Portsea, Victoria, where he also will spend twelve months. Should any of the N.S.W. or Victorian boys find it possible to look in on either of the "Kids" we would be very pleased. Perhaps Bruce will not get much spare time as the Army warned it was an intensive course, and we all know what that word can mean. I omitted to say that Diane spent a fair part of her general training time at Cairns Hospital and while there got to know Earl rather well.

Things at this end of the country have been a bit unseasonal this year but we have been very thankful for it as things were very dry until the unusual May rain which caught us on our return from Cairns, and now it is overcast and we are having light showers, something which just "does not happen" during winter in the north-west; in fact, it doesn't rain much at all except for the first couple of months of the year. Our annual average is only about 16 inches and the country is very good when we do get it; however we have arrived at the stage in life where we would like to spend the summer months away when the temperature ranges between 112° and 118° for quite some time. But we don't seem able to make it. However I do hope to attend some Reunions before long.

Well, Peter, I seem to have run out of steam fairly quickly so will have to close wishing all 458 all the very best,

Best wishes to you and yours,

Alan (Snowy) Atherton.

Editor:---- Will N.S.W. and Victorian Members please note the above.

From John Dandy, Studley, Greenacres, Lilley, Nr. Luton, Bedfordshire, England.

Dear Peter,

I was very sorry to miss seeing you when you were in London last year. At the time of the Reunion I was in a Nursing Home recovering from an operation. I felt tempted to ask you to call, but it seemed rather unfair to take up your time, during what I am sure must have been a very full programme.

A few months ago, with my wife and family, I visited Malta and during our stay we attended Services at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral. I was interested to find 458 Squadron included in the list of R.A.F. units concerned in the defence of Malta, which are listed on the magnificent memorial panels.

I recently received the list of Squadron members. This has revived several memories and I hope I may be able to attend the next Reunion.

I received a telephone message only last month from Jim Dyer who lives but a few miles away. It was the first time we had contacted each other since North Africa and are hoping to meet soon.

With kindest wishes,

yours sincerely,

John.

From Mrs. Alison Wheatley, Flat 8, 117, Park Street, South Yarra, Victoria.

Dear Peter,

Received the Squadron News, just before I left for New Zealand. I was over there three weeks and returned last Sunday week. I stayed at my brother's place up on the peninsula thirty miles from Auckland, called Whangaparoa. My brother wasn't the best as he had jaundice, then on top of that congestion of the lungs; so he was pretty sick but he was well enough to take me out on the Saturday, the day before I left. He saw the specialist last Tuesday and he is very pleased with him, so things seem to be improving.

Basil has been gone twelve months on the 16th of July. It doesn't seem that long really.....

Very cold here yesterday 47°; not nearly as cold as N.Z. However the home was centrally heated and was never below 60° but I still wouldn't like to live there.....

Sincerely yours,

Alison Wheatley.

VALE "BUNNY" WILLIAMS.

We have been saddened to hear, in the W.A. Flight news, of the passing of another old companion. Not, of course, all that 'old' for Bunny must have been under 50. Very many of you will remember him: firstly at Holme-on-Spalding Moor as an A.C.H. A fair haired youth with the air of a countryman, from the West. He went with us to Egypt and later remustered as a member of the Transport Section. The writer recalls one particular episode on the long road from Amiriya to Protville when Bunny riding a Despatch Rider's motor cycle at some speed practiced revolve shooting by firing at various targets--rocks etc--flashing past him on the roadside.

He returned to Australia at the War's end and settled in Perth as a bricklayer. He married and had quite a large family--six, we believe--and while the writer does not recall seeing him during the two Perth All-States Reunions he did keep in touch with the Squadron. He died as a result of a car accident. Our sincere sympathy to his family. We shall remember him.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA PREPARES FOR THE 1969 ADELAIDE ALL-STATES REUNION.

Notes from Flight Secretary--Jack Riseley.

We have held a Committee meeting to review the financial position and make some preliminary arrangements for the 1969 Squadron Convention.

The Treasurer indicated our bank balance was \$189-99 with no outstanding debts. Some work has now to be done to try to present a budget of estimated costs of the Convention to ascertain whether this is sufficient money.

The following members have been elected to take care of the duties indicated and it is from them that the above information will be obtained for consideration by the Committee in approximately 2 months time.

Accommodation:	John Ringwood,
Transport and meeting interstate members:	Sid Bartram and John Ringwood,
Ladies Committee:	To be formed,
Anzac Day Lunch:	
(Location and cost)	John Ringwood,
Conference Room:	Mel Priest,
Hills Drive	
(Saturday afternoon):	John Ringwood,
Dinner Dance (Sat: evening) Permit?	
Price?	Bruce Thomas, John Carey
Picnic (Sunday):	Beer, soft drinks, icecream, food, prizes, transport, tennis, children, griller, coppers, and anything else we haven't thought to mention---
	Bert Ravenscroft, Lofty Trewartha, Brian Woodhead, Ron Badger, Reg. Priest,
Golf:	Ken Russell to check possibility of a game Saturday afternoon at Adelaide public links or alternative.
Name Tags:	Brian Woodhead,
Printing:	Ted Creighton,
Co-ordination:	Bill Taylor, Jack Riseley.

Under each preceding category the first named is the one responsible to organise those named to assist him and report to the Committee. Any queries may be addressed to the Secretary.

After having produced something very reminiscent of bloody D.R.O.s I think I'll shut up after thanking you all for your splendid assistance with the Quiz and those who have also sent a subscription for this year--if the latter has slipped your memory, it's not too late to do it NOW.

All the best,

Jack R. J. Riseley, 38a Cooper Place, Beaumont, S.A.  
Office 51.0351: Home 79.6157.

---

NOW IS THE TIME TO START PLANNING YOUR VISIT TO ADELAIDE FOR ANZACTIME 1969.

ATTENDING A 458 ALL-STATES REUNION IS ONE OF LIFE'S GREAT OCCASIONS.

458 SQUADRON ADDRESSES.SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Dr. R.C. Angove 163, North Terrace, Adelaide, S.A., 5000;  
 R. Badger 8, Goods Crescent, Brighton, S.A. 5048;  
 E. Baker, 6, Eurilpa Avenue, Everard Park, S.A., 5035;  
 G. Bartram 33, Parker Road, Torrens Park, S.A., 5062;  
 J. Bax Olive Street, Brighton, S.A., 5048;  
 C.L. Bowley 29, Nelson Street, Risdon Park, Pt. Pirie, S.A., 5540;  
 J. Carey 20, Sprod Avenue, Toorak Gardens, S.A., 5065;;  
 A.V. Conway 22, Henley Street, Torrensville, S.A., 5031;  
 E. Creighton 33, Farr Terrace, East Glenelg, S.A., 5045;  
 W. Cribb, 10, Shoreham Road, Brighton, S.A., 5048;  
 J. Davies 5A, Veal Street, Solomontown, S.A., 5540;  
 C. Draysey 13, Sewell Avenue, Payneham, S.A., 5070;  
 J.W. East, 19, Hudson Street, Prospect, S.A., 5082;  
 P. Enright Box 41, Myponga, S.A., 5202;  
 A.B. Ewens 8, Earl Street, Mt. Gambier, S.A., 5290;  
 J. Excell 82, Swanport Road, Murray Bridge S.A., 5253;  
 M. Goers c/o Barossa News, Tanunda, S.A., 5352;  
 C. Hanlon 2, Eucla Avenue, Warradale Park, S.A., 5046;  
 J.H. Hunter 15, Sheridan Street Woodville, S.A. 5011;  
 K. Kappler 44, Moore Street, Somerton Park, S.A., 5044;  
 L. Letcher 9, Avenue Road, Highgate, S.A. 5063;  
 G.H. Macdonald Kersbrook P.O., S.A., 5231;  
 J. McGlasson 25, Taylor Terrace, Rosslyn Park, S.A., 5072;  
 R. McCrae 26 Swanwick Street, Kirkaldy, S.A.;  
 H.J. Oliver Box 10, McLarenvale, S.A., 5171;  
 T.O'Reilly Bradbury, S.A., 5153;  
 F.J. Pedersen 11, Redin Street, Richmond, S.A. 5033;  
 J. Perry 15, Margaret Street, Port Augusta, S.A. 5700;  
 W. Pickett 9, Rosefield Avenue, Fullarton, S.A. 5063;  
 H.B. Ravenscroft 11, Thornton Street, Henley South, S.A., 5022;  
 J. Ringwood 290, Beaumont Road, Beaumont, S.A. 5066;  
 J. Riseley 38a, Cooper Place, Beaumont, S.A., 5066;  
 K. Russell Admunda Place, Beaumont, S.A., 5066;  
 A. Scholar 74, Corunna Avenue, Melrose Park, S.A., 5483;  
 M.A. Senn 23, Hardy Avenue, East Glenelg, S.A., 5045;  
 J. Sheerlock 14, Jeanie Street, Plympton, S.A., 5038;  
 I. Showell Box 392 D, Renmark, S.A., 5341;  
 I.F. Sorrell 8, Style Street, St. Marys, S.A., 5042;  
 G.E. Taylor Room 44, Commercial Union Building, 26, Pirie St., Adelaide, S.A.  
 P.M. Thom 44, Bells Road, Glengowrie, S.A., 5044;  
 B. Thomas Box 1187 K, G.P.O., Adelaide, S.A., 5001;  
 J. Thredgold Kingston, S.E., S.A., 5275;  
 N. Trewartha 60, California Street, Nailsworth, S.A., 5083;  
 R. Usher 52, Barnes Avenue, Magill, S.A., 5072;  
 R. Warwick Holowiliena Station, Cradock, S.A., 5432;  
 M. White 6, Barr Smith Avenue, Tusmore, S.A., 5065;  
 J.C.S. Wilson 4, Nelson Street, Port Pirie, S.A., 5540;  
 B. Woodhead 90, Observation Drive, Highbury, S.A., 5089;  
 M. Priest Hampstead Hill Road, Aldgate, S.A., 5154;  
 R. Priest 77, East Avenue, Clarence Park, S.A., 5034;  
 G. Young 126, Hanson Road, Woodville North, S.A. 5012;

If anyone has an address for a 458er not on the above list, or has a more recent address than given above for any of these members will he please let us know (Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., 2001) and so help to keep 458ers in touch ?