

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



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## Q. FLIGHT POISED FOR TRIUMPH.

## JUBILEE REUNION IN BROADBEACH.

From Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Q. 4121.

At the time of writing everything is pointing towards a grand Jubilee Reunion! Every State will be represented. It is fitting that we celebrate our quarter-century in the year of Cook's bicentenary. And we're sailing along very nicely, thank you.

### Anzac Day.

Our Anzac Day was again celebrated in the usual wreath-laying ceremony at the R.A.A.F. Plaque at the Brisbane Anzac Crypt; the March in which 33 Stalwart Q. Flight members and friends strode in step behind the Banner; and the usual quiet drink afterwards. Lew Johnston led us again with Harry Dorge carrying the Banner. Molly Johnston, Olwyn Richardson and Peg Holliday joined us briefly to discuss some details about the Jubilee Reunion. Len MacDonnell couldn't make the Reunion: 'flu held him at home. Jack Lewis had to call it off, too, with his back playing up. But Jack was there to provide the usual bang-on lunch. A nice quiet reunion, but, nevertheless the boys can still do battle with the kegs as they did in days of yore.

### Death of Jack Cronau.

I am sorry to report the death of Jack Cronau a few weeks back. Jack was a Holme-on-Spalding Moor boy, who hadn't been well of recent years.

### John McKellar a Master Pilot.

Flying to Sydney the other day, I found a par. about the Guild of Air Pilots. It read:---

"Sydney-based T.A.A. pilots, Captain Neville Grady and Captain John McKellar, were recently awarded Master Air Pilots certificates by the London Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators.

Announcing both awards, a spokesman for the Guild said that both pilots had made "outstanding contributions to their profession..... Captain McKellar, an R.A.A.F. bomber pilot during World War II, has more than 13,700 hours in command.

"Both are members of the Australian branch of the London Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, the only overseas branch of a livery company of London."

25th ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE REUNION OF 458 SQUADRON BROADBEACH JUNE 12th-15th., 1970.

VICTORIAN VIEWS.from Ian Alison, 10A, Black Street, Mont Albert, Vic. 3127.Anzac Day, Melbourne.

Actually, the only activity of note recently was the Anzac Day March and Reunion.

There was a minor panic when it was realised a few minutes before the start that we had no banner to march behind. A hurried conference decided we would join the Desert Air Force, but, at the last moment the situation was saved by the arrival of the missing banner.

Approximately 20 started the March but these numbers were swelled--half way along the way--by a group of late comers! The muster then took on a more respectable appearance. The Reunion drew further members and was again held at the headquarters of Harry Ashworth's plumbing business--which received its annual dusting and sweeping by yours truly.

Much drink drunk, much food consumed and much boasting took place as usual, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Don Johnson was elected to the honoured position of Vic. Flight President, so once again we're in good hands for the ensuing year--as always.

In closing, I'd like to pass on to Queensland members the best wishes of all in Victoria for their special reunion. We'll be seeing you all soon!

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CROWEATER NEWS.

from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California Street,  
Nailsworth, Sth. Aust. 5083.

Anzac Day, 1970.

6.15 a.m. The usual impressive ceremony of laying the 458 remembrance wreath at the War Memorial was carried out by the President, Bill Taylor.

9.0 a.m. A somewhat large crowd assembled at the Adelaide Airport where Padre "Tiny" Shepherd conducted the Service. A wreath was laid by Ted Creighton. Joyce Bertram, Glad Kelly and Jack Bax were in attendance.

11.0 a.m. The Squadron led once again by Bill Taylor, moved off behind 3 Squadron. There were fewer people lining the streets this year but, as usual, a good crowd of the oldies were there to give us a big hand. The girls, at their usual position, were somewhat subdued this year. Maybe we were shewing our age. At the water hole, the Talbot Hotel, the usual reunion progressed satisfactorily with Mel Priest pouncing on the unwary for subs. Jack Kalland, a brother-in-law of Bob McKinna, marched with the boys, although, as he admitted, he was a member of the A.I.F. Jack Carter, not a day older than I remember him at Shallufa, was going like a two-year old.

Those who Marched were:---

	Brian Woodhead	John Carey	Ted Creighton	Bill Taylor
Bert Ravenscroft	Bruce Thomas	Jack Riseley	Norm Trewartha	Harry Bartram
Sid Bartram	Reg Priest	Mel Priest	Jack Carter	Arn Scholar
Ron Badger	Lloyd Letcher	J Kalland	Keith Foreman	L Skinner
				J Callard

Vale!

Advice has been received of the passing of Tom (Geep) Hanlon on 24th February 1970, in the United Kingdom. Tom, who had recently retired from the Public Service, was taking extended leave with his wife at the time of his death.

From Doc Angove.

Doc Roger Angove sent along a short note in which he enclosed a cheque to cover costs for the 458 Squadron News. Although we don't see much of him, it is good to know that the Doc is going cosy.

All for now,

Lofty.

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NEW SOUTH NOTES.

from Cy. Irwin, 32, Rose Street, Ashfield, N.S.W., 2131.

First and Foremost.

First and foremost, there is Anzac Day, 1970. We were favoured by good weather and a good roll-up of Squadron members. On Anzac Eve we had laid the customary wreath to honour the Squadron Dead on the Martin Place Cenotaph. Also, and for the first time this year, Squadron members and wives gathered at the Air Force Club and attended a brief ceremony in the new Memorial Chapel there in which Flight Vice President Sam Barlow laid a spray of flowers. After this the party joined in a few drinks in the Clubrooms.

Some 40+ Squadron Members marched next day in the Air Force Section of the March and afterwards went to the 458 Reunion at the usual Great Southern Hotel location. The Rollcall included:---

George Unitt	Keith Cousins	Bob Bruce	Noel Spurling	Cy. Irwin
Wal Archbold	Jack Aitken	Bert Thompson	Jock McGowen	Bill McBride
Tom Ridgeway	Eric Munkman	Kemp Beach	Cec. Nation	Stan. Longhurst
Bruce Dean	Harry Baines	Norm. Peachey	Sam Barlow	Don. Bitmead
Martin O'Shea	Dick Healey	Tom Moore	Stuart Ricketts	Curly Hosking
Bill Astley	Peter Alexander	Neville Vance	Graeme Coombes	Jack Bevin
Roy Gilkes	Bluey Milner	Allan Smith	Buster Balmer.	

Wine Tasting at the Barlows.

On April 11th. a most enjoyable Wine Tasting Evening was held at the home of Sam and Maisie Barlow, to officially christen a recently added Studio and wine cellar at their Pymble home. Almost 50 Squadron members, wives and friends came. Takings were for the benefit of the 1971 All-States Reunion in Sydney. Our enthusiastic thanks to Sam and Maisie, and their willing helpers.

Bomber Command Reunion Dinner.

After the passage of several years, the Committee of the Sydney Bomber Command Reunion was recently called together again under the Chairmanship of John Cole (of 463 Squadron). Graeme Coombes, Stuart Ricketts and Peter Alexander represented 458 Squadron on the Committee, and, together with Don. Bitmead, at the Dinner. The occasion was to celebrate the 25th. Anniversary of VE Day and the Dinner was at the very modern and impressive Members' Dining Room at the Australian Jockey Club, Randwick. There were over 160 at the Dinner, which was attended by the Minister for Air (Senator T. Drake-Brockman) himself ex-Bomber Command. Another such Dinner is planned for 1975.

Go North this June!

We have heard from Q-Flight Secretary Jim Holliday that he and his gang have everything in readiness for the Jubilee Reunion at the Gold Coast June 12th-15th. Any N.S.W. member who would journey north for this weekend is most welcome to join the party from Sydney who will make the trip.

Office Bearers of N.S.W. Flight.

The Annual Meeting elected the following:

Flight President:	Kemp Beach
Treasurer	Peter Alexander
Secretary	Cy. Irwin. plus a committee of 14.

Another Important Date to Note.

Will Sydney members please note an evening arranged at McWilliams Wine Cellars--an Eat and Taste night---for September 29th. Details elsewhere in this issue.

All the best to 458ers in other States:--may Q-Flight have an enjoyable and successful Reunion in June ! -----C.P.I.

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458 SQUADRON WINE TASTING EVENING---MEMBERS WIVES AND FRIENDS---WILL BE PRE-BOOKED AT \$2.50 PER HEAD. McWILLIAMS CELLARS PYRMONT SYDNEY. CONTACT SAM BARLOW. NUMBERS LIMITED. BENEFIT TO FUNDS FOR 1971 SYDNEY ALL-STATES REUNION. DONT MISS..... EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 29th.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....from Henry Etherton, 15, Chaffers Street, Morley, W.A., 6062.

News has been scarce over in W.A. for some months now as it is hard to get a social gathering and create news. However Bill Clues and I organised a barbecue at his home when Wal and Betty Archbold. This was a great success and I hope we can have more of these functions. I hope Wal and Betty enjoyed themselves while they were over here as all our stalwarts turned out to greet them.

Anzac Day.

This was again the highlight of the year. We had a fair roll-up for the March. But while I am on the subject I must say the Air Force Section of the Parade gave a shocking display of marching. I cannot blame the boys for this as, once again the Air Force were Tail-end Charleys and all the bands were required for the Navy and Army and we had to stumble along to the beat of a clapping crowd. I heard a lot of the boys say that if it happened again next year they wouldn't be marching again; and I, for one, will not be there. Another grievance of the boys is that the British and Canadians marched in front of us.

After the "Shuffle" we went to the Maimed and Limbless Hall for our Reunion which was, once again, held in conjunction with 460 Squadron. Our caterers again turned on a good meal for the usual reasonable price.

Al. Wheat made it from Geraldton and an apology was received from Jim Palmer---both country stalwarts. But "Binghi" Stewart and "Butch" Power were missing. "Butch" had gone fishing; but "Binghi"? Needless to say, no music for the Parades. There were 13 458ers and 14 460 Sqdn. members; we were very glad to see Curly O'Connor, but by the looks of him, we'll be calling him "Baldy" O'Connor in a few years. Glad to see Bob Shearman too. I think we all had a good time.

From "Unc" McCarthy.

Had a few lines from "Unc" McCarthy a few weeks ago, along with his sub. His address is P.O. Box 16, Cocos (Keeling) Island, Indian Ocean.

To the Great Unfinancials.

Just a word to all those who are unfinancial and who are receiving the Squadron News still. We can't carry this set-up much longer and may be forced to strike you off the mailing list. We don't want to do so, so even if you don't want to pay your sub. of \$2-00 if you would let us have 50c. per annum, this would at least pay for your Squadron News. Think about it, chaps, and help us to help you.

If any of you have any news let me have it and I'll forward it to the proper channels.

Best of luck to all 458ers.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Stuart Currington, Box 780, Darwin, Northern Territory;--to Al. Wheat.

Dear Al.,

.....Actually I have been away since 22nd. November and Margaret has been with the boys in N.S.W. I entered in the (England to Australia) Air Race and flew over first in a leisurely way. Entered a Beech Baron D 55. Had the first mechanical trouble in the Race--heater trouble immediately we left Gatwick; and as we were going over the Alps at 19,500 at 20c we had to go back and fix it. Lost 90 minutes there and another 75 at Nicosia where an Arab overflowed our internal overload tanks. This was at 9.p.m. and we didn't feel like becoming another Halley's Comet. Anyway we burnt off about 67 aircraft on the way to Adelaide where we were 13th (we were 4th last to leave). No dough. On the last leg we were rehandicapped but burnt off about 48 others and got in 26th. Still no dough but had a fantastic trip over--coming back in 53 hours 37 minutes (Just one minute over our planned time) We had to cut a few corners to catch up (like Woomera).....enough of that but it was quite a trip and quite an experience to fly the Med. area again in aircoditioned comfort.

Cheerio, Stuart.

(Editor: Space has limited reproduction of this interesting letter but we hope to include it more fully in our next issue.)

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The Editor (P.C. Alexander)