

JOURNAL OF THE 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL: Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S. W., 2001, AUSTRALIA.

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458 SQUADRON COUNCIL-OFFICE-BEARERS.

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Editor of 458 Squadron News

Peter Alexander.

SANDGROPERS SAY

from Henry Etherton, 15, Chaffers St. Morley, W. A., 6062.

Newstime again, and I would like to say thanks to Bill and Joan Clues for helping us out while Vera and I were on the sicklist. We are back on deck again to take over our duties.

Our Christmas Do was a great success. We invited the wives and families along, and had a good roll-up; in all about 45 to 50 attended a barbeque at Bill and Joan Clues place. The young folk seemed to enjoy themselves and we are hoping to repeat the same next Christmas.

We are having the same type of Do,at the same address on the 23rd.Jan. to welcome to West Australia,Tom.and Joan Hicks and family,who have migrated to this State under the Landall's Scheme. As far as I can trace it,Tom.joined us at Protville as 2nd. Dickey to F/O Wells;and was in Douglas' Flight. He came out to see me,but, as he said he was going for a 5 minute run,he couldn't stay as we are about 12 miles from where he was staying. His address is only temporary so will let you know when he gets settled. We are hoping to meet them next Sunday night.

Charlie McCarthy and his wife,Ettie,have now retired and have left Cocos Island (in the mid Indian Ocean) and live at 84,Solomon Street,Fremantle. I haven't seen "Unc." yet,but had a note from him saying that he could not attend our Do on Sunday owing to previous arrangements ,but I hope to keep in touch with him for future Gettogethers.

As you know, Ken. McLeod has re-joined our ranks after being in Darwin for many years, and he would like to get in touch with Jack Parkin who is now in North Dandelup with a cheviot sheep stud, and I am passing on the address.

At this stage, we should like to wish Mrs. Chessell a speedy recovery as she has been "on Sick Parade" for a long time now. We hope to see her back at the Do s again soon.

Ron.Gannaway, one of our stalwarts, is holding his own and shows this by his regular attendance at every function we have.

<u>Cugley in the West</u>

Norm.Cugley and his good lady are at present visiting W.A. but, as yet, we

Sandgropers Say ... (concluded)

have not been able to contact them as they are on a conducted tour, but we hope to have them at the barbeque.

That is about all this time, so will wish all 458ers and their wives and families the best for the New Year.

CROWEATER COMMENTS.

from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California Street, Nailsworth.S.A.,5083.

Order of the Day.

Back at work, fit as a scrub bull and twice as dangerous. Thanks for the cards which I received and did not answer, and thanks to Jack Riseley for his prompt assistance with the Newsletter.

Garden Party.

In an effort to try and get some of the mob together for an earbash, Joyce Bertram, now Joyce Austin, and her husband, Dud, held open house at their home just before Xmas, on a Sunday morning.

From the amount of food prepared by Dud, and Joyce, the attendance was somewhat disappointing. However, it was not until I had downed my sixth jug and latched onto Bert Ravenscroft's lug that I realised just how long it has been since we had a day together around a keg.

The Austins are for doing it all over again and I hope that a more enthusiastic response is made when the word goes out. Remember.it's later than you think ! In attendance were:

Joyce and Dud Austin Reg.and Jean Priest Sid.and Pat Bartram Lofty, Marg., and Sherri Trewartha Harry and Floss Bartram Bert. and Lorna Ravenscroft Arn. Scholar Joan Dixon David and Peter Scholar,

Condolences

Condolences are extended to Tom Phillis on the recent sad loss of his wife, Rose, who passed on recently.

Wedding Bells.

recently pealed out for Donna, youngest daughter of Jack and Verna, Riseley. Donna was hitched up to young Adelaide stalwart, Dick Wheatley.

Travelling Taylors.

Bill and Madge Taylor have completed their plans for a holiday abroad. Bill informs me that he and Madge plan to do most of their travelling by air, and will include U.S.A., U.K., and Europe in their itinerary.

Anzac Day.

This year will probably be no different from other years inasmuch as we will probably have to rely on ring-ins to make a quorum. If you can get a leave pass, join the mob at the Assembly point, Victoria Square, and afterwards at the TALBOT HOTEL.

IN HOLLIDAY MOOD. Q.Flight News from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Q.

(Title by the Editor !)

"Christmas comes but once a year"--so the old saying says. Pity. We of the Brisbane contingent would like more frequent excuses so that we could go to Pres.Donny Brandon's home more often for those more often excuses we're wishing for Great hospitality. Ideal conditions. Moreover, marvellous hosts, Joan and Don Great night.

Joan is a wonder with the trimmings---you know, the garnishings that make barbeque steak so nice and add that piquant taste to the best of beef. Even the best of beef needs the right acquaintanceship with heated iron to bring out the taste, the juices, and the protein. Chef par excellence, Don Brandon has that superb touch. Chefesse and Chef--a perfectly matched combination. A marvellous night. That's what we made Don. President for :

Personal Pars.

1972.

George Connors and Jim Plunkett send all Xmas. Greetings, and the best for

Chas.Warren as a post Xmas treat--and a part of his retirement plan-descended upon Tim McQuaid up at Barcaldine, and they lowered a couple every night with due ceremony.

Judgment in the Family.

A big story in the local papers these last few days ,mit photographs, has been the appointment of Colin McLoughlin, brother of Bernie, as a District Court Judge. Much has been made of brothers presiding at the same time as judges. Hasn't happened in Queensland except once before--and a long time ago.

Cyclones, Soldiers, and Trees.

Cyclone Daisy has--at the moment of writing--deteriorated (sad thing to see a wilful, young and vigorous female deteriorating). Among other things, Daisy dropped $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches of rain on Maleny in less than 24 hours. I wonder is Cliff, Mannion dry yet, and if Jack Hobbs of Cooroy--only a rain drop away--has found the power and the poles the floods swept away.

If plans work out right, the Q.Flight contingent will make a temporary alliance with the military on Anzac Day. More later.

Plans are also afoot (we can't take the air) to water our tree at Amberley in the near future. We're buying the buckets now. More sprinklers/news in a few weeks time.

Yours truly is ashamed to admit that he toured Victoria over the Xmas period and visited only Dave Firth. You wouldn't believe it. We were too busy touring.

NEW SOUTH NEWS.

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

Apart from monthly Flight Committee meetings in January and February, there is little to report of Flight activity since last News issue.

Members, we hope, had a pleasant Xmas and New Year spell and will support functions and outings arranged for 1972.

Among the Dragons.

The first of these will be the attendance of a squadron party at the 21st. Birthday Celebration of the St.George branch of the Air Force Association. This will be held at the Air Force Memorial Bowling Club--Chandler Street, Rockdale, on

> Saturday, 25th. March--a DINNER-DANCE--commencing at 8.p.m. Cost----\$7-00 per double.

This News advice will be the only notice of this function, so would Sydney members wishing to attend please phone me at 798--9716 for booking arrangements with our St.George friends.

Then to the Cross.

Also in March--on March 17th.--members and wives will attend the Association Buffet-Dinner to celebrate the 51st. Anniversary of the R.A.A.F. This will be held at New South Notes (concl.)

THE CREST HOTEL--Kings Cross--Friday March 17th.,--7.30--9.30 p.m. Cost \$7-00 per head.

Further advice will follow, but if members who wish to attend this important function will give early prior advice, this will be appreciated.

Activities

Peter Alexander has had a busy time of late-in his capacity as Secretary of the Federal Council of the Air Force Association.

Firstly, a Seminar to look at and consider the policies and aims of the Air Force Association; and, secondly, to attend and give evidence at a Senate Hearing and Enquiry into the functions of Repatriation.

Peter's vitality and freely given time brings benefit to <u>all</u> ex-airmen. In addition, much time is devoted for direct benefit of 458 Squadron members.

I am sure that members in all States would wish me to say "Thank You" to

Petero

Subsoare Dues

Subscription reminders for N.S.W.Members are forwarded with this News issue. Please send subs.along, and help keep us afloat.

----C.P.I.

MEMORIES FROM HOLME-ON-SPALDING MOOR.

A note, received by the "News" from Sam.Barlow, who got it from Bob McKinna, and we don't know how it reached Bob, brings a voice from the past.

Holme Moor airmen will recall John Scott, a Wireless-Air Gunner, who operated as a 458 er from Holme. He came from Roma, and after leaving 458 for another Squadron, was killed in action. During that snowy winter at Holme he met and married the daughter of a local farmer-Madge Thompson.

After John's death Madge joined his people in Roma, and, later, married John's cousin, and became Mrs. Marsland, at Taroom.

Madge and her husband have now, we learn from the note which reached us, have now returned to Holme-on-Spalding Moor and are farming there. At Bob's request, we have sent a copy of the News to Madge, to pass on to the publican at the New Inn; and to the local postman who is looking after 458 graves in the neighbourhood. We shall hope for some more news from Madge.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Bryan Quinlan, 3552, Kelsey Place, Victoria, B.C., CANADA.

Dear Peter,

You will long ago have given up on getting back your library copy of "We Find and Destroy"....I tried unsuccessfully to find some way to have it copied and bound, and it has passed to several interested party for their perusal... I would like to congratulate you on your excellent account of the Squadron history--I found it most interesting and nostalgic.. I would just add one footnote to page 118 concerning the loss of Hailstone, Markowsky, and Lawson (all Canadian skippers) to the effect that in a couple of days, these losses wiped out most of the pretty fair Squadron Softball team which played against American teams in the area.

We were all shocked and saddened by the untimely loss of Roy Bell...Our lives had some considerable parallel through training, the same war theatre, attack on the same ship, and graduation in the same year from the same University, though in different faculties.Please keep the Squadron News coming regularly:I am sure you must have one of the strongest--if not the strongest--squadron organisations and you can be justly proud... Sincerely, --Bryan Quinlan.