

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



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## 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS.

Squadron President	Ern. Laming (Victoria) Tel. 47-7850/42-1051	Squadron Vice-Presidents	Sam Barlow (N.S.W.) Sid. Bartram (S.A.)
Squadron Treasurer	Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.)	Squadron Secretary	Bob. Bruce (N.S.W.)
Editor of 458 Squadron News; Peter Alexander.			

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....or the WEST's WINNING WORDS. from Henry Etherton, 15, Chaffers St.,  
Morley, W.A., 6062.

Firstly, I want to apologise to the W.A. Flight for missing out on the News for the last few issues. So, in this issue I will try and bring you up to date. In my last letter I told you that Joan and Tom Hicks and family arrived in the West on Christmas Eve. In January we held a welcome for them at Bill and Joan Clues' place. We also invited our young people along so that they could meet Tom's family (Richard, 20, Jane, 15, and Clare, 14) --- Keith, their eldest son, is a pilot with B.E.A., so didn't come. The party was a great success and about 45--50 "Bods" turned up. It was held in the form of a barbecue tea. Tom was with us at Protville as second dicky to F/O Wells. He is an architect, and came out under the Landall scheme. He was staying in a flat in South Perth but has since moved to a home at Applecross.

At the same Do, we had the pleasure of welcoming back to the fold 'Joe' and Phil Watson, and I am pleased to say they have attended every show since. Just before the barbecue, our sleuths discovered that Norm and Nancy Cugley were in town. However, after several attempts to run them to earth, Bill Clues paid a visit to their hotel before they were out of bed. We were very glad to have them turn up. Norm and Nancy were on a conducted tour of the West. Hope you enjoyed it, folks!

### Anzac Day as usual.

Anzac Day was a good show, as usual. We had a good rollcall on parade---about 20---and Tom Hicks played "Sister Anna". There was a bit of a mix-up, and instead of following the Army, 458 finished in the centre of them. After we left the parade we went out to the Clues place where the women had prepared a beautiful buffet lunch. We had our Reunion outside while the womenfolk lunched in Joan's lounge. After the luncheon, we all mingled on the lawn and had a great afternoon. The weekend after Anzac Day we had another Do, to say 'Hello' to Victorian Flight President Bob McKinna and Beatrice, who were staying with their daughter and son-in-law. It was good to see them after such a long time.

### Business as Usual.

I have just returned after another fortnight's business trip to Geraldton, and had the pleasure of meeting up with Al Wheat. Al is toying with the idea of making the trip

Sandropers Say...(cont.)

East for the next Anzac All-States Reunion. While on the subject of the All-States, we are working on circulars to send to the boys. On indications, we may have a few of the chaps there. Vera and I may even make it. As soon as I get a list I will be forwarding it to the organisers.

At the new Air Force Club.

During my first trip to Geraldton, Bill received news from Mr. Purser of the Air Force Association that Peter Alexander was arriving and offering the Air Force Club at Bateman for 458 to hold a get-together with Peter. At short notice, a number of 458ers and wives were able to make it. Mr. Purser gave a short talk on the advantages of 458 affiliating with the Association. After this, the women were shown over the Veterans Homes. Bill contacted all the members he could in the time available. Thanks, Bill!

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid. Thomsett, 49, Amblecote Road, Grove Park,  
London, S.E.12, 9TN, England. 01-857-0946 Tel.

At long last, I am answering your last letter. Life at home has been really hectic. I am pleased to inform you that I am now a grandfather. My daughter had a baby girl at the beginning of May. Her husband is in the R.A.F., now serving in Cyprus. He managed to get leave, and was home in 6 hours. A bit different from the old days.

I have now received the outstanding copies of the Squadron News, also the current issue.

I myself am working for the M.O.D Procurement Executive, in the Contracts Division. It is very interesting work, especially as we do a lot of work for Northern Ireland.

Annual Do at the Pathfinders Club.

We had our Annual Get-together at the Path Finders Club, and we were pleased to welcome Frank Braybrook and his wife Maureen. Frank is still serving in the R.A.F. and did visit Australia in March, but due to one thing and another did not manage to contact anyone of the Squadron. He has written me a letter which I will put in at the end of this letter.

To get back to the Reunion: all the usual faces: --- Mick Mason, Harry Bishop and his wife, Leon Armstrong and his wife, Fred Nieman and his wife, myself and mine. Many apologies were received for non-appearance. Everyone looked fit and well, despite our increasing ages. Since my last letter to you, Peter, I have to report the deaths of Ted Adams and Les Cook. These events, unfortunately, we must expect as time goes on. There are many members we never hear from, but I am still sending them the Squadron News, although we never receive any subs. from them. By the way, Mick Mason would like a 458 Squadron Tie. Can you arrange this, please?

I received a letter from Bill Taylor when he was in London but unfortunately it was sent to my old address at George Lane; and the new people there were away on holidays so I never got the letter until well after Bill had left --- so will you please give him my sincere regrets at not having contacted him. Hope to hear from you again soon.

Letter to Sid. Thomsett from Frank Braybrook, 1, Cavendish Crescent, Hornchurch, Essex, England.

Dear Sid.,

That was very kind of you to look me up again. I look forward to seeing you again. Can't recall when we last met, Sid --- but I recall attending a Reunion in 1955 and seeing Leon Armstrong at the same time. I hope now to remain in the U.K. for a couple of years --- hope is probably the wrong word --- expect would be more appropriate! As you know, I have been busily, and extremely happily flying helicopters in just about every theatre since 1955. I say every theatre, but until this month never made Australia.

On 2nd March I went out there for a three week spell of duty. I was most loath to return. Unfortunately I had no time at all to go calling on 458 Sqdn. types. I feel particularly bad about that in view of the huge package of 458 Squadron News I received from you to-day. However that omission was compensated for by Mr. and Mrs. Upton of Canberra who I met soon after arriving. They provided the type of Australian hospitality about which I've only read in the Squadron News! I was given the very best treatment --- and I'll never ever forget the Capital city, the Snowy Mountains and Mount Kosciuszko, Sunpatch near Moruya, the kookaburras in Canberra, the Tidbinbilla game reserve and a host of other fascinating places to which I was taken. I was even allowed

Monday 23rd April Ladies-Picnic Tour-Dandenong Ranges, Lunch at a very attractive location. Men-Sports Day-Golf,Bowls,Racing and football--individual choice. Dinner-Dance-Bavarian style--7.p.m.

Views from Vic.(cont.)Tuesday 24th. April Sports-Golf

Scenic sights of Melbourne--bus tour 9.30 a.m.

Evening free.

Wednesday 25th. April. Ladies Anzac Luncheon.

Anzac Reunion (March commences at 10-0 a.m. followed by reunion lunch)

For further information, members should consult their Flight Secretary. For interstate members there will be a moderate overall charge to attend the programme, accomodation and drinks will be extra.

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Personal Pars.

Roy and Joan Russell recently celebrated their 29th. Wedding Anniversary at a Squadron function, so Flight President Bob was able to propose the toast.

Norm. and Nance Cugley's son Don., recently returned from overseas, has announced his engagement, and celebrated his 21st. Congrats from 458.

Stan. Tarczynski is a proud grandfather. Incidentally, Stan's father was 29 when he was born, Stan. 29 when his son Dennis arrived, and Dennis 29 when daughter Mia Katherine was born. (We hear Stan wants to form a 29ers Club).

Ken. and Phil. Morkham are also proud grandparents. Daughter Doreen has a son, Stephen. Daughter Lorna is a very good iceskater.

Shorty Wilson has retired from D.C.A. because of ill health. We all hope you pick up soon, Shorty.

Squadron President Ern. Laming has informed me that the Regent Dramatic Society is presenting the very popular "Sound of Music" for its 1972 production. This is on the nights of October 5th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th with a matinee on 14th. Prices \$1-70, children under 14 90 cents. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Malcolm Ward, 200 Foote St., Templestowe Tel. 846-1442.

Regards to Flight members in other States from Vic. Flight. Jim. Timms.

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CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

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

If functions, meetings and movements of N.S.W. 458ers since the last News issue have been:

Club Night at Lakemba Air Force-Navy Club. This was during May when a 458 party attended a Saturday night after-dinner dance---Peter Alexander, Stuart Ricketts, Cy. Irwin, Eric Munkman, Don. Bitmead and their ladies. We had a very good night and this had led to arrangements for a similar future night---to be held at Chatswood R.S.L. Club on Saturday 9th. September.

Meeting with Alan (Snowy) Atherton. On Monday 14th. August Squadron members met up with Snowy Atherton and wife; and son, Ian. They were in Sydney for the marriage of Alan's other son. At short notice a number of Alan's closest Squadron mates were able to get along for some beers and talk over old times. Present were John Fennell (who came down specially from Tuggerah), Wal. Archbold (specially from Ourimbah), Fred. Strom, Arthur Jollow, Henry Bryant, Stan. Longhurst, Allan Walker, Eric Munkman, Peter Alexander, and Cy. Irwin. Dorothy Munkman, Elaine Irwin and Magda Bryant came in to greet Jean Atherton.

The Air Force Association Annual Assembly. The N.S.W. State Assembly was held at a country venue this year---Taree;--on 10/11th. June. Squadron members who attended as delegates to represent our squadron were Peter Alexander and Stan. Longhurst.

Sam overseas Sam and Maisie Barlow left on August 16th for an overseas trip and holiday. They will be away for over three months, will make their headquarters in the U.K., will travel through Europe and no doubt visit many of the Squadron's old locations in the Middle East, as well as some famous wine growing areas.. A well deserved trip and we wish Sam and Maisie a very pleasant holiday.

Rita Alexander in Britain. Rita, also, has departed these shores for a trip home to England for a family visit. Peter has things well under control on the home front until Rita's



We made a special trip to Ancona and to Falconara which was most interesting. Ancona in common with all towns has 'grown up' ~~again~~ again masses of flats--and it is

hard to recognise the place. But on reflection you will recall that most of it had been flattened, so it is not surprising that it was difficult to recognise. The harbour, of course, remains the same but the town--now a city--is very different. We stayed the night at Falconara and got a taxi out to the old barracks, currently in the hands of the Italian Army. We were met at the gates by the guard who firmly refused to allow us to enter, but we hadn't gone so many thousands of miles to be deterred by this somewhat cold welcome and we insisted on seeing an officer.

In due course a Lieutenant appeared---one Lieut. Guadalupe Enfremio--who, in turn was slightly abashed by two civilians demanding entry. He is turn sent for an interpreter --Sig. Virgilio Ettore--who explained our mission to the Lieutenant. We were conducted to the Guard House and in due course were given permission by the commander, Captain Lucio d'Antonio, to inspect. In a short time the Station Commander joined us and we were allowed to wander about. Bernie McLoughlin will be interested to know that our old room is now part of the hospital. The barracks is just the same except that it has lost the wartime look and is very tidy. Strangely enough there was no mud. The old operations room, a two storey house, is now in private hands and there is no direct entry into the airfield which is now a civilian drome. The Officers and the Interpreter were most kind, and did all in their power to help, including a grog in the Officers Mess.

I promised to send a copy of our News Bulletin to each of the above Gentlemen, and also one to Bill Mathews of Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Bill Mathews is the Postman who tends the graves of the Australian airmen buried in the churchyard. The cemetery is overgrown except for a small area containing the air force personnel, which is in first class order. Some rosemary hedges have been planted, and the area is planted with lawn and is cut each weekend. Bill Mathews had a brother who was killed and is one of those buried at this spot. We took photographs of all the Australian graves. We have not yet sorted the photographs but in due course I will forward you the names and details of the graves. They may not be 458 personnel but they are certainly Australians.

Bill Mathews address is c/Post Office, and he will be very pleased to be included on our Mail List. Can this be done?

We endeavoured to contact 458 Flight in London but did not receive any reply to my letter. After enquiries at the R.A.F.Club, managed to find Alan McKay, ex B.Flight Commander. His address is The Cottage, Woodhall Park, Watton-at-Stone, <sup>Herts</sup>England (Sid.Thompsett, please note). He and his wife came to London and we had a very pleasant and entertaining lunch. He wishes to be remembered to members of the Squadron, particularly Jack Dowling and Robin Knight. I promised to have his name put back on our List. Alan is now semi-retired and looks just the same, except like all of us, he has put on a little weight.

While we were in England, I made it my business to go back to Netheravon, the Station where I did a bit of gliding and here we were allowed to look over the entire field. It is still an Airfield, but in the hands of the Army. We were lucky to see the Station in its present condition, as we understand it is due for modernisation. It was completely unchanged since 1942. Kind regards,

Bills.

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From Ron Verity, 26, Charlcott Street, Christchurch, 5, New Zealand.

Dear Peter,

If we always managed to get things done on time, I wouldn't be typing this letter to-day--it should have been done months ago. Thanks for keeping me on the Mailing List and I sincerely hope this cheque will make for some of the unpaid dues which I suspect are owing. Although I retired from teaching some 18 months ago with a desire to visit Australia, family needs have so far prevented this from happening and I am working full time in a clerical capacity..... I continue to read the Squadron News but have only tenuous connections with any Squadron member. There are times when I think how exciting it would be if crew members could only meet for a reunion; and then one has to remind oneself that we have probably changed beyond recognition. Imagine 3 Canadians, a couple of Englishmen and a New Zealander meeting after almost 0 years ! But one can dream.....

Thanks for keeping the fellowship of the days of war alive in our hearts....Regards to Ernie Laming and Mel Priest... We hope to hear if any of the old brigade are in Christchurch for the Commonwealth Games

Ron. Verity.

[illegible]