

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



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458 SQUADRON COUNCIL---OFFICE-BEARERS.

Squadron President	Ern. Laming (Victoria)	Squadron Secretary	Bob. Bruce (N.S.W.)
Squadron Vice Presidents	Sam. Barlow (N.S.W.) Sid. Bartram (S.A.)	Squadron Treasurer	Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.)

Editor of 458 Squadron News; Peter Alexander.

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

Air Force Commemoration Week.

Squadron representatives, during September, attended Sydney functions to commemorate the Battle of Britain. Functions included the Battle of Britain Cenotaph service--on 15th. September--and commemorative Church services at St. Andrews and St. Mary's Cathedrals, and St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, on Sunday 17th. September.

At the Air Force Ball, held at the University of New South Wales Roundhouse, was a 458 Party who joined our Debutante's Table (Deborah Alexander and her young friends) to enjoy a very happy evening. This was on Friday September 22nd. Squadron members present, with their wives, to celebrate with Peter and Rita were Graeme Coombes, Pete Campbell, Eric Munkman, and Cy. Irwin.

458 was also represented at the Annual Church Service at All Saints Air Force Memorial Church, West Lindfield towards the end of October. Flight President Eric Munkman, and Peter and Rita Alexander attended.

The Melbourne Cup Competition.

Once again, this has been successfully conducted. To those who hopefully returned ticket butts, we express our thanks. 107 books were returned and an approximate \$70 net profit resulted. Congratulations to the lucky winners:--Mrs. D.M. Walker (Piping Lane), Stan. Longhurst (Magnifique), and Aub. Dombkins (Gunsynd).

The Presidents Cup Golf Day.

This was held at Asquith Golf Club on Sunday November 26th. A disappointing roll-up, but those who did battle with the course enjoyed the day and the usual hospitality of Asquith Golf Club. President Eric presented the prizes for the day----

Presidents Cup:	John Fennell,
Runner-up:	Wal. Archbold,
Visitor's Trophy	Stephen Bruce,

New South Notes (cont.)

Runner-Up Fred.Fenton.

Nearest the pin prize went to Bob.Bruce. To Bob also goes the Squadron's thanks for making arrangements for the Asquith venue.

Visit to the Sydney Art Gallery.

This has been planned for Thursday 14th.December and will be history by the time this News is despatched. The evening will be our last 1972 function and is out Xmas get-together. Replies to invitations extended are encouraging and we hope to have an attendance of approximately 30.

On the Sick List.

Jack Nichols,Bill McBride and Jack Ind have been on the Sick List. We send them our wishes for recovery and a better year in 1973.

All-States Reunion,1973.

This will be hosted by Victoria Flight. Flight Secretary Jim.Timms has been in touch and would like early indication of likely starters. Sydney 458 members who have indicated attendance,at this stage,are Sam.Barlow,Eric Munkman,Bob.Bruce,Peter Alexander,Stan.Longhurst,Allan Walker,Fred.Strom,Cy.Irwin and Noel Spurling. Would other members (particularly in country areas) kindly reply to our box number (5289,G.P.O.,Sydney) if able to make the trip south at 1973 time. We would like to help Vic.Flight committee be early advice. C.P.I.

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CROWEATER NEWS.

from Lofty Trewartha,60,California St.,Nailsworth,S.A.

Up the Top.

Things looked crook. Leave pass applied for and approved,and out comes the Oil companies mob on strike. Guess what ? No petrol sales in S.A.

But anyone who could trade the same pair of shoes twice to Butch Power couldn't let a little thing like a strike stand in his way.

Marg.and I left Adelaide on 27th.July with the old trailer loaded with 80 gallons of petrol,behind the car. Except for a brief stop when I put the cook through her paces with a shotgun,everything went like silk.

The weather was fantastic and we soon had shorts on;as a matter of fact we didn't see rain again until we arrived in Perth.

I don't think I have ever seen a road as bad as it is between Port Augusta and Alice Springs. Three broken springs and two busted U bolts was my tally and I was only cruising. I counted 85 abandoned cars on this stretch of the road.

Stopped a night at Victory Downs where we enjoyed a good hot shower before pushing on to Ayers Rock. If you want to see a rough track,try that one from Victory Downs to A/Rock. Had a good look at the Rock from a light aircraft and stayed for three days.

Arrived at the Alice trailing broken springs but fortunately still mobile. Spent three days at Alice Springs and enjoyed every minute of it.

The bitumen at last,and we made short work of it through Wauchope,Tennant Creek,Katherine,and,at last,Darwin. Two things stand out in my mind when I think of Darwin---Barramundi fish,and the sunset over Fanny Bay.

A sea trip to Mica Bay on the other side of Darwin Harbour provided a few laughs

Croweater News (cont.)

as we had to transfer to an old army Duck that came alongside. Seats had been arranged on top and after we were all seated she coughed and wheezed her way to the beach where she somehow managed to crawl out of the water and up the beach to a spot where we dismounted. A corroboree by about 10 aboriginals was the high light of the day, plus the fact that I had to pay 65c. for a stubby of beer. Marg. and I celebrated our silver wedding at the 'Top of the Don' which is Darwin's plushest pub.

After 10 days of glorious sunshine and casual living in one of the most interesting cities I have ever seen we reluctantly headed back to Katherine where we stayed at the Gorge for 2 days. About 4 hours by boat make it possible to see some of the most fantastic colours imaginable in the cliffs on either side of the Gorge.

From Katherine we set out for Broome but ran into some rather hot weather and a daddy of a bushfire which caused the old bus to boil. Decided we would travel by night, although this was rather dicey owing to the number of 'roos on the track. Finally made it to Cununurra on the mighty Ord River where we stopped for three days. Accompanied by a Canadian couple we went about 50 miles up the Ord by speed boat. Spent the afternoon swimming in crystal clear water and enjoyed lunch on some huge rocks.

Debris about 30 feet up the cliffs is evidence of the power of this great river and the large area being irrigated is proof of the enormous potential that lies ahead for the north-west of Australia. Spent a day at the cotton gins and cotton fields before we moved off again. A full moon was appreciated as we drove to Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Derby, and finally Broome.

Spent three days in Broome where we were fortunate to see the phenomenon called the "Stairway to the Stars". This is the effect caused by the full moon rising when the tide is out. The result is comparable to a golden stairway going up to the moon.

The so-called horror strip from Broome to Port Hedland was a piece of cake. We left Broome about 3 a.m. and arrived at Port Hedland about 8 p.m. A few bull dust holes but no problems.

Arrived at Geraldton where we found Al. and Joy Wheat suffering from the flu. At least Al. said it was the flu but I have seen some beaut. hangovers in my time and he did say they had been in Perth with Butch and Amy Power. Thanks for fixing up my mail problems, Pal.

At last, Perth and it was raining like blazes. Saw Curly O'Connor at the local boozier where we had a bit of a session. Curly is looking extra well but going a bit snowy on top.

Bill Clues tied up an evening at the Court Hotel where I was delighted to meet some of the boys again. Butch Power, Binghi Stewart, Shorty Long, Chas. Davis, Henry Etherton, Teddy Jewell, and Bill Clues. We stayed until they tossed us out and then we continued on the footpath. It was a grand evening and my thanks to you, Bill.

The Nullabor Plain was a soda, and except for a bit of dust, no problems.

Hope to do a repeat in 1975, but this time via Mount Isa.

The Local Scene.

John Ringwood and Bruce Thomas have just returned from a holiday overseas.

Bill and Joan Clues passed through Adelaide recently but unfortunately time did not permit a reunion;

Dud and Joyce Austin have agreed to hold another Xmas barbeque at their home on December 10th in the morning. Bring a pork chop and a bottle. Ring Jack R.

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The Victorian Version. from Jim.Timms,39, Frank Street, Vermont, 3133.

The Passing Show: Still going.

September 15th. Dinner Dance, Salzburg Lodge. Small party attended. Very enjoyable evening. The first time Elaine and I had been there.

October 22nd. Wine bottling day at John and Marg. Bilney's block at Kangaroo Ground, 25 miles from the G.P.O. on the banks of the Yarra in a delightful bush setting (the first time I had seen a native spider orchid). John and Marg. organised the bulk-buying of wine (red and white) as well as the bottling of it, plus producing 2 unique-type barbeques, nibblers, appetizers, and even washing up facilities for cups, glasses, etc. The gratifying aspect of this function was the full attendance of our Victorian Committee together with a large number of their friends. Wal. Archbold and his wife from the N.S.W. Flight, Ern. and Jean Laming's son from New Guinea and the best attendance of younger folk we have had at any of our previous functions. A chicken dinner was raffled and resulted in a win to Harry Ashworth who, incidentally, with a couple of his friends, was down fishing in the Yarra. John and Marg., not content with all this, most generously donated an Agfa-Matic Camera outfit to be raffled to benefit Squadron funds. This will be drawn at our Xmas Party in December. The day was a terrific success both from the social and the business aspects. Many thanks from Vic. Flight to John and Marg. and their son, Roger.

November 7th. The Ladies ran a function at Ron. and Joan Russells' on Cup Day in the form of a barbecue lunch (unfortunately it didn't finish there), a few sweeps and quite a few drinks. We drew the second T.V. which was won by ticket 798, held by Jenny Fleming, daughter of John and Dot--a very popular win. An Ali Baba basket, made and donated by Bob McKinna, was won by George Tarczynski (Stan's brother).

Personal Pars.

Flight President Bob. McKinna has had another short stay in Heidelberg Repat. Hospital recently--is now out and about again.

Norm. Cugley also has been in hospital since our last news--he looked O.K. again at John Bilney's wine bottling.

Elaine and I will be in Sydney from 27th to 30th. December, staying at the Charles Motel, Chatswood. Hope N.S.W. Flight can arrange a night out with some of the N.S.W. boys. We fly to New Zealand on the 30th for a 17 day tour.

Roger and Jean Rodwell enjoyed their stay in N.S.W. recently--especially the night in the Air Force Club.

458's sympathy to Dave Firth and Norm. Cugley on the recent deaths of father and mother, respectively.

All-States Reunion, 1973.

The time draws closer. Victorian members, please return your questionnaires as soon as possible (better still, do it now). Flight Secretaries, please advise the number attending as we have to commit a firm booking at various venues.

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IN FULL-Q. FLIGHT. News from Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella St. Holland Park, Q.

Biggest news since the last News is the Melbourne Cup. H. Mason, a friend of our Flight President, Don. Brandon, won our Sweep with Piping Lane. D. Mulherin,

In Full-Q.Flight (cont.)

a friend of Treasurer Jack Lewis drew the second horse; while Johnny Rosenberg had our third prize. Another wonderful response and with our bank account back to normal we will be able to stagger through financially until next Melbourne Cup. Incidentally, we had a most representative group attend the drawing; I do suggest that next year we hire the City Hall. I'm quite sure those attending will declare it the most entertaining event of the year. A special thanks to Len MacDonnell who has taken the entire responsibility to his bosom for conducting the Sweep. Without him, we wouldn't have a winner.

Social.

Many of our metropolitan--and nearby--members enjoyed a night at the Sherwood R.S.L. Club recently. Entertained most royally--the band played our vintage music--and we were asked to conduct the 9 p.m. Remembrance Ceremony.

People.

Erle Hetherington down from Cairns recently and ran into a few of the boys.

Jack Hobbs, still doing fine up Tewanin way. Theo Ravenscroft writes from Longreach that it has been a bit dry out there; even the beer has been used for watering the crops. Bill Snowden, enjoying a little retirement after his trip to Britain. Clive Wyman has bought a few hundred acres and now spends his weekends watching the grass and the crops and the cattle grow. Sel. Foote, too, has acquired some prime land.

Olwen Richardson advises that the complaint which caused Chas,' sudden death has been accepted as a war disability and now she receives what is rightly hers-- a war widows pension.

After 20 years in the Queensland Parliament, Eric Lloyd did not stand in the recent elections and has retired to Coolum, a salubrious resort on the Sunshine Coast north of Brisbane, where he has taken up the profession of Real Estate Agent. Eric hasn't been very well in recent years and the change of climate--and our--sunshine--will do him good.

Gordon Postle appeared in the paper recently with an article in his capacity as President of the Real Estate Institute of Queensland.

Saw Don Brandon, our President and youngest grandfather, on T.V. blithely pretending to be someone else on a local show where a panel had to guess which of three was a trainer of guide dogs. He is President of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association of Queensland.

Jack Lewis will be entering Greenslopes Repat. Hospital shortly to have an operation on his back, and hopes to come out a new man

Had a phone call from Bob Coles of Toowoomba the other day. Nice long chat. Now a proud grandfather. He's the man behind the beautiful flowers that Toowoomba is famous for.

You wouldn't believe how well Chas Warren looks since he retired. Has a marvellous time painting his house. One hour on, three hours off. Proud that one of his sons has returned to the West where Chas comes from, teaching at a one teacher school, 88 miles west of Longreach. The lad loves it.

Ian Higlett called in on his way to see his brother in New Guinea. Thinking of seeking a position where the sun shines brightest.

Footnote from the Editor. Talking of Queensland;--Charlie (Otto) Mann tells us of his recent trip north. Equipped with a mailing list of addresses as his Flight path, he duly located nearly every 458 Banana--bender in the State north of Brisbane. Johnny Dew, Danny Dangaard, Alf Peake, to mention a few. Otto plans a return--proposes to ride his motor-bike even further north if he can find a mate to travel with him. We hope for more details.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Peter Hemingway, 7089, Oxford Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

Dear Sir,

First, I should like to thank you for sending me 458 Squadron News all these years --some of the copies did indeed get through to me. The problem, of course, has been just too many changes of address. Presently, I am living at the above address and hope it will prove to be reasonably permanent. As at least a token to help defray some of the expense, please accept the enclosed cheque for \$10-00.

yours sincerely,
Peter Hemingway.

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From Peter Campbell, in London.

Dear Peter,

Just to report that we met Harry Bishop and that we had a most pleasant evening with him and his wife at the Path Finders Club just off Berkeley Square. This is a small but very atmospherey club where ex-overseas and local airmen seem to get to. We also had a very pleasant lunch at Harry's usual office pub. He and his wife look so well and remarkably young for their three grandchildren. He sends greetings to all his old friends. Kindest regards,

Peter.

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AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION FEDERAL CONFERENCE.

The Australian Air Force Association held its bi-ennial Federal Conference in Canberra during November. A very busy weekend--Friday to Sunday inclusive--began with an official opening by the Governor-General of Australia at an official lunch attended by Ministers, members of the Air Board and the Repatriation Commission and other distinguished guests.

The Conference considered an agenda which dealt with Repatriation matters--the pension and rehabilitation position of ex-servicemen (including recent servicemen from the Vietnam theatre); Air Force and Defence matters; matters of general national interest. Particular attention was given to the Association's future in the 1970s. Increased recruitment to membership from younger serving airmen and women. The best form of Welfare work to the 70s. Improved organisation.

Welfare will be promoted under the name of Air Force Association Aid and will be concentrated on those areas and people not helped by existing welfare arrangements. For examples, the Air Force widow not accepted by Legacy; the sick ex-airmen in his 50s, not old enough for pensions with his disabilities not due to war service but needing help. The A.F.A hopes all its branches and its affiliated organisations will see good work here for themselves, their families and their friends.

458ers will be pleased to hear that Jack Plunkett, of Cairns, was made an A.F.A. Life member for his work for airmen and airwomen. He is the second 458er to be so honoured by the A.F.A.

Federal Office-bearers elected by the Association were:

- Federal President: Air Vice Marshal W.E. Townsend,
- Federal Vice Presidents: Air Commodore H.I. Edwards, V.C.,
Russell Marriott,
- Federal Treasurer: Graeme Coombes,
- Federal Secretary: Peter Alexander.

The new President succeeds Sir John McCauley who has retired. The Conference was addressed by the Chief of Air Staff, the Secretary, Dept. of Air, and the Chairman of the Repatriation Commission. The Air Member for Personnel, A.V.M. Brian Eaton; and the Repat. Commissioner, Charles Costello, sat in with delegates.