

CIRCULAR



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

Year 24, No. 94.

February, 1973,

50c. per annum.

THE MOVEMENT TO MELBOURNE.

16th. ALL STATES REUNION. The Victorian Viewpoint. from Jim Timms, 39, Frank St.
Vermont, 3133.

Christmas Party Lead-In.

December 10th was the day for our Xmas Party, held at the home of Roger and Jean Rodwell. Unfortunately, Jean was in hospital, recovering from an operation; however, most of us called in to see her after the festivities finished--she looked quite a lot better than some of her visitors! Pleased to say she was not in hospital long and is now A 1. President Bob McKinna and I were the first to arrive, to find Roger in a real panic--a swarm of bees had just invaded his back yard. An apiarist was called, removed the bees and charged Roger two bucks: he screamed about that for the rest of the day; however, there was a good roll-up and we had a terrific time. Roger did a marvellous job without the help of his good wife, Jean. The Agfamatic camera outfit was drawn by; and would you believe it, won by Allan Cuthbertson, son of our stalwarts, Gordon and Peggy. Jean Rodwell made and donated a Xmas cake to be raffled in aid of our Squadron funds and--here is another one for the Record Book--it was won for the second year in succession by Dot Fleming. Congratulations to the winners, and, thanks, Roger, for a most successful day.

The All-States Reunion.

This is the FINAL CALL. Briefly, the programme:--

Friday 20th. Buns and coffee.

Saturday 21st. Bus to Ballarat--tour Eureka Stockade and other historical points.
Dinner Dance at night.

Sunday 22nd. Barbeque on sheep station. Return evening to Melbourne.

Monday 23rd. Ladies Picnic tour of the Dandenongs. Dinner Dance at night.

Tuesday 24th. Sport.

Wednesday 25th. Anzac March, Reunion and Ladies lunch.

Any member who has not notified his State Secretary of his accommodation needs and the various functions he will be attending, please advise us immediately. Absolute DEADLINE is MARCH 31st. This is absolutely necessary because accommodation in Melbourne for that week is at a premium and venues for our various functions require bookings well in advance.

PERSONAL PARS.

Elaine and I arrived in Sydney on 27th December at the Charles Hotel to find that

Victorian Viewpoint (cont.)

Eric Munkman had been trying to contact me. The outcome of this was a few drinks in the hotel lounge that evening with Eric and Dorothy, Peter and Rita Alexander, and Sam and Maisie Barlow. We were the last to leave at closing time--naturally--a most enjoyable evening--thanks, folks. On the 29th, Sam and Maisie invited us to their home; Bob and Betty Bruce were also there, so naturally a little amber liquid was consumed. Thank you, Sam and Maisie.

January 4th saw us in Christchurch, so rang Ron Verity; he immediately came out to the Motel that evening for a chat. He has retired from teaching and now has a position with the Canterbury Building Society doing clerical work. He wishes to be remembered to Peter Alexander, Mel Priest and all who served with him on the Squadron at Bone.

Norm and Nance Cugley have recently celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. Congrats. from us all, Norm and Nance.

Congrats. also to Jack and Dot Fleming on their first grandchild, a girl, born on 27th. January.

Regards to all, Jim.

o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

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

Newstime again--and I always seem to find it hard to find something to write about. Starting back about last September, Bill and Joan Clues had a trip to the East to be at the wedding of their son Garry. They both wish me to apologise to the boys for not seeing them but the time was short and they found a lot to do, and their engagements were just not kept. I know what it is like on these trips. During their trip away Vera and I stood in for them and attended the wreath-laying ceremony at Bateman for Air Force Week. It was very impressive, but what got me beaten is the new Air Force uniform--a complete change I must say. (Editor: overseas readers may not know that the R.A.A.F. (has very recently abandoned the old dark-blue uniform. The new colour is like, but not the same as, the R.A.F. and the U.S.A.A.F. blue--perhaps between the two colours. Traditionalists, of course, have regretted the loss of the well-known R.A.A.F. blue. The new uniforms are of a material suitable for wear all the year round. They are worn with a peak cap.) The official story was that the new material would not take the dye required for the old blue.)

We held our Christmas get-together as usual and had quite a good roll-up. Some of the old faces were missing; Butch and Amy Power, and Ron and Alice Cannaway were unable to attend. Butch rang in the morning to say he wasn't well enough to make it but I'm glad to say he is on the mend. Ron and Alice had made previous arrangements. Incidentally, they are both still not well after their accident. A motor bike ran onto the pavement and knocked them both down. You can be unlucky. Al Wheat and Charlie Davis didn't make it but rang us up at the party (which was held at Bill and Joan's place) at 11 p.m. and talked to all the boys there. Thanks, chaps. While on the subject of Al Wheat, I'll quote a cutting out of the Geraldton paper "Last year when Geraldton Torch-Bearers for Legacy conducted a ring-and-give campaign Al Wheat donated a used car which was auctioned over the radio and sold for \$120. That was that until the other day when one of Al Wheat's salesmen returned to base to report that he had sold a car on a \$160 trade-in basis. Al Wheat looked over the car--the same car he had given away last year."

Also at the Christmas Do we saw Jack Cobb--sporting a new "Hair-do"--and calling Shorty Long "Baldy".

Tom Hicks was with us but had to apologise for Joan not being there, as his old mother (92) had just arrived from England and was feeling the terrific heat which we were having at that time. Tom is still living at 62 Kintail Road, Applecross.

Jack and Laurel Parkin were also at the party and it was good to see them

Sandropers Say... (cont.)

again. Their young folk were also there, but it was unfortunate that very few other youngsters turned up. The big news of the day was that Erica (Jack's eldest daughter) had that day broken two State records for a junior Woman Athlete. She had won and set a new State records for the 100 metres and the Long Jump; and after reading to-day's paper, Erica, we want to congratulate you on your selection to the State team to visit Hobart next month for the Senior Womens' Athletics.

Before I leave the subject of our Christmas Party I want to thank Bill and Joan Clues for, once again, letting us use their home for the occasion; it looks as if we have a permanent booking. It is an ideal setting and we all know where it is now. Thanks, folks.

Recently one of our Squadron boys passed on--Geoffrey Ian Burgess of Karrinyup. Our condolences to his widow and family. Regards, Henry.

o o

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

As forecast in the last Flight news, the only function to report from N.S.W. is the evening visit to the N.S.W. Art Gallery on Thursday 14th, December. The party of 24 (Squadron members) and wives) voted the night a thoroughly enjoyable one. The Art Gallery Restaurant plied us with an excellent meal with wines in a most pleasant Dining Room set-up. After the dinner the Squadron party toured the Art Gallery at leisure, exchanged early Xmas wishes and so home, reasonably early. A recess in Squadron activity then followed until the date of this report. A Committee meeting on February 23rd, will set the ball rolling for 1973. This brings us to a painful reminder to all N.S.W. members that 1973 subs are well overdue. Would members who have not yet paid please remit subs to Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney,

Squadron Association \$1-00

458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association \$3-70 with

"Wings" \$3-00 without Wings;

Squadron News subscription 50 c.

Anzac Day, Sydney.

Anzac Day will soon be with us. Arrangements, as in previous years:--

Anzac Eve: Wreath-laying and Remembrance--Air Force Club 8.p.m.

Anzac Day: March with Air Force Section (see papers for details)

Reunion after the March, at the Great Southern Hotel

George Street.

All-States Reunion in Melbourne.

This is to be hosted by Victoria Flight. We know of approximately 20 N.S.W. members and families going. Would any one else please let Jim Timms know their accomodation wishes, etc. Good wishes for a successful A.S.R.

Personal Pars.

Our heartfelt sorrow at the passing of Geoff. Burgess, our cricket captain of years ago.

We are glad to know that Jack Nichols is now home after months in hospital.

Two 458ers have been in hospital recently for surgery: Graeme Coombes (Disc trouble), and Peter Alexander (hernia). Flight President Eric Munkman gave them our good wishes for early return to normal health. C.P.I.

o o

THE PASSING OF GEOFF. BURGESS.

Geoff. died recently after being knocked down by a passing motorist. Very many 458ers will remember him from his war years--as a W.A.G. with Tony Harris' crew--to his active years with the Squadron in N.S.W.--as a committeeman and as the captain of the 458 cricket team which had an idyllic existence for a few years in the 1950s. He was always a keen sportsman and played hockey for 458 at Gibraltar and golf and cricket in Sydney. He was an accountant and filled various positions firstly in Sydney and later in other States before settling in the West. Before leaving N.S.W. he married his wife, Gwen, and they had four

Geoff. Burgess (cont.)

children. Geoff. was younger than many of his 458 friends and it scarcely seems a decade since those cricket-playing years: but, it was later than it seemed and, for Geoff. the adventure of life is over. We will remember him.

o o o o o o o o o o o o

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

From Theo. Hutton, 61, Sherwood Road, Toowong, Brisbane, Q., 4066.

Dear Peter,

..... Each time I receive the Squadron News I get that guilty feeling about not having made my contribution over the years. Enclosed is my cheque for \$15..... The only ex-member of the Squadron I see regularly is Ken. Everett from New England. If you ever see Pete Campbell Sam Barlow, or Jack or Ron. Pomfrett, please give them my regards.

Best wishes, Theo Hutton.

o o o o o o o o o o o o

From Bill Matthews, Old Road, Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorks., England.

Dear Secretary,

Thanks for the news-letter, I enjoyed reading it. Now, I wonder if you will do me a real favour? This Christmas I delivered a boomerang to a little boy in the village and it was all smashed up. Well, when I saw his face I said I would get him another (I know he blamed me, poor little lad). I know it will cost quite a bit (if you can do it) so, if you can and will, if you will let me know how much and at the same time give me your correct name and address, because its such a business sending money abroad, I will send a money order to you. I hope you have a happy New Year, yours faithfully, Bill Matthews.

(Editor: Bill is the postman at Holme-on-Spalding Moor and looks after the local R.A.A.F. graves as an act of memory)

o o o o o o o o o o o o

From John Tidey, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria.

Dear Peter,

Thank you so much for Lagos Lagoon--its magnificent. Next time I see you I'll get you to hum the tune for me. Any others you might find will be gratefully received--the response to date had been very very good...

yours, John Tidey.

(Editor: John is a News-Editor of the Age and is assisting a friend to collect wartime songs. We are not sure how Lagos Lagoon will get published, however ! Perhaps Stan Tarczynski can oblige with the tune).

o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o o

FOR N.S.W. FLIGHT MEMBERS

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

I enclose annual sub. for 1973, as follows:

458 Squadron Association	\$1-00	\$1-00
458 Sqdn branch of the Air Force Association		\$3-00
The magazine "Wings"		70
458 Squadron News		50

Delete what is not required.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

THE EDITOR (P.C. Alexander) Box 5289, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.