

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



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## 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL---OFFICE-BEARERS.

Squadron President Sid. Bartram (S.A.) Squadron Treasurer Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.),  
Squadron Vice Presidents Sam Barlow (N.S.W.) Squadron Secretary Allan Walker (N.S.W.)  
Bill Clues (W.A.)

Editor of 458 Squadron News: Peter Alexander.

## VICTORIA'S SUCCESSFUL ALL-STATES REUNION.

The 16th. All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron was held in Victoria over the six day period of April 20th to 25th--covering Easter and Anzac Day. 458 Squadron members and members of their families attended from all mainland States and the Reunion was a great success and a considerable triumph for Victorian Flight. An account by Victorian Flight Secretary, Jim Timms, who was executive officer for the hard-working and efficient Victorian Committee led by President Bob McKinna, follows.

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## VICTORIAN NEWS.

from Jim Timms, 39, Frank Street, Vermont, 3133.

## All-States Reunion--Melbourne and Ballarat.

Firstly, from letters I have received from interstate and comments from a good number of our own Flight, it must have been a terrific "Wing-Ding"--these were the words used in a letter to me from Pat Bartram, wife of our Squadron President. Ken Morkham kindly donated a handsome visitors book to our Flight; Ernie Laming was the signature hunter and from this book, the following 458 members were present at various functions over the six days, along with a good number of visiting friends.

Ernie Laming	John Jenkins	Roy Rabone	Allan Walker	Sam Barlow
Don Johnson	Mick Hunter	Stan Longhurst	Fred. Strom	Charlie Warren
Forbes Paulet	Vin. Clohesy	Noel Spurling	Ian Alison	Len. MacDonnell
Bill Cribb	Yank Martin	Peter Alexander	Massa Foote	John Bilney
Frank Wilson	Ron. Russell	Stan. Tarczynski	Harry Ashworth	Johnny Fleming
Gordon Cuthbertson	Arn. Scholar	Ian Giles	Ben Cormack	Bob. Millar
Ken. Morkham	Ron. Yates	Mick Singe	Lloyd Simpson	Eric Munkman
Bill Carr	Ted. Jewell	Ted. Kennedy	Wal. Archbold	Jack Ellis
Bob. McKinna	George Riddoch	Rinso Purcill	Tom. Wishart	Jim. Timms
Lisle Wurr	John Rodwell	Tom Primrose	Norm. Cugley	Ted. Littlehales
Sid. Bartram	Bob Smith	Ron. Redpath	Arthur Lehdey	Gerry Abraham

As for individual functions, general opinion is that the dinner-dance at Ballarat, the Barbeque at George Riddoch's property and the Squadron Reunion at the Melbourne Bowling Club deserve special mention. I have heard since that one of Peter Alexander's daughters, after having seen the sheep shorn, stated that she would never wear a woollen jumper again.

Anzac Day.

Fifty two members marched and 55 attended the Reunion luncheon arranged by Harry Ashworth--a very nice smorgasbord;and grog flowed like it was going out of fashion. A good number of our wives came and joined us after their luncheon at Georgiana's, truly a terrific wind-up. The T.V.raffle was drawn by Sid Bartram,our new Squadron President,the results being:

1st.Prize--12" portable T.V.....Sam Barlow

2nd Prize--G.E.Vertical Grill.....Don Johnson

3rd.Prize--Fairmont 8 Transistor.....Bob Millar.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Flight Meeting.

Victorian Flight held their Annual Meeting during the Reunion:

John Fleming is our new Flight President,

Ken.Morkham--Senior Vice President

John (Roger) Rodwell--Junior Vice President,

Jim.Timms--Secretary/Treasurer;plus a Committee of ten.

Personal Pairs.

John and Dot Fleming celebrated their 27th.wedding anniversary on the 20th.April at the Bun and Coffee day at President Bob,and Beatrice McKinna's. The appropriate Toast was proposed by Bob and heartily drunk by all those present.

Ron and Joan Russell had two weddings in the family within six weeks plus organising for the All-States Reunion. Son Peter and daughter Gillian--congratulations to the two couples from 458.

Stan.Tarczynski--the worries of being transport organiser for the All-States did not interfere with his golfing ability--he won the Anzac Cup. Congrats,Stan.

Bob and Beatrice McKinna are still recovering--besides the six days Reunion,their daughter Jill,and husband,came over from Perth and daughter Dal.,and husband Jim,with their two daughters came from Sydney. They all attended some of the functions. Jean Rodwell won the Ladies Golf trophy--Congrats,Jean.

NEXT--R.A.A.F.Europe Dinner.

Date---September 28th,1973.

V enue---Hotel Chevron,Melbourne.

Time--7.p.m. to 11.30 p.m.

Guest Speaker--Group Capt.Douglas Bader.

Dress--Lounge Suit

Price--\$9-00 all inclusive.

ANY MEMBER WISHING TO ATTEND ADVISE ME NOW---AT ONCE.

Regards to all---Jim Timms.

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STEP BY STEP WITH 458.

The "Dazed Delegate" who wrote accounts of the earlier 458 Reunions would certainly have had as the title for this article,if he wrote it--GROG BY GROG. But he saw things through the bottom of an upturned glass. There was much more to the 16th All-States Reunion than grog. True--beer and wine held their own with the Buns and coffee but the main ingredient of the first gathering of the Reunion,at President Bob's place was happiness--the happiness of being with old friends of years passed at what from the start was obviously a huge success--and something we were conscious few other (if indeed,anyother) Squadrons were capable of achieving. As each new face arrived to join the throng in Bob's large garage, around the hospitable table,brought there by the efficient transport arranged,the enthusiasm grew. Can you,those of you who could not make it,picture the scene? Perhaps,next time--and there will be a next time---you too?

Early next day the bus called for us at our two Motels, driven by Kevin--who came from Holland some years ago and was to be our driver throughout the Reunion. Off to Ballarat,under the supervising and rousing eye of the (ex-) Army in the person of Stan.Tarczynski's brother. Only particular occurrence--a stop for Sam and friends to call on the T.A.B. Never did hear how they fared--guess that tells its own story. Ballarat was a good idea--one of the reasons for the overall success. A look at Eureka Stockade where--some say--Australia's independence began and where,certainly,the miners--the Diggers--had a shot or two at the Police and the redcoats of the time. Then to Sovereign Hill--a recreated mining settlement of those mid-1800s with all buildings in the style of the time and gold diggings--with a (small) percentage of gold still to be panned. We were late on target but managed to queue our way to an excellent meal served by some of

the prettiest girls in Victoria, wearing period dresses. We spent the afternoon examining the diggings. The evening saw us dancing and dining at our Motel. Special local pottery cups and jugs, marked with 458's number were given by Victoria to interstate members ladies.

George Riddoch has a lovely property--cattle and sheep--and we had a country-style barbecue in and around one of his sheds--the young folk--and this, in this day and age does not, alas, include 458ers, rode on the Flying Fox. Everybody went out, in the afternoon, on tractors driven by Cuthy and George's son, to scatter feed to the cattle. Yank Martin had a confrontation with a bull. The bull was terrified. We watched an expert shearer at work. And so back to Melbourne.

Melbourne remained fine and subsequent days saw sport, a bus tour of the Dandenong Hills, with Driver Kevin pointing out the sights:--he had a sharp eye for unusual looking churches; and a tour of the sights of Melbourne.

Squadron Conference met at the Air Force Association's new building in South Yarra with Squadron President Ern. Laming in the Chair. The golfers were late and so was the start but Conference got through its usual review of the State of the Squadron, particularly its finances. These, of course, in a time of continuation of rising prices and, frankly, with a sizeable proportion of members who pay a sub when they happen to think of it, which isn't all that often, present problems for the Flights to solve. (Some members, we must add, are very generous in their support). However, price of the Squadron News is to go up from 50c to 75c. per annum. Conference, noting the services of retiring Squadron office-bearers, particularly Ern. Laming and Bob. Bruce, who were retiring, elected the following for the next two years:

Squadron President:	Sid. Bartram (S.A.)	Squadron Vice Presidents:	Sam. Barlow (N.S.W.)
Squadron Treasurer:	Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.)	"	Bill Clues (W.A.)
Squadron Secretary:	Allan (Paddy) Walker (N.S.W.)		

Where next? Perth, if W.A. wish--otherwise Canberra--in 1975.

The March well-attended by 458 but with rather thin crowds watching--it being holiday time--and the Reunion with all that brings. A highlight was the playing of recorded talks by Lew (Johnno) Johnston, from Southport; and by Bruce McKenzie. Roll on the time till April, 1975!

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AS Q.FLIGHT SEES IT..... from Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella St., Holland Park, Q 4121.

The Victorian Reunion must have been a beauty. Never in our born days have we, the contingent left behind, seen six people so unanimous and enthusiastic in praise of an interstate reunion. They're still talking about it, making us all envious that we didn't attend. Indeed, it must have been a marvellous show. Victoria, you've knotted up an all-time great, and Joan and Sel. Foote, Joyce and Charles Warren, Ruth and Len Macdonnell will testify to it for ever after. Some things which seem to have impressed (because they have been mentioned many times) are: the amount the V. Flight Womens Committee raised; the bus as a vehicle for getting to know each other; the beer in the fridge at Ballarat. Q. Flight attenders, female and male, say thanks for wonderful hospitality and send congrats on a wonderful well-organised do.

#### Anzac Day Here.

Holidays and Victoria depleted our ranks on Anzac Day. But we were able to welcome back Jack Lewis marching for the first time for three years after an amazing operation on his back. Joined in with us, too, was Ian Higlett, just arrived from Melbourne the previous day. Resigned after 41 years in the Bank of N.S.W. to come home to hometown Brisbane and to another job. Bernie (Here Comes the Judge) McLoughlin was home, too. And stalwart Eric (Ned) Kelly. Mustn't forget President Don. Brandon who led the boys of the flying torp.

But we seem to be getting into a little rut. At the General Meeting (after being well-fed by providore Jack Lewis) Don. Brandon was re-elected as President. But the excuse is a good one: he's our youngest and well able to cope with the cares of office. Jack Lewis and yours truly, after having all resistance beaten out of us, were forced again to accept the positions of Treasurer

Q.Flight News (cont.)

and Secretary respectively.

And some News...

Gordon Postle again prominent on T.V., in short sleeves this time knocking down a two-storeyed building (where he once had his own office) for 1½ million bid. Yours truly visited Tara early in May and went to find Bob. Helyar, the district's Ford dealer for 27 years. Learned he was being farewelled that evening, having sold out. Next address, not decided. Stayed recently at a motel at Murgon; next door was an Air Force type who told me Mick Mather was getting out on 24th April and going horse stud-farming at Williamstown. Don. Brandon has branched out for himself. Now he's in the hardware business in Beenleigh (on the way to the Gold Coast) at York St. Says he'll never be too busy to chew over a nut and bolt or two with any 458er who drops by. Don's a grandfather for the second time. He and Joan are so proud they're busting.

While at the wreath-laying ceremony at the Shrine on Anzac Day, a sister of Norm. Page accosted me. Said he was a 458er. I couldn't recall. Anyhow, if anyone wants to contact him, he's at Coaldale, via Grafton.

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

The N.S.W. Flight report for this issue might properly begin by congratulating Vic. Flight for hosting in a very capable manner the 1973 All-States Reunion. From reports by N.S.W. members in attendance the Reunion was enjoyed from "Go" to "Whoa". Our worthy editor, P.C.A., from firsthand knowledge, has set out details elsewhere in this News.

In Sydney.

A little quieter than usual, with arrangements following our usual Anzac pattern.

Anzac Eve.

Flowers were placed in the Air Force Memorial Chapel by Flight Vice President (and Past President) Stuart Ricketts--in memory of the Squadron Dead.

Anzac Day.

The Squadron marched with the Air Force Section of the March, and afterwards enjoyed luncheon, beers, and a natter over past and present times at the Great Southern Hotel.

The rollicall for the Reunion functions was:

Bob Bruce	Stuart Currington	Don. Bitmead	Bill McBride	Bruce Dean
Bert Thompson	Jack Bevan	Stuart Ricketts	Jack Preston	Jack Aitken
John Hosking	Tom. Ridgeway	Steve Gilkes	Gordon Balmer	Ralph Bailey

plus some visitors including Tom Sherwin and Max Sullivan (459 Sqdn) and Marshall Allan.

Reports on Flight activity through 1972/3 were presented to members at the Reunion. By general consent, because of the absence of many members in Victoria, the business of confirmation of accounts presented, and the election of office-bearers was adjourned to the next meeting at the Air Force Club.

C.P.I.?

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CROWEATERS' CAUCUS.from Lofty Trewartha, 60, California Street, Nailsworth, SA.Anzac Day.

This year saw a somewhat larger crowd than usual at the Adelaide Airport where Padre Shepherd delivered a striking and most thoughtful address to those assembled.

It has been the practice for some years now for a wreath to be placed at the 458 plaque where members could spend a few moments of quiet reverie and reflection before proceeding to the hustle and bustle of the march. This year was of special significance as a scroll outlining the association of Padre Shepherd with the Squadrons, including 458 was presented to the Padre by Ron. Badger. Ron. Badger, as all S.A. members are aware conceived the idea of erecting a plaque and planting a tree at the Adelaide Airport to perpetuate the memory of 458 Squadron, in 1948, and it was due to the manner in which Ron. pursued the Airport authorities that the idea reached fruition. The Squadron plaques to-day lie beneath the shade of a row of impressive trees alongside the Smith brothers old de Havilland Aircraft. It was with a feeling of intense pride that we members of 458 Squadron saw Ron. Badger, on behalf of the



Croweaters' Caucus (cont.)

combined Squadrons, hand to Padre Shephard the framed scroll which was our humble way of saying thank you very much to a very grand person beloved by all who have been associated with him.

The March.

As usual, proceeded with mechanical precision to the strains of canned music relayed from squark boxes at regular intervals. The small lethargic groups of onlookers appeared to think that this was as good a way as any to pass the time before proceeding to the football. My guess is that unless the authorities do some positive thinking about bringing back the live bands to put some feeling into the March, it will be red rover. As usual, the boys gathered at the Talbot Hotel.

Joyce and Dud. Austin.

Have just returned from a holiday in Hong Kong. Dud., who works for Uncle Reg., has one of those magic wands which he waves every now and then. Dud. and Joyce wish to thank the Sydneysiders who managed to see them during their short stay in Sydney.

Ross and Pat. Burgess.

Are off on a globe-trotting spree. Ross dropped me a few lines and said they were about ready to take off for the U.K. and expect to have a good look at Europe before they head for home. Ross said to give his regards to all the boys especially Arn. Scholar, Bert Ravenscroft and Bill. Cribb.

Roy Rabone.

and his son, Graham, arrived at 60, California St. recently en route to Andamooka. Roy, who has retired now, lives in Hamilton and has not changed a great deal. Maybe a few grey hairs and maybe a little heavier, but the same laugh and sense of humour. Graham (a chip off the block if ever I saw one) is a geologist and had conned the old man to go with him to Andamooka for a week. I was away in the bush myself when they returned but Roy told Marg. that opals are as scarce as hens' teeth. I believe they called in and saw Jim and Joy Perry at Port Augusta.

John Dandy.

John, in the U.K., I was very pleased to hear, is still going strong, as I seem to remember being a guest of his at one time. All the very best to you and your family, John. And who knows?--I might even see you in a couple of years.

STOP the PRESS, Mr. Editor---

Have just been informed that I am a grand dad. (Congratulations, Lofty).  
Brother, now I am feeling my age.

All the best, Lofty.

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PERSONAL PARS.

BILL HURFORD after a period of teaching in the Civil Aviation industry, went back into the R.A.A.F., in Admin., and is now in Admin. with the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Has a son in Army Aviation.

FORBES PAULET farming at Traralgon, Victoria. Dairying and beef.

IAN GILES is teaching at Geelong, Victoria. Sends best wishes to Bob. Scholes and Bill Hull;

TOM BURGESS has retired from farming and now lives in Torquay, Victoria;

ROSS CONNOLEY is an Inspector with the Victorian State Electricity Commission in Kooweerup;

HUGH HAMLET has also retired, we are told, by Matron Jenkins, and is living in Reading, England. Has had an Art Show there;

HARRY (MATRON) JENKINS retiring in May this year after 27 years with the Repatriation Dept.;

TOMMY (SHORTY) WISHART working with the Government Aircraft Factory, Fishermans Bend, Melbourne has had some health troubles and hopes to retire soon. Has worked as a planner on various projects, including the Canberra, Jindivik, Mirage and Nomrod;

KEN. MORKHAM is a Director of various chemical companies. Is Marketing Director of Soltra Pty. Ltd.;

STAN. CARTLEDGE is a grandfather. Is a teacher of accounting at Williamstown Technical School;

JACK ELLIS has two flying schools. Pilotmakers, at Mornington, and at Corio;

ERIC DUFFY is at Wonthaggi. JACK BRADSHAW is a furniture manufacturer.

BILL CARR glimpsed at the All States Reunion, Bill tells us he now has five children--2 boys, 3 girls; JOHN BILNEY is advertising manager for AGFA, Melbourne.

Personal Pars (cont.)

RON YATES is Principal of Wantirna South Primary School, Victoria. BOB SMITH is a Stipendary Magistrate at St.Kilda. GERRY ABRAHAM is with Department of Air (Treasury), Melbourne. MICK HUNTER is weaving Manager of a textile firm. Is now a grandfather. TED LITTLEHALES is mixed farming near Ballarat. MICK SINGE is Assistant Manager of A.V.Jennings--Trimview Polymarble co. at Fern Tree Gully, Victoria.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

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

Dear Secretary, Thank you for sending my request for a boomerang on to Bill Taylor. I have received it, and the little boy thinks it's marvellous. I also received another news-letter. I am writing to Bill to thank him. It really was first class. Thanks again,  
yours faithfully, Bill Mathews.

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From Nance Hills, 24, Taronga St., Hurstville, N.S.W.

Dear Peter, Sending money for news and whatever else it was Ron always sent for. Have had a slight stroke only on Anzac Day, I was in Coffs Harbour Hospital 4 days. Doing very well. Am sure I will be back at work next week. Trust All-States Reunion in Vic. was the usual success,  
yours sincerely, Nance Hills.

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To Jim Timms from Pat McKenzie, 7, Kay Street, Yarram, Victoria.

Dear Jim, I have to notify you that my husband John Donald McKenzie of Gelliondale, was killed instantly on 24/12/70 when two cars struck him as he was about to make a righthand turn. I am sorry I have not done this sooner.....We had eight children and five are still at home, the youngest five years. I had promised my daughter to babysit over Easter so it was not possible for me to come to the All-States Reunion. ....I enclose a small donation in Jack's memory,  
yours sincerely, Pat McKenzie.

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From Mrs. Aileen MacDougall, 21, North Street, Maryborough, Q. 4650.

Dear Peter, This very short note is to tell you of the death of our beloved eldest son, Malcolm, in Brisbane, on 8th. April.....We laid him to rest here in Maryborough on 11th. April. Ray had made an offer for 54 acres of land for his Macadamia nut project and we had high hopes of interesting Malcolm in it, but God willed otherwise.

Best regards to yourself, Aileen.

Editor: We know every 458er will join in sending deep and sincere sympathy to both Pat McKenzie and to Ray and Aileen MacDougall and their families.

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458 SQUADRON IN ORANGE.

While representing the 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association, at the N.S.W. State Assembly of the Association, Stan Longhurst, accompanied by Jean, and Peter Alexander were in contact with 458ers resident in Orange. Eric (Rinso) Purcill, Junior Hawke, and Jack Ind. It was nice to hear their voices again. Jack Ind has been quite ill--with a stroke--but is recovering and is regaining his sight which was affected. The 458 delegates called on him and Mary and gave them 458's warm good wishes.

The A.F.A. Assembly was officially opened by the Air Officer Commanding, Operational Command, Air Vice Mshl. Brian Eaton, who gave an interesting and confidential address on Air Force and Defence matters. The Assembly dealt with many matters of Repatriation, and Defence, interest.

Peter Alexander, who has been an elected Vice President for N.S.W. for some years, was elected as a Life Vice President.

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