

CIRCULAR



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

YEAR 26; No. 102.

March, 1975.

\$1-00 per annum.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT	Sid. Bartram (S.A.)	SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS	Sam. Barlow (N.S.W.)
SQUADRON TREASURER	Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.)	SQUADRON SECRETARY	Bill Clues (W.A.)
			Allan Walker (N.S.W.)
EDITOR of 458 SQUADRON NEWS		Peter Alexander.	

WHO GOES WEST ?

Quite a lot of 458ers and their families seems to be the reply. Energetic preparations by the W.A. Flight, lead by Flight President Bill Clues, for the 17th. All-States Reunion in Perth, are bearing very promising fruit. As we hear it, there are two from Q. Flight (Len MacDonnell and Chas. Warren), eight from N.S.W.---maybe more; twenty-two from Victoria and we are not sure how many from S.A. attending---in very many cases with their ladies. This is excellent and subject to wash-aways on the Transcontinental railway will give us the best attended W.A. Reunion yet.

The Programme includes:

- Thursday 24th Evening; Reception of visitors
- Friday 25th. Anzac March---Anzac Reunion (Men only)---Anzac Lunch (Ladies)
- Saturday 26th Golf at Lakes Golf Course --Dinner Dance
- Sunday 27th Bus tour to Mandurah---Farewell Function at Parmelia.

THE SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Tom Hicks, 71, Burren Gate, Willetton, W.A., 6155.

On reflection, it is remarkable that 458 Squadron, disbanded almost thirty years ago, should have the strength to muster an All-States Reunion of some consequence for Anzac Day 1975. Credit is due to the "Few" of the Squadron who have laboured against all kinds of difficulties to keep a happy band in comradeship. Goodonyer to Peter and the Flight Commanders both past and present. There is plenty of strength in Victoria which is setting a fine example Thank you, gentlemen, and for the good tolerance of your ladies.

We are ready and eagerly looking forward, as the time draws near, to receiving our guests. The last details should already be in your possession and we do ask that the final information and payments requested are received before the 28th. March. The timing is important, but if anyone would like to join us, for any part or all the programme after this date, please contact Bill Clues or myself as soon as possible.

Bill Clues with the careful calculation of a Federal Treasurer, is offering a \$20-00 ticket to cover the cost of all the functions which should be costing \$37-50 if sold separately. I recommend this great bargain of the West.

It is a great disappointment that it is not possible to have all 458 members with us this year and we think particularly of those members of the Squadron who have had to cancel their plans because of some misfortune in business or in losing jobs since plans were commenced. We hope your problems will be resolved in the near future.

CORNSTALK CAUCUS.

from Arthur Jollow, 40, Nicholson Street, Chatswood, N.S.W.

First item I want to refer to is a happy one. Graeme Coombes was recently made a Life Member of the Air Force Association. Graeme is the third member of the Squadron to receive this honour, joining Peter Alexander and Jack Plunkett. I am sure all our members are delighted and proud of our mate who has given such unselfish time and effort on behalf of ex-Air Force members in general. A dinner and presentation was made at the Air Force Club attended by a good number of 458. The actual presentation was made by A.V.M. Townsend, who is Federal President of the Air Force Association.

The All-States Reunion is approaching, and we all hope it is a great and happy gathering. With the grand efforts of our Sand Groper mates, I don't see how it can fail to be just that. Unfortunately, Tess and I will be overseas at this time and unable to take part. However our thoughts will be with you, and may the sun shine upon you. As the venue is Perth it most likely will.

Flight President.

Flight President Eric Munkman has gone into the Mater Hospital for surgery, which will take place on St. Patrick's Day. He expects the doctors to sew him up with green fingers. (Later: Eric is recovering fast, will be in Perth:--and is rejoicing in the arrival of daughter Beryl's baby daughter, (Belinda. Hearty congratulations!)

Domestic Economies.

At the last Flight Committee meeting a resolution was carried "Due to the high cost of postage, receipts for subscriptions will not be sent unless specifically requested. They will be written out and held by the Flight Treasurer for audit purposes."

Personal Items.

Since the last newsletter we have acquired a German daughter-in-law. This per favour of elder son, Michael. He married Fraulein Brigitte Adam in West Berlin just after Christmas, and a prettier lass you wouldn't want to meet. They first met in Mt. Isa three years ago. Almost an entry for "Would You Believe?"

He writes that Berlin is very flat--the only hills being man-made, formed of the rubble of the city, and they are big enough for ski slopes, a very popular passtime. Recently Michael went for a swim in the indoor heated pool and his report is worth repeating: (i) Before entering, one must wash with soap; (ii) one must wear a cap completely enclosing the hair. (He didn't mention about beards). (iii) One must not dive in. One enters without splash and must swim up and down the pool in a straight line. Breast stroke! I think I noted a touch of nostalgia in his letter. He wrote of the breakers, golf, and fishing in the Hawkesbury. I understand Berlin has one golf course and that not for the Public.

No apology for all this about my family affairs. If you won't help me with news of your doings so that we may know what is going on, the alternatives are this or nothing at all. On your own heads be it!

Cheers for now, and have a grand time in the West!

VICTORIAN NEWS.

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

Victoria Flight has very little to report this News; however, we have had a couple of very enjoyable social functions. Our Christmas Get-together was held at the home of Roger and Jean Rodwell--a good attendance and a very good time was had by all. The Xmas cake Jean makes and donates each year for a Raffle in aid of the LAdies funds was won once more by a member of the Fleming family--this is the fourth year in succession that the Fleming family have been successful--good luck for next year.

Ken and Phyl Morkham's home was the venue for a B-B-Q tea on the first of March, to meet Norman Gilbert, who I mentioned in the last issue, is visiting his son, David. Norman (from U.K.) is agreeably surprised with Australia and very impressed with our buildings, etc.

Glad to report that Lloyd Simpson is out of hospital and looking forward to the W.A. Reunion.

Bob and Beatrice McKinna are proud grandparents of a grandson (the first). Congrats. from 458ers.

Victorian News (cont.)

Shorty Wilson has been in the Repat. Hospital. He informs me he is now home and making good progress.

A good contingent from Victoria are heading West in April, so all are looking forward to that time

Joan and Ron Russell leave for a three month overseas trip on Good Friday; they intend making base in England and travelling extensively on the Continent.

* * * * *

Q. FLIGHT.

from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, 4121., Q.

It must be the weather. Since we had our Xmas Do we haven't heard a winge from anybody. Usually we have somebody utter a quack or two but the ducks have disappeared with the cricket. The assumption is that nobody's doing nothing to nobody.

Warren Wandering. Before Xmas Chas. Warren and his long time friend travelled overland to Darwin---well before the cyclone---calling in on places they hadn't seen since boyhood. (Chas. grew up in the Wild West around Winton). Really a trip with a lot of nostalgia in it, renewing a lot of memories.

From Brisbane to Brandon. Just before Xmas the Brisbane boys gathered at the new "Ranch" House Don Brandon has out along the Pacific Highway, 35 minutes from Brisbane, the Gold Coast, the East Coast and the Mountains---and a few minutes from Don's new hive of activity---Beenleigh. It was a Sunday afternoon; the beer tasted a whole lot better because we supped in the shade of the old and huge mango tree. And Don's barbecue steaks cooked with his sensitive touch were even more delicious than the ice-cold XXXX.

Lewis the Fisher. We've heard that Jack Lewis paid his usual visit to the Big Smoke at Xmas but kept well on the outskirts carefully guarded by in-laws from the perils of the R.S.L. Clubs. But we believed he fished his way back up the coast to Queensland leaving little for the N.S.W. folk to trawl.

Len MacDonnell, Ruth, and Chas. Warren have completed plans to attend the W.A. Anzac Day Reunion: overland to Adelaide and then T.A.A. to the West. Anzac Day in Brisbane will be quiet without them.

* * * * *

CROWEATER NEWS.

From Lofty Trewartha, 60, California St., Nailsworth, 5083.

I was always under the impression that when Satchmo sang "Sleepy Time Down "South" he had one place in mind--Adelaide. After the happenings of the last few weeks I am not so sure. How about Mazlin's Beach being set aside for the nudies? A bit embarrassing for all us oldies dashing about with all our wrinkles. I was told that during a fire down there recently 40 acres got burned. Flash Thomas said that he went down there last week and won a prize (Memories).

All-States after next? As we have a very good chance of being the host State for the next Reunion it is essential that we start planning now. Our most serious problem at this stage appears to be the lack of ackers so if you have any ideas, give Jack Riseley a buzz on the dog and bone.

Verna Riseley Verna, after a spell in hospital, is back home again and slowly making progress. We all trust that you make a speedy recovery Vern.

Kevin George from the Northland Districts of N.Z. wrote me a beaut. letter recently and invited me to pop over and see them sometime. I am most grateful to Kevin and his wife and hope to make the trip in the New Year. Kev. informed me he has also been in hospital as the result of a fall from a ladder while working on his new home. Hope you are back on the active list, Pal.

Wedding Bells. Daughter Sherri announced her engagement to a local boy recently, so it looks as if the old bloke had better start selling bottles.

About 1958 whilst on duty as a Customs Officer at the Harbour I was intrigued

Croweater News (cont.)

by the actions of four R.A.A.F blokes. A Flight Lieut. was giving last minute instructions to three sergeants about what action to take when a certin V.I.P. arrived on the gangway. The three stripers dashed up the gangway and the Flight Lt. flashed a parade ground salute. Things got a bit out of hand at this stage when the V.I.P. suddenly roared out "Lofty !" and dashed down to pump my hand. The old Howard Gavin was back in Aussie.

July and August will see me setting sail for Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle and Brisbane where I hope to play bowls and look up old pals. Hope to see you.

All the best. Lofty.

* * * * *

WORLD ASSEMBLY OF WAR VETERANS.

This event, the first of its kind in History, and which has been called the most important event for ex-servicemen ever, is scheduled for Sydney in the week August 11th/16th. This is for all ex-servicemen and families--including you. The Programme includes an official opening at the Opera House, an Australian Day at the Showground, a Symposium of world expert speakers on ex-service matters, concert, hospitality, etc, etc. For details, see your R.S.L., A.F.A., Legion, etc, branch. Be in this. Meet your counterparts from all round the world.

* * * * *
* * * * *

VALE ! THE PASSING OF ROBIN KNIGHT.

Very many 458ers will be shocked and saddened at the news of the accidental death--in a car accident--of Flight Commander Robin Knight--of which we have the news through Dusty Miller and Bert Thompson. Robin's son Oliver (in the R.A.F.) writes:

My father and your old squadroneer was tragically killed in a car accident when in Swaziland on 7th.Feb. It has naturally been a great blow particularly to my mother who has borne the whole business in an absolutely outstanding mannerThe funeral was at Mbabane, the Swazi capital yesterday afternoon and Dad now lies in the cemetery there which has a magnificent view to the East from the top of a hill down a long valley--rather the view one has when low flying which I think is rather apt for a man who never lost the knowledge and the love of flying. It is too early to predict what the future holds for Mum but if you do care to, write through me in U.K. at 6, College Road, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 3DN

458ers remember Robin well at Bone, Ghisonaccia, and other parts of the Mediterranean. He was a calm, cheerful and inspiring leader and a darn good pilot. After the war he spent his working life in Africa--Kenya, where he ran a Timber Mill at Njoro; Uganda at Masindi; then Kenya again at Elburgoa, Kitale and Nakuru. After his retirement he went to South Africa about a year ago. He was one of the Europeans to whom Africa owes much.--be it remembered or not. He did not return to Australia, but never forgot his years there and this was evidenced by his becoming a Fully Subscribed member of the 458 Sqnd. branch of the Air Force Association and maintaining a continuing interest in the Squadron and in Air Force matters. In this, as in all other ways, he was a true 458er.

We shall remember him always. To his widow, his sons Oliver and Roland (who we met when he was in Australia prior to his going to Ethiopia) our deepest sympathy. We hope they will keep in touch.

x x