

CIRCULAR



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SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: H.G.(Bill) CLUES (W.A.): SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENT: L.J.(Sam) BARLOW (N.S.W.);
SQUADRON TREASURER: C.P.(Cy.) IRWIN (N.S.W.) SQUADRON SECRETARY: A.J.(PADDY) WALKER (N.S.W.)

EDITOR OF 458 SQUADRON NEWS: Peter Alexander.

458 TAKES TO THE BOATS.

THE Week on the Water.

Led by Squadron President Bill Clues, and organised by N.S.W. Flight President Eric Munkman, nearly 70 Squadron members, wives and families spent the week beginning July 12th on the River Murray, operating out of Renmark. It was a week of novelty, adventure, entertainment and renewal of old friendships. Eric Munkman writes:

Members began to arrive on Saturday, and we were welcomed by the Mayor at the Council Chambers and then went to Ian and Fee Showell's for a get-together. (This 458 event (would have been impossible without the considerable generosity of Ian Showell who made his fleet of river steamboats available to 458 without charge--and did an (immense amount of local work for the event). The Get-together--beautiful grog and lovely food--it was real togetherness.

On Monday the boats were stocked by Squadron volunteers, and on Tuesday we sailed from Renmark, after elected captains had been briefed by Admiral Ian. There was a little crowding on the river at times and I believe a few irate words. Vin. Clohesy ran on a mud bank, but with great manoeuvring skill managed to get off.

A barbecue at a Woolshed--trouble with the keg, but with 458 ingenuity our Master plumber Harry Ashworth and his assistants had it flowing again. We sampled many red wines. "Snow" Fennell wondered why he couldn't cut his steak until someone shone a torch on his plate--he had two forks. To cap a wondrous night, he fell off the plank when re-boarding.

John Fleming sneezing too vigorously, needed urgent dental repairs. Urgent call to Renmark, repairs done in 24 hours. John, also, misjudged a gang plank. Accordion music supplied to which some danced--honours going to Fred Strom.

Wednesday, downstream to Paringa, making stops on the way. There was a photographer on Paringa Bridge, to take photos as the fleet passed underneath in formation; but I'm afraid our formation flying is a little rusty. John Ovenden of ABC Riverland interviewed Don Brandon, Ern Laming and Eric Munkman, and the interview later went to air. Dinner at Paringa Hotel. Toast to the Spirit of 458 presented by Bill Taylor.

Thursday--downstream to Berri, and Lock 5; Vin. Clohesy got into difficulty on approach but with magnificent captaincy entered the lock stern first. He alone achieved this. Dinner at Berri--great interest by locals and visitors when the fleet tied up at Berri.

Friday--back upstream to Renmark. Able to relax in beautiful sunshine to prepare for a night out at Renmark Hotel.

Saturday--Bus tour to Renmano Distillery--much sampling done. Voted much more palatable than North African wines. Then onto Overland Historical Hotel--and

458 Takes to the Boats (cont.)

back to Renmark. Evening:--a formal Dinner at Renmark Country Club. The magnificent surroundings were only surpassed by the beauty of our ladies. Toasts and presentations were made to Ian and Fee, and trophies presented to Vince Clohesy as the best Captain; and to Beatrice McKinna, whose crew voted her well worthy of the award of the Ladies Trophy. One of the 458ers procured a spare pair of dentures (Bovine) and these were presented to John Fleming in case he sneezed again.. A scroll was presented to Eric Munkman by Liba 14 who reckined he needed it after trying to help organise 12 boatsfull of 458ers.

Sunday--Some played golf; congrats to Jean Mitchell who came out the winner. Others did their own thing. Fee took some ladies to see the Art Gallery and other parts of Renmark. Evening--Final barbecue at the Landing, with lots more reminiscing and "Remember when...?" around the fire.

Monday--everybody made their way, north south east and west. For those who missed-- we felt sorry for you. Can this reunion be surpassed? It's doubtful, but we know Queensland will try---so rally round 458, and we'll see you on the Sunshine Coast in 1977.---E.T.M.

Note: Crew Captains were asked, and did, prepare some personal notes, which will be used in future copies of the News.

BRITISH BULLETIN. from Sid Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Rd., Grove Park, Lonson.

Many thanks for your reminder....Following a note from Bill Waitt, an old member has returned to the flock--Eric Fendick from Leicester. Chico Mercer had a surprise visit recently from Jim Palmer and his wife.--they are touring over here and also on the continent. Chico said it was just like his birthday to see one of the boys again. He hasn't changed a lot--just got a little older like all of us. That reminds me, we are all reaching towards that goal which makes us O.A.P.s. Perhaps then we shall be called 458 Sqdn (O.A.P.).

In about 2 weeks I am off to the Canary Islands for a couple of weeks rest with the wife.

Recently had a letter from Mr. Baldry who is the gardener at Holme-on-Spalding Moor--he has tended our tree at the Airfield for the last ten years or so and is about to retire, so he let me know that the foreman will ask the new gardener to carry on tending our tree. A letter of thanks has been sent also a token present for all of his good work.

That about wraps it up for this time--all the best to you all, cheers, Sid.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS. from Jim Holliday, 43, Stella St., Holland Park, Q., 4121.

The Queensland contingent brought back glowing reports of the Renmark affair. However there were some remarks about the inability of skippers their place when moving in formation, and that some skills had been reduced by increasing age. Our boys and girls want to express their very special thanks to Ian Showell, not only for his generosity but also for the splendid organisation and entertainment.

Coming for Sunshine... A fair number of bookings have already been received for the 1977 Reunion on the Sunshine Coast. If this early interest is an indication, then a huge number may be expected. Don't worry about missing out on accomodation. The Sunfair has the beds--and at international standard. (Editor's Note: How about some of our British members of 458, of Sid Thompsett's flock, planning to be with 458 on Queensland's Sunshine Coast around April 25th, 1977 ?)

Lost and Found Column. In the last News, we bewailed the loss of addresses of four Q.Flight members. Three of the four have now reported in. Eric (Dicky) Bird writes that glaucoma forced him to give up his property on lovely Cootharaba Lake. But he's living nearby at 12, Joyce St., Tewantin. Eric reports he has had a successful operation and his eyes are now as good as ever.

Enid and Dud. McKay retired 2½ years ago from Cairns to 5, Marisa Court, Caloundra, also on the Sunshine Coast. Enid and Dud. are looking forward to entertaining southern members during the 1977 reunion.

Clive Wyman weighed in with Stan Slater's new address;--4, Soliss St., Geebung. But

Q.Flight News (cont.)

we haven't heard from Fred.Kleckham Last address Dara,New Guinea. We feel he's now domiciled somewhere in North Queensland.

About Speedito.

About Postle's champion horse,Speedito. In the big race he had to hurdle a couple of fallen horses and missed a place. Keep a watch on him though.

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WESTERN WORDS.

from Ted.Jewell,65,Kirkham Hill Tce,Maylands,6051.

Elsie and I are now home again after a month away touring around the country.

A week of which was spent at Renmark with Ian and Fee Showell--and what a fantastic week it was ! Far greater than I had ever expected it to be and all thanks must go to this wonderful couple for all the organising that went into the whole show.

The river sorted a few of the skippers out along the way,around the bends,plus a few snags here and there,but I think all did a pretty good job along the miles we travelled. On the final day everyone was talking about renewing old acquaintance again in Queensland next year,which after all is not so far off.

All of the four couples from the West went off in different directions on leaving Renmark. Ray and Marge Turley headed home back to Perth. Pete and Doreen McCarthy were on their way to Melbourne to stay a short time with Doreen's brother,John Lilley,who I am sure many will remember on the Squadron. Bill and Joan Clues left on their way to Nowra to spend a few days with son Garry,before going on to Fiji. Elsie and I headed back to Adelaide and then on to Alice Springs for a few days to see the Centre.

Interstate Members.

Around the middle of June I had a phone call from Al.Wheat, saying that Ken.and June Brown (Ken.was an old crew member of Al's) were in Perth for a short spell;and maybe we could arrange a night out with a few of the members. Bill Clues made the arrangements and he,most ably,picked the Italian Restaurant at the Riverside Motel,a very lovely place. Six couples arrived and I must say after a few beers,wines,extra special Italian dishes,lots of talking by all, coffee and liqueurs,it was no time at all before they were ready to close the doors. Those present:Bill and Joan Clues,Al.and Joy Wheat,Ken and June Brown, Lock and Margaret Simpson,Tim and Poss.Dale,Ted and Elsie Jewell. --T.J.

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NEW SOUTH NOTES.

from Arthur Jollow,40,Nicholson St.,Chatswood,N.S.W.,2067.

I have had some interesting mail since the last issue. Firstly,from Eric Bird,who has a common interest with me in Mount Isa where he has a son and also a daughter and son-in-law. My account of our visiting my daughter there brought the response;also a "Memo" from Snowy Atherton,with a map showing how to get to his place,only about 120 miles from the Isa. The map was very specific;even a wartime Yank Navigator wouldn't get lost. Snowy's property is Elizabeth Plains,with a rail head at Oorindi siding. I have promised that next time I am walking my daughter's dog I will drop in for afternoon tea.

I also had a letter from the irrepressible Rinso Purcill,which enclosed a cheque. Rinso said, "Give it a go,and if it doesn't bounce,we'll try a big one and split the loot." Those of you who remember him--and who of the old brigade doesn't ?--will see he hasn't changed.

I bumped into Dick Healey in the street recently;he was well. Probably shedding the responsibility of his ministerial duties is giving him a little more time to enjoy.

To the faithful members who have supported our Melbourne Cup sweep over the years, we ask that you do so again this year. It is our major source of revenue and without the funds from this we could not operate. Books of tickets are being sent to our helpers of the past,and if anyone else wants to help,just a line to me and a book of tickets will be sent by return of mail.

Reports are filtering back from the roisterers of Renmark. It seems to have been a great success,and Ian Showell's generous gesture in giving his fleet over to the Squadron was really terrific. Some good stories will come out of that excursion.

Back to my first paragraph,Both Eric and Snowy mention the Reunion next year,and are looking forward to meeting many old friends. Snowy says I owe him two double Scotch,so if I don't turn up,you'll know why.

N.S. Notes (cont.)

Son Michael and wife are eventually on their way home. Last news from Greece where they had attended a festival at Epidaurus. They are driving a diesel camper van to Kathmandu, stopping where they want to, with no fixed schedule. He was having a go at me about the hot sunny weather there at present and with me freezing here in the winter. I told him it got so cold here one day I had to put a shirt on, but still wearing shorts and sandals at weekends. True too.

To you all "Good health and lots of laughter!" A.J.

WESTERN PERSONALITIES.

Notes from Bill Clues at Renmark.

Henry Etherton after Gall bladder op. around Christmas is a new man. Bob

Shearman had his tonsils removed and is now fully recovered.

Ray and Marge Turley have moved to a new home near the Air Force Estate at Bateman.

Johnny Cobb and wife Ethel send their regards to all members. John has retired and spends a lot of time at Mandurah. Ethel is convalescing from an operation. Tim Dale has had a heart attack but is recovering and back at work. Clarrie Eagle has moved into a new home.

Everyone there agrees that the Renmark trip was a highlight of their lives, and thank Ian and Fee for all the time and work they must have put into the organising to make our stay so memorable.

BRIEF ITEMS.

Air Force Association bi-ennial Federal Conference at Canberra in August opened by Governor-General Sir John Kerr. Considered large agenda of repatriation and Defence items. Extended full membership eligibility on same terms as warservice airmen and women to peacetime airmen and women. Instructed Federal Executive to study some form of affiliation for sons and daughters and some form of "Civil Wing" for civil aviation people. (Canadian A.F.A. is setting up similar "parallel" organisation called Aviation Canada). Awarded Certificate of Merit to 458's Cy. Irwin for long service. 458ers Graeme Coombes and Peter Alexander present as Federal Treasurer and Federal Secretary.

Australian Services Council (the joint body for all interested ex-Service (Associations) has been pressing Ministers of Repatriation on such matters as the Hospital Service and Pharmaceutical drug decisions of the mini-budget, the Toose Report, delays in repatriation decisions in N.S.W. and other States. Council officers (General Sir Mervyn Brogan, Laurie Mason, of the T.B. Soldiers Ass'n, and (Peter Alexander) visited Canberra and spent a couple of hours with the Repatriation Minister and Chairman. Then had dinner with the Government members Ex-Service Committee. Some days later, Peter Alexander, as the Council's Hon. Secretary, returned to Canberra, at the Minister's request, to discuss Defence Service Homes with Kevin Newman, Minister for Environment, Housing, etc.

Triennial World Assembly of the World Veterans Federation at Maastricht, Holland, is attracting attendance of several Australian ex-service reps. Peter Alexander, as the current Aust. W.V.F. Council member, Sir William Hall of the R.S.L. and other, mainly A.F.A., leaders attending. After that some go off to Katmandu for Asian and Pacific Regional Meeting of W.V.F. at invitation of Nepal Government. Peter Alexander is the WVF Liaison Officer for Asia and Pacific.

458 ON THE ETHNIC (COOKING) SCENE.

One of the many benefits Australia has had from the great immigration of the postwar years has been the variety of new foods and wines that the newcomers have brought with them from the ancient culture of Europe and Asia. 458 in N.S.W. is to look into this in detail. The Flight Committee is to organise a series of dinners at carefully selected Sydney restaurants about quarterly. If N.S.W. members wish to be notified of these events will they please return the form below to the Secretary. Postage cost being what it is, notification will be restricted to those requesting advice.

First evening planned will bring us some lovely and delicate Greek food. Greek hors d'Oeuvres freshly cooked, some wrapped in vine leaves; lamb cooked as only the Greeks can; Baklava--crisp greek sweets served with honey. Accompanied, for those who drink (a few 458ers do this), by Ouzo (an aromatic appetiser), Retsina, a resinated greek white wine, or a greek red. Finishing with Greek brandy and coffee.

For N.S.W. Members.

N.S.W. Flight Secretary,
40, Nicholson St.,
Chatswood, 2067.

Please notify me about 458's Ethnic Meal programmes. I am interested in coming,
from time to time, to these functions.

Name.....Address.....