

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



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SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

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SQUADRON TREASURER: C.P. (Cy.) Irwin (N.S.W.) SQDN. SECRETARY: A.J. (Paddy) Walker (N.S.W.).
EDITOR of 458 SQUADRON NEWS: Peter Alexander.

ALL SET FOR MAROOCHYDORE.

Preliminary bookings for the 16th. All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron when last advised totalled over 80--and more clearly were to come. Bruce McKenzie has confirmed his coming. Western Australia is sending President Bill Clues, Secretary Ted Jewell, Committeeman Henry Etherton; and their wives. Alan Atherton, and we learn Erle Hetherington and Bob Dangaard are coming for sure--all from North Queensland and they hope to bring Johnny Dew with them. An interesting name on the list, representing Tasmania, is A.A. (Tote) Peace. Welcome all!

Programme Summary.

Friday April 22nd. Barbeque.
Saturday April 23rd. Visit to the Mountains and Picnic Lunch
Dinner and Dance.
Sunday April 24th. Visit to Teewah Coloured Sands and Lake Cootharaba
Smorgasbord.
Monday April 25th. Dawn Service at Coolum
Squadron Council meeting
March at Caloundra
Lunch at R.S.L. Caloundra and Reunion;
Visit to Pumice Stone Passage.
Tuesday April 26th and on. Own plans.

There is room for more to come. Write to Jim Holliday, 43, Stella St., Holland Park,
Queensland, 4121.

458ers--WIVES--and FRENCH COOKING.

N.S.W. Flight held its first Ethnic Dinner during February. It was decided to make the first venture a French dinner. 20 attended. They pretty unanimously agreed that the food was superb. Choices were varied and too many to list. We did observe N.S.W. President Eric Munkman with some Mussels and mustard sauce. We didn't note the choice of 458 connoisseur Sam Barlow but he had a keen eye on the Menu.

Next Ethnic Dinner is to be Greek and to be held on Tuesday May 17th (Evan Toyer, please note!) Those on the Dinner List will be notified. Any wishing to "Be in it", please let Secretary Arthur Jollow know.

VICTORIAN NEWS.from Ken Morkham, 716, Elgar Road, Doncaster, 3108.

Vale. Jim Timms. Everyone who knew Jim will be very sorry to hear of his death on the 13th November 1976. Our deepest sympathy to Elaine and family. Jim served as Victorian Secretary and Treasurer for a number of years, and all members of Vic. Flight are most grateful for his services.

Personal Pars. Cup Day Melbourne. As usual a number of Vic. Flight members and families attended a Barb Q. function at Joan and Ron Russell's home. Although the weather was bad, everyone had a wonderful day. Thanks, Joan and Ron. We were all pleased to see Kath Martin at the function after her illness.

Xmas Get-together. Once again a barbeque was held, at Jean and Roger Rodwell's home. Not the usual roll-up but all present had an enjoyable day. Thanks, Jean and Roger. Kath Martin won a sponge cake donated by Jean Rodwell.

Beatrice McKinna and Ken Morkham. Beatrice and Ken have announced that they are to be married on the 11th March--the wedding to be a quiet one with members of both families. They were given congratulations by members of the Squadron and by Vict. President Russ Connolly. Ken has sold his home in Doncaster and purchased a new home in East Burwood. Beatrice's daughter Jill and husband Mike have moved to Victoria from W.A. and we welcome them back to Victoria. Beatrice and Ken spent Xmas with Beat's daughter Dal in Sydney and had a wonderful time. They contacted Sam Barlow and Eric Munkman while in Sydney.

TRIBUTE.

458 Squadron News wishes to pay its tribute to Four 458ers. To two on the sad note of their passing. To two in happy terms.

JIM TIMMS.

Jim flew, with 458, as a W.A.G., playing his part as did so many of his Squadron mates in achieving the Squadron's contribution to the winning of the war. After the war he returned to Hay in N.S.W. where in the course of time he played a major role locally, becoming Mayor. Jim's important part in the post-war 458 began following his movement with wife Elaine, to Melbourne with his family. His contribution to the Squadron's progress and efficient functioning was immediate and very considerable. His quiet surface manner covered not only efficiency, but also warmth and generosity of nature. If any 458 problem arose from time to time Jim would pick up the phone and solve it. His influence was always towards the imaginative and generous fulfilment of 458's role as an Association of men (with their families) in and after the war. He attended All-States Reunions regularly. We shall miss him: if 458 can find his like as a Squadron office-bearer and member we shall be lucky indeed. To Elaine and the family, our warm sympathy.

PETER THOMPSON.

458 Pilot in Malta and North African days, Peter Thompson, of the R.A.F., kept in touch with us over later years mainly through Bruce McKenzie. After continuing R.A.F. service he returned to live in Surrey where he died recently. We hope to be able to publish more details of his later career in a future issue. We cabled 458's expression of abiding memory and affection.

The happier tribute is to--

BEATRICE and KEN MORKHAM.

To Beat., widow of 458er, Bob McKinna, and Ken, widower of Phyl., who recently joined their lot together in marriage, 458 sends most hearty good wishes for the future. They have known each other for the many years of the post-war history of 458 Squadron and have very many 458 friends. We shall hope to see much of them in time to come.

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

I have been off the scene for a month first in General Hospital and then convalescing, so haven't had much opportunity to gather news. The nursing staff at Concord are great, nothing is a trouble, and always a smile. Opposite me was a gentleman of 82, very feeble, who promised one of the nurses that as soon as his strength returned he would take her to the Pink Pussycat, ply her with wine and take advantage of her. I admired his ambition. Her only comment was "Promises, promises."

N.S.W. Notes (cont.)

Fred Strom has retired from the Education Dept., I think with a sigh of relief. Anyone trying to teach the modern teenager needs a heart like a lion. There is no truth in the rumour that he stands outside the School returning some of the remarks made to him over the years by the students. We all wish Strommy a long and happy retirement.

On February 22nd an ethnic dinner was arranged at the French Restaurant, Crows Nest. Unfortunately, I was in hospital and unable to be present but I am told that 21 attended and that it was a happy evening. More will doubtless be held and notice will be given to interested parties.

Eric Munkman is a grandfather again. A grandson, by courtesy of daughter Beryl. Eric tells me he was awakened in the early hours of the morning recently, by a telephone call. Al Wheat was in town from W.A. and was ringing his friends. Unfortunately he was not here long enough to meet them but we shall be together at the All-States Reunion.

Tess and I intend to attend this year and look forward to meeting old friends. I'll have to watch out for Snowy Atherton; he reckons I owe him two scotches.

Joking aside, it will be my pleasure to supply them, and many more.

The recent wedding of Beatrice McKinna and Ken Morkham brings happiness to all of us who know them. On behalf of all 458 members here "May they live long and be happy together." Beatrice was the first person I spoke to when I landed at Melbourne on my return from Italy--December 29th., 1944. Much has happened since then.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the Sunshine Coast. Keep on laughing.

PERSONAL PARAS.

Jack Riseley, accompanied by Verna, recently visited Brisbane as one of the South Australian delegates to the National Conference of the Partially Blinded Soldiers Association.

Tom Primrose who lives in Coburg, Melbourne, has been in touch recently.

Johnny Rosenberg flying as a Captain with T.A.A. Recognised as one of the best of Australia's airline pilots. Noted for his care of crew and passengers and his ability to give a personal touch to interstate flying.

L. (Charger) Cameron recently exchanged a few words by phone with Peter Alexander, when the latter was in Tasmania on business. Charger lives at Deloraine where his family has been connected with the large local Hardware business.

"Snowy" Atherton writes from Obrindi Plains. Says he and eldest son Bruce entered the Tom McDonald Air race from Cairns around Cape York and had a couple of wonderful days doing about half the flying each. It was superbly organised. They had a beer with Erle Hetherington the day before it started: might have had considerably more had they not been committed to attend a briefing that night. Snowy says "Should you see Arthur Jollow please advise him that I have noted his remarks about not seeing me when he was visiting Mt. Isa (twice) and that I lived 120 miles from that centre. Now I have it confirmed that Backwoods Boys also come from the big city. With the aircraft we had at that time I could have covered that 120 miles in 45 minutes, and had him back here in another 45 minutes. That's if he knew how to work the phone to let me know he was here. Unfortunately we have now disposed of the plane as Jean cannot fly in unpressurised aircraft owing to a bloodpressure problem she has developed. Looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion..."

Wally Baird writes that he is very sorry to be missing the All-States Reunion and the McKenzies as he will be on the high seas at the time, to the Far East--a trip booked long ahead.

ANZAC DAY IN SYDNEY.

The N.S.W. Committee has announced that the Sydney Anzac arrangements have been made along the usual lines. After the March, there will be a gathering for lunch and Anzac Reunion at the Great Southern Hotel, George Street,

As the Flight office-bearers will all be attending the All-States Reunion on the Sunshine Coast, Committee member Jack Aitken is to take charge of arrangements in Sydney.

AUSTRALIAN REPATRIATION.

458 Squadron plays a role in the development, and the protection, of the Repatriation system in Australia through its membership, in N.S.W., of the Air Force Association and the Association's membership of the Australian Services Council. Eleven of the national ex-Service Associations now belong to the A.S.C. which plays a major role in advising the Government on the Repat.system. The Minister for Veterans Affairs, Senator Durack, recently flew from Perth to attend and open the Annual Meeting of the A.S.C. in Sydney and he discussed some proposals arising from the Toose Report with the Council's Secretary.

The office-bearers elected for the following year, to speak for the A.S.C. were:

Chairman: Lt/General Sir Mervyn Brogan,
V/Chairman: Mr. Laurie Mason (T.B. Soldiers Assoc.),
Hon. Treasurer: Major W. Davison, P.O.W. Association,
Hon. Secretary: Peter Alexander (Air Force Assoc.).

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R E C E P T I O N: for B R U C E: M c K E N Z I E: in SYDNEY.

Sydney members and their ladies are invited to attend a Reception in Honour of Bruce and Christina McKenzie on the Evening of Thursday April 21st. It will be at the Air Force Club, 213, Clarence Street, Sydney (3rd. Floor) commencing at 7.30 p.m. There will be a smorgasbord and wines. Charge \$5-50 per head. This will be the only opportunity those members not going to the All-States Reunion will have to meet Bruce again. He will be leaving for Queensland the following day.

This will probably be a joint function with members of the Kenya-Australia Society--which is Bruce's other interest in Sydney.

Please let us know if you are coming by telephoning Mrs. Ashcroft-Smith on 29-6363 not later than April 18th.

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