

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



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

YEAR 30; No.117.

December, 1978.

Price \$4-00 per annum.

SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Eric Munkman (N.S.W.) SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS: Ian Showell (S.A.)
SQUADRON TREASURER: Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.) SQUADRON SECRETARY: Clive Wyman (Q.)
Sam Barlow (N.S.W.)

EDITOR of 458 Squadron News: Peter Alexander.
Editor's Tel. Nos. 41-5024 (Home); 211-2070 (Work) Both in Sydney.

PREPARATIONS PROCEEDING APACE FOR 1st. INTERNATIONAL REUNION, September/October, 1979.

The Reunion Committee set up by the Host State (N.S.W.) in Sydney has for some months been considering the arrangements for the Squadron's first International Reunion. After much debate and thought, the Programme now looks like this:

Thursday 27th. September (or earlier). Overseas Members arrive--met, taken to their hotel--allowed to rest and recover from "Jet Leg";

Friday 28th September. Welcoming Function for all members and families.

Saturday 29th. September. Morning; Squadron Conference--Non Delegates, free time;
12.30 Sydney Harbour Lunch Cruise;
Evening; Dinner Dance at Motel;

Sunday 30th September. Coach Tour to the scenic Blue Mountains; Dinner at the Paragon Restaurant, Katoomba, 6.0 p.m. The day will include a visit to the Gallery of the famous artist, Norman Lindsay, and also Lunch at Springwood;

Monday 1st. October. Coach tour of the Sydney Northern Beaches, leaving the Motel at 10.00 a.m. Barbeque lunch at the Pennant Hills Bowling Club. For golfers, the morning will be for the Anzac Cup Competition;

Then, if there is sufficient interest shown in advance--and Members are asked to indicate this now--see the Form in this Issue--there will be a Squadron visit to the National Capital for about three days--to include Visit to Parliament, Picnic at a Sheep Property, meeting with the Governor-General of Australia, etc.

But now we need to know who is thinking of coming. Will all members please return the Form at the end of this Issue. It won't commit you to anything but will give the Committee an indication of possible numbers, etc.

SANDGROPPERS' CORNER. W.A. News from Ted Jewell, 65, Kirkham Hill Terrace, Maylands, 6051.

Not a great deal to report but first I must say I am sorry there was no news from me in the last Issue. I did send it but cannot say what became of it.

We are not having our Xmas Bar.B.Q. this year as we have done in the past, but are having a dinner on December 8th. at an Italian Restaurant in Perth. We are having a very good response from members and look forward to a most enjoyable evening.

Had a phone call from Jack and Dot Fleming last month to say they were in Perth on holidays. Elsie and I met them one day between their sight-seeing tours and enjoyed shewing them over Yanchep Sun City which is about 50 kilos north of Perth. Also had a few cold beers there and a very good lunch at the Tavern.

Sandgroppers' Corner (conc'd)

Arn.Scholar was also over for several weeks. Charlie Davis and I went out to lunch with him one day, and made some arrangements for a get-together at one of the local hotels. Those who attended were Charlie Davis, Nundy Carpenter, Bill Clues, and myself. Plenty of talking and drinking, with Charlie showing some of his old form by acquiring some cheese and biscuits from the Establishment.

Charlie Davis has now finally retired from the W.A.Railways, on 26th July '78. Between the bowling Club and odd jobs around the home, is keeping himself occupied. As this will be the last issue of the News for 1978, I sincerely wish all 458ers and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Q.FLIGHT COMMENTARY. by Jim.Holliday, 43, Stella St., Holland Park, Q.4121.

Once again the boys--and girls--in Brisbane and environs met for a pre-Christmas reunion, and once again the venue was the gracious home and spacious grounds of Joan and Donny Brandon. We will ever be in debt to the Brandons, not only for their hospitality but for the enormous amount of work and organisation that they expend on these most successful occasions. As we have said before, these Sunday lunch barbeques provide delicious steaks, crisp salads, varied and scrumptious; and the refreshments icy-cold and free-flowing. A most delightful affair for which each and every one of us thank Joan and Don from the bottom of our hearts.

Baxter Back. At the "do" we were able to congratulate Kitty and Jack Baxter on their recent marriage. Jack is now about 99% mobile after so many years of attention and operations on his knees.

Retired and retiring. We learn that three more have joined the ranks of the retired. President Bert Garland, Jim.Mackay, and Chester Jones. All say they have so much to do now they wonder how they ever found time to go to work. Chester, in particular, has projects lined up for years to come; a patio to build; three vintage cars and a vintage aircraft to re-build; then, there's furniture. Its nice to see us elderly people wearing out rather than rusting away.

How Hansen swept the Sweep. Our Melbourne Cup Sweep was again most successfully supported. It was pleasing that the winner was George Hansen, an Associate member of long-standing. Second, was a grand-daughter of Frank Wilks, and third a friend of another Associate, Len.Collins.

Father McNamara in Queensland. Recently, Bernie McLoughlin hastily arranged, for himself, Chas.Warren, Eric Kelly, and Jim.Holliday to entertain Father John McNamara who was on a brief visit to Brisbane. Unfortunately, other 458ers were pre-committed. Father John is now "retired", but looks younger than his 68 years and is certainly not showing the effects of 5 heart attacks and one stroke in recent years. Sadly, he is kept busy in retirement officiating at the funerals of ex-airforce men at the request of relatives. His memory of R.A.A.F. Squadrons and their personnel in the Middle East is encyclopaedic.

Young Man comes East--and North. Chas.Davis came through Brisbane recently on a visit to Cairns. Bill Snowden took him under his wing and Chas.Warren also helped out. Up in Cairns, Erle Hetherington was able to show him the sights. Chas.Davis also dropped in on Bob.Dangaard at Mareeba.

Tim's Funeral. On his return from attending the funeral of Tim.McQuaid at Barcaldine, Chas.Warren felt that other 458ers would wish to know the respect in which Tim.was held. All businesses in the town were closed; friends came from all over the central west and from Brisbane. Over 800 attended the funeral. Theo.Ravenscroft was there from Longreach. 458 Squadron was nominated to provide one of the pallbearers, the position being filled by Chas.Warren. While the passing of any member is sad, it gives a pleasurable feeling to know that they earned the respect of a wide circle of their fellow men.

VICTORIA'S VIEWS. from Ken.Morkham, 19 Terang Avenue, Burwood East, 3151.

Firstly, the Vic.Flight President, Stan Tarczynski, Committee and members of Vic. Flight send their best wishes for the festive season and New Year to all members.

Vic's Views (cont.)

Personal Pars. Dot and Jack Fleming recently returned from a trip to Western Australia where they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. While away they met Ted Jewell, Al Wheat and others of W.A. Flight.

Presentation. Our Flight President will present to No.2 Flight cadets a Book and Shield, at the Raglan and High Streets Preston Drill Hall.

Visit to Vic. Charlie Davis of W.A. attended a Get-together at Harry Ashworth's homewith Stan Tarczynski, Jean Mitchell, Mick Singe, Harold Martin, and it appears a good time was had by all.

For Christmas. Our usual Do will be held at Jean Mitchell's home in Malvern. The usual things will happen--B.Y.O. Grub, Tables, Chairs, Barbeque, refreshments, etc. Men and women are invited to bring a gift for each other (under \$1).

Members's News. Heard from Roy Rabone, 14, Hewlett Court, Hamilton. He reckons he's retired from watching the wool grow and is working part-time with a stock firm. Sends his regards to all 458.

Shorty Wilson lives at 45, Melbourne Road, Rye. Attended Harold Young's funeral. Shorty sends his regards to all 458ers and advises that his health has improved.

Vale. Harold Young passed away on 19th September, 1978. All 458 members send deepest sympathy to his wife Norma and family. Norma has written to us. Thank you Norma for a lovely letter--please keep in touch.

Adrian Boyer, son of Les., was electrocuted and passed away on 18th October. The funeral was at Kyneton and 458 was represented. Our deepest sympathy to Les. Joy and family.

Kindest regards to all.

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

The Sweep. First, the Melbourne Cup Sweep. I know all ticket holders will want to know the result--which was: 1. Arwon J. Hart. Ticket 873; 2. Dandaleith--T. Ridgeway Ticket 946; 3. Karu---G. McLean Ticket 784.

The sweep was drawn at Eric Munkman's home. Not one of the Committee drew a horse. Must mean we are all honest or else a bit wet. Take your pick. The draw was notified to the lucky ones, so I hope you heard in time to ride your horse. Financially the Sweep was successful so we can finance the News for another year for N.S.W. members.

The International Reunion. Things are moving along and no doubt the Editor will publish the programme. We think the arrangements will be well received. Recently, I received a letter from John (Curly) Hosking which I found very meaningful at this time. He expressed his sadness to hear of Tim McQuaid's death. He and Tim were mates from their early days; were together at Richmond, doing their rookie training; then to Ascot Vale: posted to the same unit on completion; went overseas together with the Blue Draft and joined 458 together, serving right through. On demob. each went his separate way. The sad part is that Curly always intended to visit Tim at Barcaldine. But as so many of us do he had something else he needed to do and postponed his visit to next year, and then next year. And now I quote Curly-- "It is too late." The Reunion next year gives us all an opportunity to meet and greet old mates before "It is too late." Remember "It's later than you think." So, plan now to remedy the omissions of yesteryear. Thank you, Curly, for reminding us.

Peter Alexander recently spent some time overseas, visiting Kenya, U.K., France, Burma and Singapore. He visited Christina McKenzie at Bruce's old home at Knowle in Surrey. We hope Christina will be able to complete the foreword to the History which Bruce had begun and which, in rough draft form, was thrown from the aircraft when Bruce died. Peter tells us that the book will soon be in print and we look forward to it. Advance orders will still be taken at \$10 per copy (Apply G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney, N.S.W.).

The W.V.F. Peter Alexander's overseas visit was to attend, with Sir William Hall of the R.S.L., and Barry Brooke of the A.F.A., the Council meeting in Paris of the World Veterans Federation at which representatives of over 50 countries meet. He took the Chair at the regional meeting for Asian and Pacific Councillors.

New South Notes (cont.)

Things go reasonably smoothly in the Jollow family. Son Peter weds in January; son Michael and Briqitte, his German wife are near the snowfields of the Matrz Mountains.

Matron migrates.

You will all remember Harry Jenkins our very efficient medical man, and friend of Mac the Monkey. He has moved to Nelson Bay (181 Caloola Drive). Call on Lofty Chalmers, Harry (try the Golf Club). Welcome, Harry! Look us up when you come to Sydney.

To all my many friends everywhere, a joyous Christmas, and peace and good health in 1979.

THANKS.

To Maureen Hessey, daughter of Arthur and Tess Jollow, for donating a porcelain art plate for raffling in aid of the Reunion Fund. Tickets from Sam Barlow, G.P.O. Box 5289, Sydney for \$1.

To our lavender lady, Dorothy Aitken, who has donated about \$100 to the Reunion Fund, made from sales of home-grown lavender.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Sid Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Road, Grove Park, London.

Dear Peter, Firstly please accept my apologies for not being able to meet you in London. I had influenza. Since then I have been in Hospital but am now home convalescing.

Yesterday I had a letter from Mrs. Judy Dunlap (who was Bruce McKenzie's Secretary in England) and was sorry to hear that she has had to leave, as the business has virtually come to an end. I should like to thank Judy for all the help she has afforded over recent years. She will be keeping in touch with Christina and says she did enjoy all the work associated with 458 Squadron. She is returning to horse Racing and breeding which is her first love.

I wish all of you in Aussie a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and happy New Year. All the very best, Sid.

From Mick Mather, Lakeside Terrace, Meadowie, N.S.W., 2301.

Dear Peter, What a pleasant surprise to receive the last two editions of 458 News, especially after being out of contact for so long--I apologise for not writing earlier and enclose \$5 to make me financial for the rest of this year. Please re-bill me as subs. become due.

As you're aware I've had little contact with the Association for a long time now (too long) and it's most refreshing to hear of the activities, and sadly more often now of the passing of some of our contemporaries. Hearty congratulations for the great job 458 News is doing.

.....Things are fine with me--I've been retired from the R.A.A.F. for some five years and am a horse-farmer of sorts--have a small place here in the bottom of the Hunter river; keep three brood mares and raise a few foals, generally selling them at yearling or two year-old stage. Keeps me busy; I'm a one man band, i.e. owner, trainer, strapper, farmer, fencer, manure separator, etc. But it's a great way to spend seven days a week, 365 days a year, provided you don't want any pay! I had a daughter who did a lot of my riding for me but she's away now at University, so Father carries the can.

Hope to join you for an ale one of these days--and any passers by are welcome to stop in at my place and try my own brew--at their own risk. Sincerely, Mick.

Editor's Apology. To Eric Munkman--that space again crowds out the news he brought from Cairns. And to everyone else for the same fate meeting the list of Squadron Addresses. But they're not forgotten.

WILL ALL READERS PLEASE FILL IN AND SEND BACK THIS FORM OF ADVICE. To the

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

NAME.....ADDRESS.....

I plan to attend the 1st International Reunion of 458 Squadron, to be held in Sydney in the period commencing September 28th 1979. I plan to be accompanied by.....relatives and friends. I am/am not interested in a visit to CANBERRA.