

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



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

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## SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Eric Munkman (N.S.W.) SQUADRON VICE-PRESIDENTS: Ian Showell (S.A.),  
Clive Wyman (Q.)

SQUADRON TREASURER: Cy. Irwin (N.S.W.) SQUADRON SECRETARY

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

## THE CLAN PREPARES TO GATHER FOR THE 1st. INTERNATIONAL REUNION.

Early indications are that we shall have a very good gathering in Sydney this coming Sept 27th--October 5th. For your information, the following have filled in Notification Forms indicating that they hope to be with us. (Many others are still to come in).

<u>Overseas.</u>	<u>Vic</u>	<u>S.A.</u>	<u>W.A.</u>	<u>N.S.W.</u>	<u>Queensland</u>
E.Fendick (U.K.)	S.Tarczynski	N.Trewartha	T.Dale	D.Bitmead	B.Hughes
R.Verity (N.Z.)	V.Clohesy	S.Bartram	J.Palmer	B.Bruce	J.Baxter
N.Duke (U.K.)	E.Laming	B.Ravenscroft	E.Jewell	L.Chalmers	A.Atherton
E.Phillips (U.K.)	I.Giles	T.Gilles	R.Turley	D.Whiteman	B.McLoughlin
N.Gilbert (U.K.)	D.Firth			Bob.Millar	B.Garland
				W.Perkins	J.Holliday
				R.Scholes	J.Lewis.
				J.Preston	
				A.Ashton	
				L.Barlow	
				H.Baines	
				L.Crowley	

plus, of course, many "Local" members. Nearly all the above members have indicated that they will be accompanied by one or more family or friends.

Will members who have not yet sent in their Form, to indicate (without commitment) an intention to attend the Reunion, please now do so. Another form is at the end of this issue of the News.

Forms received to date heavily support the proposed visit to Canberra to follow the Sydney events and the Reunion Committee is arranging this accordingly.

## REUNION NEWS.

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

Things have been a little dull since Xmas apart from Cyclone Kerry and Joh's banana bender bonnet. Perhaps its the summer sloth or perhaps the girding of loins for the onslaught of the Anzac Day Reunion.

However, a delightful function was held at the Greek Club on Wednesday 21st. February, attended, regrettably by a small number. However the apologies were many and earnest. Hilda and Frank Wilks had commitments that prevented their commuting from Toowoomba. Jack Lewis was laid low with a severe recurrence of back trouble. Sel.Foote was a last minute withdrawal with a passing but virulent virus. Joan Brandon was recuperating from an operation, at Mount

Q.Flight News (cont.)

Tamborine. Bernie McLoughlin was tied up with arrangements to welcome Group Captain Cheshire, V.C., and Lady Ryder, visiting Australia during this Year of the Child.

A welcome visitor to our function was Kel, Kellam and wife Anne. Kel's been in and out of Repat Hospital with 5 heart attacks, most of which required treatment in the Intensive Care Unit. At 77, Kel looks well despite the need to use a walking stick.

Joyce and Jim MacKay were there too, freshly returned from a tour of our North, following Jim's retirement. Jim says he's happy that he can now devote time to his hobby--lapidary.

President Bert Garland was more than happy that he has now completed his pre-retirement leave and now commences his official retirement.

But the two happiest people there were Joyce MacKay and Eric Kelly. Both were celebrating birthdays.

To Chas. Warren, another grandchild.

If ever you see Len MacDonnell and Jim Holliday absorbed in a tête-à-tête, you can bet the topic is the theme nearest their hearts, the cruel income tax imposed on the aged.

The October issue of "Blues on Parade", the A.F.A. Queensland paper had a most comprehensive article on the late Bruce McKenzie. (We wrote it--Ed. !)

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VICTORIAN NEWS.

from Ken Morkham, 19, Terang Ave, Burwood East, Vic, 3151.

Not much to report for this Issue.

Anzac Day Melbourne.

Your Committee expects as many members as possible to attend the March and later the Reunion at the Melbourne Bowling Club. Be in it, chaps! Meet your mates again. The entrance fee for the Reunion will be \$2-00; \$3 subs; and; 2-00 News.

New addresses.

Please advise your Secretary of any change in your address. We like to keep in touch and so do your mates. Your committee can only function to your satisfaction if you, as members of the Vic. Flight support it. So, if you have not paid your sub. \$3-00 and News-letter dues \$2-00 for 1979, please forward them to your Hon. Secretary/Treasurer.

458 Squadron News.

The News is a wonderful medium for us all to keep in touch. So please support it. The Vic. Flight strongly opposes financing of the News for unfinancial Vic. Flight members. So please forward your News sub. at least. \$2 to be financial. Vic. Flight record 92 members with only 31 having paid their dues for 1978.

Bowls.

Harry Ashworth and Ian Alison won the recent Diggers Day Bowling Tournament. Congratulations!

Globe Trotters.

The grape vine tells us that another two members are leaving shortly for overseas. Harry and Nell Ashworth--John Bilney and his lady. We wish them bon voyage, and trust they meet up with other 458ers overseas.

We look forward to a big turn-up at the Anzac Day March and to enjoying your company at the Reunion.

Regards, Ken.

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NEWS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

from Geoff Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, 5064.

We regret postal delays caused us to miss the last News.

VALE Bruce Thomas.

It is with regret I have to report the passing of Bruce Thomas in November after some weeks in hospital. The large gathering that attended the Service in St. Michael's Church, Mitcham, and his funeral at Centennial Park, was evidence of the respect and regard in which Bruce was held by the Community.

John Ringwood, Jack Riseley and Bill Taylor represented the Squadron as pallbearers, together with members of Legacy, which had long been a service interest of Bruce. Our sincerest sympathy has gone to his widow, Maisie.

Welcome to Charlie Davis.

A visit from Charlie Davis and his wife, from W.A., was reason enough for a reunion at the Talbot Hotel on Nov. 15th. Lofty Trewartha

News from S.A. (cont.) entertained them both after. It is always pleasant to catch up with interstate members.

Haven't had much chance to catch up with Bill Taylor's story of his travels but understand he met a number of U.K. members (and local ones on their travels, notably Ian Showell) Hope we can share highlights of their trips through Squadron News before too long. They and their wives attended the Memorial Service for Bruce McKenzie in London. Bill tells me his ex-Navigator, Tom Phillis, has also returned from a low key Hitch hike round the World and is talking of going again soon.

On Sunday Feb. 18th, a service was held at the Airport dedicating plaques to sister squadrons 462, 466 and 5 A.C.S.. 458 was represented by Ron. Badger as Secretary of the Air Force Memorial Adelaide Airport Committee. Ted. Creighton, Bill Taylor and Jack Riseley with their wives also represented us.

A plaque will be unveiled and dedicated on Sunday March 18th. at 11 a.m., to commemorate the W.A.A.A.F. participation during the War. Miss Claire Stevenson, wartime Director of the W.A.A.A.F., will fly from Sydney for the occasion.

A Flight Committee meeting, held at Jack Riseley's home on Feb. 20th., elected Jack McGlasson, of 25 Taylor Terrace, Rosslyn Park, 5072 (phone 31-7627) as Flight Treasurer.

Members are reminded of the Anzac Service at the Airport on April 25th. Assembly 9 a.m. with a service, conducted by Rev. Ben. Williams, commencing at 9.15. Assembly for the March will be announced in the Press and it is hoped as many as possible thereafter will come to the Talbot Hotel in Gouger Street.

Regards and best wishes to all members from South Australia.

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#### CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

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

It was with deep sorrow that we heard that Betty Archbold had passed away after a long illness. Betty was Wal's wife. Wal was one of the original members of 458, having sailed on the Aorangi on Sept. 5th, 1941, as a member of 458 Squadron. I know that all who knew him will join in extending their sympathy in his loss.

The International Reunion. Preparations are well in hand, and we have received notice of intent from quite a few members--and we expect many more. If you haven't thought about it, please do so NOW and decide to join us all on this occasion. Remember it is LATER THAN YOU THINK!

#### The Flight Dines again.

A Spanish Ethnic Dinner was held at the Valencia Restaurant, George Street, (in Sydney's Spanish Quarter) on Feb. 6th--and was a most enjoyable occasion I am told (I was in Melbourne on that day). About 5 of these dinners are held each year at various national style places and are very popular. Why not join us at the next one?

Anzac Day, 1979. After the March there is a rendez-vous for a sit-down dinner at the Great Southern Hotel which has been our haunt for many years. Will those who are going to attend please advise me on 238 0266 (work), 419 3538 (Home) or Eric Munkman on 407 2061 (Home).

#### Art Exhibition

A most enjoyable luncheon with many wines was held at the lovely home of Sam and Maisie Barlow on Sunday 25th. Feb. to help raise funds for the International Reunion at the end of September. Anyone who has experienced Sam's hospitality will know how good it was--a delightful occasion attended by 34 members, wives and friends. It was the occasion of an Exhibition of porcelain art work by Maureen Hessey, a leader in this form of art. To the uninitiated, this is hand painting on porcelain or glass which is done in stages and kiln fired after each application. This can be done on articles as small as thimbles and spoons, brooches, pendants, jewel boxes, etc to large plates, vases, and wall plaques in colours from the softest pastels to vividly coloured flowers, scenes, etc. To those who participated in the Raffle for the beautiful porcelain plate and stand which Maureen had donated--it was won by Iris Ricketts, wife of Stuart of that ilk. Iris was present when the raffle was drawn and was highly delighted. To those who participated, like me, with no success, thank you for your support.

To Sam and Maisie, thank you for your wonderful hospitality, and, Sam, did you count the empty spaces in your cellar after we had all gone? I saw some contemplative glances there.



Cornstalk Commentary (cont.)

To Maureen Hessey, our thanks for providing us with something beautiful, or should I say some beautiful things to look at and admire.

In conclusion, don't forget the Reunion. I hate to harp on it, but we wouldn't want you to miss it--and we do look forward to greeting old friends.

Talking of old friends, can any Sandgroper tell me where Jack Mitchell is. I haven't heard from or about him since Foggia 1944. Does he remember the day the petrol tanker caught fire? All for now--best wishes to you all.

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Rd., Grove Park,  
S.E.12, London, England.

How time flies! It only seems like last week when I was welcoming in 1979, and here we are into February. Never mind, the sooner we lose this winter the happier I shall be. Only last week, during our severe weather, my wife fell down and broke her wrist.

Barras for Britain.

I received a letter from Alex. Barras requesting the address of Bob. Newton, who served on the Squadron up to Malta, but have had to inform him that Bob passed away last October. Alex. informs me he and his good wife will be coming over here in March--we look forward to meeting them.

Someone for Sydney.

Eric Phillips, from Manchester, is going to Sydney and several others are planning. Will keep you informed.

Otherwise not a great deal to report unless I burden you with all our strikes, etc except that I have been in touch with a few of the boys by 'phone. Hugh Hamlet Norman Gilbert, Fred. Nieman, and Bill Anton, who send their regards.

That about wraps it up for this time, Peter.

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CORRESPONDENCE, Letters to the Editor.

From Dave Firth, Box 46, Robinvale, Victoria, 3549.

Dear Peter, You have probably already heard of the sudden death of Ken. Cupper but I have sent the enclosed newspapers cuttings for information. Unfortunately Glad and I were away at Port Augusta, staying with Jim. and Joy Perry and we did not have time to get back for the funeral. Ken. and I were allocated adjacent fruit blocks in 1947 under Soldier Settlement and were good friends and neighbours ever since, although since my retirement 4 years ago I have been living in the town of Robinvale. Ken had been in poor health for some time but still carried on and worked his fruit block. Nevertheless his sudden death was a shock for all of us here in Robinvale.

(Editor: We all join in sympathetic sorrow with Ken's family. He was a Pilot in the middle-period of 458's history in North Africa and flew under Bruce McKenzie's command. He came to several All-States Reunions and was universally liked)

Dave Firth continues.

Glad and I are enjoying our retired life and still find plenty of activity to keep us occupied. Any 458ers passing through Robinvale are most welcome to call in at 81, George Street. Next month I will be back at grape picking on my son's fruit block, but will be finished in time to come over for the next reunion.

Looking forward to seeing you all then, yours sincerely,  
Dave Firth.

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From Ron. Verity, 80 Gayhurst Road, Dallington, Christchurch, 6, New Zealand.

Dear Peter, Let me begin by saying how much I appreciate the work being done in connection with the activities of 458 Squadron. Over the years you have done a marvellous job.....

My apologies for not having replied to the Notice in the last Newsletter before now; but our intentions have been somewhat governed by our son's activities; but now that he has taken a position with Comalco at Weipa, we are better able to plan the future.

Yes, my wife and I are definitely going to make the effort to be present at the functions in Sydney in September; and as you may expect we hope to make a trip to Weipa before the reunion. Unfortunately, it is most unlikely that we will be able



