

CIRCULAR

# 458 SQUADRON NEWS



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## SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Mick Mason (U.K.) SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENTS: Clive Wyman (Q.)  
Stan. Tarczynski (Vic)  
SQUADRON TREASURER: Peter Alexander (NSW) SQUADRON SECRETARY: Graeme Coombes (NSW)

EDITOR of 458 Squadron News; Peter Alexander (Sydney 419 5024).

## FLIGHT CORRESPONDENTS:

N.S.W. Don. Bitmead, 11, Scarborough Street, Monterey, N.S.W., 2217;  
Victoria Stan. Tarczynski, 1946, Malvern Rd., East Malvern, Vic., 3145;  
South Australia; Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, S.A., 5064;  
Western Australia; Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210;  
Queensland; Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Q., 4121;  
U.K.; Sid. Thompsett, 49, Amblecott Road, Grove Park, London, SE 12, 9TN, England.

## RELAXED, HAPPY, ENJOYABLE ALL-STATES REUNION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Elsewhere in this issue are all the details of the 20th All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron. It attracted an excellent attendance from all mainland States.

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## SQUADRON CONFERENCE MEETS.

The gathering of 458 at an ALL-STATES reunion enables a full meeting of the Squadron Conference--458's top level policy body. Two delegates attend from each Flight together with the Squadron Officers. Delegates at the Adelaide meeting were:

Squadron President; Ian Showell,  
Squadron Vice President; Clive Wyman  
Squadron Treasurer; Peter Alexander  
Squadron Secretary; Graeme Coombes

Queensland; Jim. Holliday and Jack Baxter,  
N.S.W.; Eric Munkman and Don. Bitmead,  
Victoria; Stan. Tarczynski and Roger Rodwell,  
South Australia; Jack Riseley and John Carey,  
Western Australia; Ted. Jewell and Bill Clues,  
United Kingdom; Stan. Longhurst (proxy).

Conference heard reports on the progress of each Flight. It heard that Squadron Council had operated profitably in the past two years. It had continued publication of the Squadron News and sales of the Squadron History and had organised new wall plaques.

Conference approved planning for the forthcoming London Reunion--and for another in New Zealand in 1984. It approved plans for new pocket badges. It talked about celebration of the Squadron's 50th anniversary in 1991. It settled the matter of the profits on the Squadron History--divided between the author and the Squadron.

and it elected the new Squadron Officers.

Squadron President; Mick Mason (U.K.)  
Sqn.Vice Presidents: Clive Wyman (Q.)  
Stan.Tarczynski (Vict)  
Squadron Treasurer; Peter Alexander, (NSW),  
Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (N.S.W.)  
Sqn.Hon.Auditor: Bert Thompson, A.A.S.A. (NSW).

The Adelaide Conference recorded its thanks to retiring Squadron President, Ian Showell, for his magnificent support for 458 during his period of office. It also thanked S.A. Flight for the organisation of the Conference.

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News from S.A.Flight, from Geoff.Esau.

Victoria.

Vin and Nancy Clohesy  
David and Betty Evans  
Jack and Dot.Fleming  
Bill and Ann Hurford  
Colin Hutchinson  
Don.Johnson  
Ted.Kennedy  
Ern.Laming  
Jean Mitchell  
Roger and Jean Rodwell  
Mick Singe  
Emmy Snell  
Stan.Tarczynski  
Shorty Wilson

A.C.T.,

Col. Fereday

South Australia.

Eric and Mattie Baker  
Sid and Pat Bartram  
John and Pat Carey  
Ted and Frieda Creighton  
Bill and Pat Cribb  
Pat and Joyce Enright  
Geoff and Heather Esau  
John and Ruth Excell  
Keith Grimshaw  
Jack and Gwen Lawson  
John and Dawn McGlasson  
Bert and Marjorie Oliver  
Reg. Priest  
Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft  
Jack and Verna Riseley  
Arn. Scholar  
Ian and Fee Showell  
Kevin Tait  
Ivy Smart  
Maisie Thomas  
Bill and Madge Taylor  
Peter and Monica Thom  
Brian Woodhead.

Several were unable to attend due to ill health, which while not unexpected was unfortunate, and we hope they are fully recovered now.

Croweaters Commentary (cont)

At Renmark. For a week prior to the holiday Reunion, some 60 of those mentioned spent a week at Renmark aboard a fleet of Liba Liba houseboats provided by Ian Showell. Except for the first couple of days when cross winds (and currents) were evident, no doubt ameliorated by frequent tots of rum in true naval tradition, the weather was kind, as it was, indeed, for the Reunion in Adelaide. Some of the mariners looked a little more ancient on arrival in Adelaide than I remember them 35 years ago. Reports of the experience were unanimously terrific! A truly generous gesture on the part of Ian and Fee Showell and much appreciated.

Our Premier, David Tonkin, very kindly having consented to welcome our members and their ladies to the Reunion, was present with his wife at the Reception at the Haven Motel on the Friday evening. He set the tone for the evening in a speech of warmth, sincerity, and not a little humour, before departing to host a Parliamentary dinner in honour of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh.

This was my first opportunity to attend an All-States Reunion, and I was amazed how readily the years rolled back in meeting contemporaries after such a long time. Saturday morning saw the Squadron Conference conducted, of which a report will appear elsewhere. Mick Mason was elected Squadron President (he will be followed by Clive Wyman, after the U.K. Reunion--congratulations). Thanks to the outgoing President, Ian Showell. On the Saturday afternoon, Bert Ravenscroft was successful in taking out the Squadron Golf Cup. Congratulations, Bert! Nice to have the others eating crow for a change!

A Dinner-Dance at the Haven very happily concluded the busy day.

On Sunday morning Padre Ben. Williams conducted a Memorial Service at Westbeach airport and wreaths were laid at the 458 Squadron Memorial Tree. As always, a very moving occasion and especially so with the wider Squadron participation. Afterwards, everyone piled aboard three buses bound for three different wineries in the Southern Vales 40 miles south of Adelaide to inspect and sample the wares of three old family wineries, all meeting at Ben Ellen for a barbeque lunch, returning to the Haven Motel along the Coast road at late afternoon.

At lunchtime on Monday, everyone met at the "Official" 458 watering hole, the Talbot, for drinks and chatter, soaked up by bits and pieces to eat (and no doubt, ears). A pleasant interlude that went on much longer than scheduled, if not anticipated.

The Reunion officially concluded with a dinner at the Mitcham A.F.A. Bowling Club at Hawthorn on Monday evening, and I for one was sorry that Monday came so quickly. On an even sorrier note I mention that at different times over the last couple of days several of our interstate members were stricken with a very sudden and devastating virus-type wog. Shades of Egypt! I hope and understand the affliction was of short duration. Our sincere regrets to the sufferers.

S.A. Flight President, Jack Riseley, has asked me to mention his gratitude to members of the organising committee for their stalwart help over a long period of time, and I add my belief to his that it was all very well worth while--and thank you, one and all, for coming.

Good wishes and God speed to those attending the U.K. Reunion next year. See you also in Melbourne. Ah there--Tarz!

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RANKS GATHERING FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM REUNION.

The 2nd INTERNATIONAL REUNION of 458 Squadron will be held in London, commencing April 20th 1982, when the Australian party will arrive from Australia.

The programme is: April 20th arrival in London

21st.	Tour of London--the City, St. Pauls, etc
22nd	R.A.F. Museum, Hendon. Evening--a Squadron Theatre
Party	23rd Visit to Shakespeare country, Stratford-on-Avon,
	Anne Hathaway's cottage, Warwick Castle,
	24th Squadron Conference. Tour to Buckingham Palace,
	Westminster Abbey, Parliament House. Luncheon cruise on the Thames. Evening
	Squadron Dinner; 25th Wreath on Cenotaph Coach to Knowle (Bruce
	MacKenzie's old home in Surrey) for luncheon.
	26th. By coach to York in time for sight-seeing
	including the 13th century Cathedral and the Roman walls.
	27th. Visit to Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Squadron Graves
	in churchyard. Visit to R.A.F. Station Farewell Dinner at Hotel in York.

From then on the party will separate for its own tours, returning to Australia at individual convenience.

Contact our Travel Agent--Vic. Williams, RSL Travel, 215 Clarence Street, Sydney (331-3121) to join.



CORNSTALK COMMENTS.

from Don.Bitmead,

Adelaide Reunion. A superbly organised reunion by S.A.Flight, was attended by many N.S.W.Members. It was wonderful to renew friendships, after a lapse of 37 years in some cases, and also to meet the regulars of All-States Reunions. Congratulations to S.A.Flight--who gave up so much time to plan the itinerary and to transport the bodies.

River Murray Expedition. What a magnificent gesture of Ian Showell to give Squadron members free use of the 8 Liba Liba boats for the week preceding the Reunion. Although the river was in flood and running fast there were no serious mishaps. We can all say we had a most enjoyable week which ended too soon. Heartfelt thanks also to Fee who invited 50 + members to a beaut.dinner before we cast off. What a wonderful couple. They certainly have the Squadron at heart.

Annual Air Force Bowls Day. This, as always, was held at Lindfield and was much enjoyed. 458's representatives were: Dick Healey, George Catchlove, Stuart Ricketts, and Tom. Ridgway.

Ethnic Dinner. The next Ethnic Dinner (will all please note this, and notify either Eric Munkman 407 2061 or Peter Alexander 419 5024, if they are coming) will be at the Safari Seafare Restaurant, 22 King Street, Newtown, starting at 7.30 on January 20th. This will coincide with the 300th meeting of the NSW Flight Committee. A brief committee meeting will be held at the commencement of the Dinner. All who have ever served on the 458 Committee are asked to come). BYOG. Indonesian food. As more members are retiring I am sure we should be able to see these dinners attended by increasing numbers. Perhaps wives could give their husbands a nudge, it is later than you think.

Our Christmas Function. At the Air Force Club on Wednesday December 16th--6.30 for 7.30. Please come, with your wife, to join us in celebrating together Christmas, 1981. Contact Don.Bitmead 587 2007 or Eric Munkman 407 2061.

The MacKenzie Memorial Plaque. On behalf of the Squadron throughout Australia, N.S.W. Flight organised the preparation of a Memorial Plaque, commemorating Bruce's service and life. This is to be unveiled at the Air Force Memorial Church, West Lindfield,--at 11 Moore Avenue, at the conclusion of the Morning Service there--which starts at 9 a.m. Please come and pay your tribute of memory and respect to our great C.O. The ceremony will be conducted by Bishop Neville Langford-Smith, formerly of Kenya, supported by the Very Rev. Fred MacKay, 458's Mediterranean area Chaplain. Please note the date.

Squadron Blazer pockets. A quote and a sample from an overseas manufacturer has been received. When a final decision has been made advice will be circulated. If you are interested in principle (and they are very good indeed) write in now so we shall order enough.

Melbourne Cup Sweep. Thanks to members who support our Sweep. Without their help Annual subs would be much higher. Postage, like everything else is a big overhead to cover. The winners were: Fred Strom, Dorothy Aitken, and George Bradd. Everyone who drew a horse was notified in time. Our thanks to George Bradd who donated his prize back to 458 funds.

Squadron Plaques and Histories. Members interested in purchasing these either for themselves or as presents, should contact us.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY

from Ted.Jewell.

Once again, news time, and having just returned from our trip to the S.A.Reunion, I have not had time to find out any fresh news here. Members of W.A.Flight who attended the Reunion were enthusiastic--thanks to S.A.Flight members. Every Reunion is of such high standard that it is impossible to say any one is better than the others. We had ten couples at functions in Glenelg--and that was very satisfying.

What can I say about our week at Renmark. Once again Ian and Fee Showell were the perfect hosts. Wonderful evening at their place for all who had arrived. Our very special thanks. After the first night on the boats, which was wet and windy, the weather became almost perfect for our jaunt up the Murray. The current was flowing fairly fast, which tried out the skippers when mooring the craft at the end of a day's cruising. It was all most enjoyable and the time to depart came too soon. Once again many thanks to Ian Showell.

Coming up are two social functions, before the end of the year. A day out at Baskerville Winery, Barbeque and wine tasting, arranged by Vic Grenville for Sunday 22nd. November. The other will be a Xmas function at the Plain and Fancy

458 IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

During the Party's time in York it hopes to see 458 ers from the North who have been unable to get to London. 458 will be staying at the Post House Hotel and U.K. members will be welcomed to join the Farewell Dinner there on the 27th.

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Sandcrepers' Say (cont.)

Restaurant in Perth, for dinner and drinks; should be a good night. To be held on Saturday December 19th.

As this will be the last newsletter before the festive season, I would like, on behalf of W.A. Flight, to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Stan. Tarczynski.

R.A.A.F. Europe Club.

Ken. Morkham, who is an active member of the Committee of this Club reports that last month's dinner at the Palais, St. Kilda, was an outstanding success, being attended by nearly 400 bods.

There are still about 22 of our Victorian members who have not yet returned my questionnaire. The return of same would be much appreciated--filled in, of course.

Those of us who attended the Adelaide Reunion were most impressed and appreciative of the organisation behind it all. The important aspect is that now Victoria has just 18 months to prepare for the big one in Melbourne, April 1983.. We will need all the co-operation and know-how from all Victorian members to produce ideas, ways and means to accomodation, entertainment, transport, etc--and the sooner the better. Please contact Ken. Morkham or myself if you have anything to offer. Who knows? This could be the last get-together in Melbourne because under normal circumstances the next one would be in 1993.

We have an SOS from an English lady now residing in Melbourne (Tel. 763840)--Jill Gibson. Her uncle, Alby PRUDEN lives in England, was on 458 and she seeks contact with "Binghi" Stewart (Try W.A. Flight--Ed.) and Kev. Guiney. We have lost touch with Kev. Guiney.

Now for some personal paragraphs:

John (Roger) and Jean Rodwell. Since coming to Melbourne from Mildura, Roger has been a stalwart Committeeman and past President. Originally, when he lived at Ashwood, he joined, unknowingly, Tarz's R.S.L. at East Melvern, and wife Jean belonged to the same Golf club as Jean Mitchell. They now live at 5, Cronin Court, Cheltenham. Although Roger still has five years to go as a Fruit Inspector with the Department of Primary Industry, he thinks he might give it away early. He is a very modest fellow as he quotes his hobby as cricket umpiring and "useless at anything else". They have two married daughters, one lives at Frankston and the other at Dareton, near Mildura.

Neil (Mac) and Sylvia McPhee Are living in retirement at Point Leo Road, Red Hill South on Mornington Peninsula. Neil will be best remembered as past General Manager of the Royal Auto. Club of Victoria which he quit in 1976 due to ill health and the loss of his eldest son. A year ago he suffered a coronary attack which caused him to resign from other activities--State Travel Authority, the Melbourne Pageant. Now feeling fitter he is getting back to bowls and a few holes of golf. He is still an active member of Carry On, Rotary and the Church. Sylvia is also a golfer and is keen on painting and gardening and keeps Neil "in order". Daughter Sue works as a psychologist with the Department of Education and is married to a glass artist. They have two children. Donald, Neil's son, has recently completed a course at Dookie College.

Gerald (Gerry) and Betty Abraham reside at 8 Deborah Avenue, E. Bentleigh. He retired over five years ago and enjoys swimming and driving. His health is only 50/50. Gerry is interested in a school for retarded children of which he is on the Board of Management. He is inquiring the whereabouts of Forbes Campbell. Can anyone help him?

Our copy for the News was delayed to report the B.B.Q. which is always held in Melbourne on Cup Day and, for the second year in a row, at Harry and Nell Ashworth's place at 39 Andrew Street, Oakleigh. Despite follow up calls to some of our long-lost members and promises to turn up, only twelve apart from the Ashworth family, fronted, under a 30° sun. It was good to see the following: Elaine Timms, Beat and Ken. Morkham, Jean Mitchell and Stan. Tarczynski, Harold Martin, John and Jean Rodwell, Ern. Laming, Bob and Lorna Smith, Ian Alison, and, of course, Harry and Nell Ashworth, daughter Leslie, husband Roy, and Samantha and Belinda Robinson.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim.Holliday.

Thanks to S.A.Flight.

The Baxters,the Cuthbertsons,Bernie Hughes.Clive Wyman.and Jim.Holliday wish to say thanks to the S.A.Flight for its magnificent hospitality extended to members at the Adelaide Reunion. We also wish to add our congratulations. A very good show.

George Reed sent a long newsy letter from his retirement home at Mission Beach. He recently received a visit from his old Squadron mate,Gordon Nash,from Mitcham. George says they spent a great week fishing,wining and dining,and touring the immediate hinterland. Apparently Gordon Nash was highly amused at the report in the Squadron News that he is a "Keen gardener". Gordon,since the tragic loss of his wife,Lorna, in an accident,lives in a Unit. George Reed advises that he is taking leave from his retirement activities of planting cane,involvement in the R.S.L.Old Diggers Home,and standing in as a boat hirer for his son,James,to visit Melbourne,Sydney,and not forgetting Ted.Kennedy at Ballarat.

Ian Higlett unearthed a 458er by chance. He found that his opposite number at a bowls match was Len Goode who was posted to 458 at Gibraltar at the closing time of the war. Len is a retired Bank of N.S.W. Manager and still does part-time at the Head Office. He's delighted to learn of our post-war activities. We've put him in contact with his old mate Reg.Priest. He would like to renew acquaintance with other contemporaries. His address: 23 Nagel St.,Upper Mount Gravaat,4122. Incidentally,Ian Higlett, tired of retirement,is doing part-time work in real estate.

The distribution of our Melbourne Cup sweep books brings a rich return of correspondence. 458 members in our far-flung State seem to welcome the opportunity when returning butts to add a few words of news. For instance,Bob.Dangaard writes that he is off to New Zealand for a two week tour. He visited Frank Wilks in Toowoomba and Chas.Warren in a day's stop-over in Brisbane. Theo Ravenscroft hasn't had a 458 visitor for years out at home town Longreach. Dick Boydeell says that it is great to receive the News because it recalls so many pleasant incidents during those days in North Africa. Jack Hobbs "still has the nose to the grindstone" and is hoping to renew acquaintance with Chester Jones one day. Bill Snowden sends regards to all. Chester Jones is still commuting between Brisbane and country acreage. Dud.MacKay still flat out at Caloundra but hopes to make a reunion one day. Norm.(Shorty) Taylor never tires of basking in the breezes at Southport. Ann Kellam writes that Kel.has lost a lot of weight but though struggling with ill-health is still as sharp as a tack. Jack Dew is a dedicated gem-stoner and is off to the gem fields for a couple of months.

Tony Stone underwent open-heart surgery recently,had veins removed from both legs and is now back on his feet and receiving a long-delayed war pension. John Elliott lapping up golf these days--while Flight President Jack Lewis has taken up golf again to ease his aching back. Bert Garland deep-sea fishing off the reef.

You would imagine that a Kelly on going overseas would be found in Ireland. Not so the daughters and sons of Kath.and Eric (Digger) Kelly. Eric told me the other day that son Paul is somewhere in Cyprus;one daughter in Ecuador learning Spanish at the University. Another daughter spent some years in Iceland;while son Paddy returned from U.K. with a bride. In other words,the whole world is Kelly country.

Members of Q.Flight Committee would like to record their sadness in losing their long-standing associate Merv.McClurg,from a heart attack. Merv.enlisted in Brisbane in 1940 along with Len.MacDonnell,Keith Campbell,Eric Lloyd,Cormack McLoughlin, Peter Hickey,Bert Garland,Ian Higlett,Jim.Holliday and others who were members of foundation crews at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Merv.served on an R.A.F.Squadron and became a P.O.W. at Colditz. He appreciated being brought into the field of 458 and marched proudly under their banner on Anzac Day and was an indefatigable worker at socials. We'll miss him.

Pres.Jack Lewis and Jim.Holliday were invited to the 40th Anniversary of the 9th Division to represent the R.A.A.F.Squadrons that operated in the North African Desert. There were also representatives from 3 Squadron and 450 Squadron. 458 was signally honoured as Jim.Holliday was asked to respond to the toast to the R.A.A.F.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor has received,among many others,letters from Bill Waitt,in the U.K.--containing the very saddening story of the passing of 458er Trevor Walden--who served with him on J.A.F.MacKay's crew. He has also had,like a welcome voice from out of the past of 36 years,long ago,a letter from Canadian 458er,Tony Mauro--who remembers his 458 mates keenly over the long years.

We shall hope to print these letters in the next issue.  
To Trevor---our affectionate memories. We shall remember him.