



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

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SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE BEARERS.

SQUADRON PRESIDENT: Clive Wyman (Q.)	SQUADRON VICE PRESIDENT: Stan. Tarczynski (V)
SQUADRON TREASURER: Peter Alexander (NSW)	SQUADRON SECRETARY: Graeme Coombes (NSW);
SQUADRON HON. AUDITOR: Bert Thompson (NSW)	EDITOR of 458 Squadron News; Peter Alexander.

Flight Correspondents.

U.K. Sid. Thompsett, 49 Amblecott Road, Grove Park, London, SE 12 9TN
Queensland Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, Q. 4121;
Western Australia; Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, W.A., 6210;
South Australia; Geoff. Esau, 24 Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, S.A., 5064;
Victoria; Stan. Tarczynski, 22, Highgate Grove, Ashburton, Vict., 3147.
N.S.W.; Don. Bitmead, 11, Scarborough Street, Monterey, NSW, 2217.

BOOK NOW FOR MILDURA!

21st. All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron.

With this issue of the News are details of the arrangements for the Squadron All-States Reunion in the attractive Victorian City of Mildura at Anzac time, 1983--and a "Tear Off" form to send in with deposits. The Squadron Council urges 458ers to make their arrangements to come--NOW. Who knows how long we shall be able to enjoy these meetings with Squadron friends and their ladies--Time marches on. This will be an enjoyable, happy, informal gathering. Not to be there will be a lost opportunity.

CROWEATERS COMMENTARY.

from Geoff. Esau.

On Sunday November 14th, a plaque commemorating the services of Australian Kittyhawk Squadrons was dedicated at Adelaide Airport. The Service was very well attended, with Bill Taylor, President of the Airport Memorial Committee, his wife, Madge, and Ron. Badger, as Secretary, representing 458 Squadron. Madge told me that the Service was, as always, most moving.

Personal Pars.

I am sorry to report that our Flight Treasurer, John McGlasson, is far from well. He is out of hospital after undergoing an operation but has had to relinquish the office of Treasurer together with other interests. Our very best wishes to him, his wife Dawn, and family. Their daughter Michelle has taken some months leave from the Northern Territory Dept. of Agriculture to be with her parents.

Peter McCarthy, of Western Australia, in Adelaide with his wife Doreen en route by car to Melbourne contacted Arn. Scholar recently, but time did not allow a gathering of the clan. It is hoped they had an enjoyable, trouble free, run.

It is with regret that I mention the passing of Keith Kappler of Somerton Park in August. Sincere sympathy of all members is extended to his widow, Jean, and family.

Alas! Time and tide wait for no man!

To all, Season's greetings and best wishes.

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Stan.Tarczynski.

All States Reunion--Victoria April 22nd-25th 1983.

The best Hotel-Motel has been booked at MILDURA for this long week-end--the Grand. Only minor details of the format are to be completed. Members intending to participate in the Reunion are asked to complete the Application Form at the rear of this issue. It is very important that there be no delay for the replies to be returned to enable final working figures for confirmation. A \$50 Deposit will be required with each individual booking and all payments are to be forwarded to W.Hurford, 1/9 St. Johns Avenue, Frankston, 3199.

The Programme.

Friday April 22nd. Burns Room, Grand Hotel. Welcome by the Mayor of Mildura, Cr. Bruce Weir, and M.L.A. Milton Whiting, ex R.A.A.F P.O.W., who was interned with two 458 members. After snacks and drinks the evening is free. The longest Bar in the world--at the Workers Club--may be worth seeing.

Saturday April 23rd. 10.30 a.m. Squadron Conference--Grand Hotel. 12.15-1.30 Golf at Mildura Golf Club. Bowls can be arranged by booking. 7.30 p.m. Dinner-Dance on Paddlesteamer "Avoca";

Sunday April 24th. 11.30 a.m. Bus to Cowra Station, near Wentworth for complete entertainment by the Merbein Witchetty Tribe. P.m. the bus or buses will take us on to the Wentworth Club for the evening until ready to return to Mildura.

Monday April 25th. 6.0. a.m. Dawn Service. 10.30 a.m. Anzac March. Afterwards, everyone including the ladies are welcome to the Mildura R.S.L. for drinks, etc. Snacks will be available, supplied by the Womens Auxiliary at no cost. Numbers are required in advance for catering. Afternoon, free. Mildura Race meeting has full interstate coverages, and the R.S.L. runs a barbeque to raise funds. Evening; being Anzac night nearly everything is closed and triple-time for staff raises the cost of a dinner only to \$20 each, without drinks, at the Grand. As this is normally closing night and farewell, it will be necessary for all members to indicate intention to stay for dinner or hold on for another day and have the farewell on Tuesday.

L.L. Johnston Memorial Honour Board.

After several months delay the long awaited unveiling took place at Point Cook, RAAF Flying Training School on Wednesday August 18th. The only interstate member able to be present was Bernie McLoughlin from Queensland. Others in attendance were Air Commodore Jack Dowling, and his wife Enid; John and Dot Fleming; Ken and Beat. Morkham; Tom and Rita Primrose, Ern. Laming; Mrs. Elma Moore; Frank Wilson; Stan. Tarczynski; and Harald Martin. W/Cdr. Magrath, O.C. Flying Training School, introduced Stan. Tarczynski, who gave a brief history of the Squadron, the origin of the Memorial Board and a short resume on the late W/Cdr. Johnston. S/L. (Chaplain) R. Boerth followed with the dedication of the Memorial Honor Board. Also in attendance were the graduate pilots and the winner of the current course whose name is the first to go on the Board. The Board is situated on the passageway wall mid way from the entrance. After the ceremony we adjourned to the Officers Mess as guests of the Commanding Officer of the Station, Air Commodore A. Read and the P.M.C. W/Cdr. Magrath for drinks and lunch. Following, most of us visited the spacious Museum which is outstanding and should not be missed. Interest in the Squadron History by some of the officers was such that Bernie McLoughlin has provided a copy for their library.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.... by Ted. Jewell

With our weather starting to become ideal for Bar B Q s, we organised a day out on Sunday 7th November for W.A. Flight members at Bob. Grenville's Vineyard, which is situated in the Swan Valley, not far from Perth. Bob arranged to have a sheep on a spit, which was cooked perfectly, and also a variety of wines which were all made on the property. We had a great roll up as usual, with about 30 members and wives, very heartening to see such a good crowd with everyone really enjoying themselves. Bill Clues brought along an album full of very interesting photographs taken by him while away on his recent trip overseas. Ray Turley also had a selection of slides taken on the same trip, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Next. Our next meeting, before Christmas, will be a night out at an Italian Restaurant --the Bacchi. We will be able to sample some real Italian cooking, with a variety of house wines. With the response so far it looks as though it will be a great success as usual.

Sandgroppers Say....(concl'd)Personal News.

It is with heavy heart that I report the passing of Bob Shearman on October 12th. He had been ill for some time. A great gentleman and a good friend to all of 458 Squadron. Will always be remembered. All our sympathy to Kath and family. 458 was well represented at the funeral. Also on a sad note, is the news of Tim Dale in hospital at Hollywood after a stroke. We are all thinking of you, Tim, and hope you continue to improve from day to day.

Elsie and I are off in a few days for a short holiday to Esperance, down in the south of the State. Trying to see a bit more of our own State, after travelling around overseas so much earlier in the year.

We have been having a very good roll up for our different functions held during the year and it is very gratifying to see so many old mates still interested in getting together to enjoy each other's company with a drink or two.

Stan.(Shorty) Long is back with us once again after travelling around the country for some time.

Syd Baker has once more turned up, after so long. Hope we see more of you, Syd,

Here are some of the members who help make our functions so successful:

Bill Clues Ted Jewell Ron Gannaway Jim Palmer Henry Etherton Laurie Grigsby
Charlie Davis Stan Long Gordon Jones Tim Dale Tom Foster Fred Howe Ray Turley
Bob Grenville Peter McCarthy Ken Rex Al Wheat Tom Howard
---not forgetting all the wives and friends too.

CORNSTALK COMMENT from Don Bitmead.

Melbourne Cup. Congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the losers. Dick Whiteman drew "Gurner's Lane", the first; Linda Dean's "Kingston Town" came second; and M. Brown of Wodonga, won third prize. All members who drew a horse were notified by President Eric. Our thanks to all who participated. Profits help to keep the Squadron News going, which is an important means of communication between our members.

Christmas Social. Another function at the Air Force Club has been arranged for Tuesday evening December 14th. About 40 members and wives are expected.

World Veterans Federation. Congratulations are extended to Peter Alexander who has been re-elected Vice President of the World Veterans Federation. This is one of the organisations to which Peter devotes much vigour and travelling, here and abroad. Peter attended the General Assembly at Nice and was joined later, in Bangkok for the Asia/Pacific Regional Meeting of the W.V.F. by Stan and Jean Longhurst.

Margot Knight Both "Dusty" Miller and I have received letters from Margot, since returning from the International Reunion in the U.K.

Usher Newton. has written to us to advise that he has suffered a stroke. We are sorry to hear this. We wish him well.

Cy and Elaine Irwin Have moved from their home and also their antique shop in Wentworth Falls to live on the premises of another antique business near Leura Station. Best of luck to you both in these difficult times.

Jack and Lucy Bevan Where do some people get their energy? We have received a letter from Jack to say "after recovering from the U.K. trip (travel across Europe, etc)" we motored up to Townsville for a six week trip. Our next excursion, departing Wollongong on 19th November is an 11 day coach tour to South Australia to spend 5½ days on the "Murray Queen" Where to next, Jack?

Vale. It is with sadness we learned that Eric Purcell's wife, Lorna, passed away. Also, on 26th November, we were shocked to hear that Cliff Hayward had passed away on the day before. Both these friends had been ill for a long time. Bert Thompson who trained with Cliff at a number of Bases, John Dunn and I attended his funeral service at Woronora. Cliff was a well-known and popular personality on the Squadron. To the families and friends of Lorna and Cliff, we extend our sympathy.

Conclusion. As this is the last issue of the News before Christmas, may I on behalf of the President and Committee wish all members and families a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim Holliday.

Our Melbourne Cup Sweep was won by Sel (Fleet of) Foote. No doubt, the "ghost" we

Q.Flight News (cont.)

saw on our T.V. was Sel.sprinting ahead of Burners Lane. Cec.Bull, one of our long-time Associates won the second prize and Stacey Hintz, friend of Jim (Junior) O'Brien, drew the third horse. This was our best-ever response to our Melbourne Cup Sweep--for which Flight President Jack Lewis and his Committee's sincerest thanks. The coffers can cope with the inflated expenses of the next twelve months.

The Cup Sweep is more than a financial matter. It draws letters with news from most members in this far-flung State. Let's relay some of it to you.

Norm.(Shorty) Taylor temporarily forsook his house at Surfers Paradise (the holiday Mecca of Australia) for a holiday in New Caledonia. Don.Brandon took advantage of his industry's Conference in Hong Kong to tour South East Asia. It was wonderful. He returns starry-eyed but not slant-eyed. George Reed is deep in the doings of his five sons. Most notable was Peter's winning of the Cairns-Fitzroy Island-Green Island-Double Island-Cairns water-ski classic--an open ocean race. He's training for a sweet job in the sugar industry. George, with son Jim., caught four large barramundi-cod on Beaver Reef. Left the rest for the tourists. Theo Ravenscroft is still the Far West Central District Vice President of the R.S.L. Covers 28 sub-branches. Also, still (10 years) the delegate for the Central District R.S.L.Conference. Trustee of four R.S.L.s and Vice President of two of them. Of his two sons the older, Randall, won the Diamantina Open Golf championship at Winton. Also the local Champ. holding the course record.

Gordon and Peg.Cuthbertson delighted that they are running, at their Gold Coast home, a "Do Drop Inn". Not only is there a constant stream of visitors from the local contingent but also from interstate.

Jack Baxter is progressing well after the last knee operation, but still needs a supporting stick. He's not too sure whether it's a case of "my eyes are dim" or a surfeit of a good thing but he's given up gazing down from 20 stories on the fair-breasted beauties basking on the beach. Sel Foote is planning retirement to a property about 10 kilometers away to watch those beautiful beasts of his lap up the lush pastures. Purga is the name of the place but it won't be purgatory to Sel. Erle Hetherington advises that he will be at Terry Hills for at least another twelve months--until the boat goes out. Jack Hobbs, not retired yet, but off on another holiday. Gordon Postle's note didn't say much, but the accompanying notes did! Gordon seems to be selling, and re-selling, most of the hotels in Queensland. Dud.McKay commutes between Norfolk Island, where he has interests, Cairns, where he's building a home to winter in, and home-base at Maroochydoore. Grand parents again! Ian Higlett helped host the Bowls Carnival at the recent Commonwealth Games and says it was the most satisfying job he's ever done.

Dick Boydell laps up Squadron News but says he's "alarmed at the number of members "with whom I was privileged to serve who are suffering heart attacks." Wonders if this is a result of the "good times spent with 458".

Alan Atherton sees Fred.Kleckham occasionally at Seaforth--"one of the Lonely "beaches north of Mackay". And recently took a trip to Mareeba to help Bob.Dangaard into his Chair.

Bernie McLoughlin ran into Bill Honan at Bagara (the coastal resort for Gympie) where Bill's daughter and son-in-law run the Pub. Bill Snowdon says his spectacles (like my own) are too young for him. They're always playing hide and seek.

The last Sunday in November is traditionally the Xmas barbeque for the Brisbane and District contingent. This year it was hosted by Evelyn and Pres.Jack Lewis at their delightful home at Port Halloran, on the edge of Moreton Bay. As usual, Sel. Foote brought and barbequed those delicious steaks and chops. Evelyn dished up among many other delicacies a delicious punch that we were all delighted to be hit by. Clive Wyman enjoyed the "Vittals" after batching while wife Joan and daughter Louise toured Canada and U.S.A.

Bert Garland was a notable absentee. He was fishing for the big ones up on the Barrier Reef.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and others.

From Dick Healey, 8, McIntosh Street, Chatswood, 2067, N.S.W.

Dear Peter,As you know I retired from the NSW Parliament last year after twenty years and have been working at my little suburban newspaper for some months---bought to keep me occupied in my retirement. Because of the downturn in advertising revenue I retrenched myself and took up a position as Executive Director of Impact Promotions of Australia--we promote professional lawn bowls and golf among other sports promotions. A busy life but a pleasant one.

Correspondence (cont.)

It's a part-time job and keeps me out from under Mother's feet--in spare time I play bowls and contract bridge. Please send my good wishes to Buck Pederson, Bill Hurford, Peter Hemingway and Frank Wilson. I hope we can see some new faces at Air Force Bowls Day from 458 in August. Pete Campbell, Stuart Ricketts, Frank Ward and Graeme Coombes have been faithful supporters....

Yours etc Dick Healey.

From Len Goode, 23 Nagle Street, Upper Mount Gravatt, 4122, Queensland.

Dear Peter,

Briefly to thank you again for sending me the 458 Squadron Newsletter each quarter. Although I was only on the Squadron for its last few months at Gibraltar and, as a consequence very few of the fellows mentioned in the Newsletter are known to me, nevertheless I find it very interesting and enjoy reading the reports from each Flight.

One rare exception to the above is George Riddoch whose name appeared recently and who if my memory serves me correctly was, with one Ron Bint, a S/L Flight Commander in my days (Yes, Ed.)

Recently on a week's trip to West Australia I had the most enjoyable experience of catching up with Ron Bennett who was my second pilot at Gibraltar. During my chat I mentioned the very good job being done for 458 and the quarterly newsletter and I wonder if you could put him on the mailing list--I enclose a small contribution... His address is 22, Boston Way, Booragoon, Perth 6154.

Personal good wishes to you yours sincerely, Len Goode.

From Mrs. M. Knight, 90 Winterborne Road, Abingdon, Oxon, England to members of Robin's crew.

Dear Don and Bev., Thank you very much for your letter and the 458 Squadron News--it was wonderful to meet the four of you (The Bitmeads and the Millers--Ed.) this year and the Goers last year.....I'm so glad you enjoyed your time over in Europe, and marvellous for me at last to meet Robin's crew and friends. How he'd have loved to meet you again. I'd love you to have met Oliver, Roland or Rosemary and their families. You never know they may turn up in Australia... Roland certainly knows it and met some of Robin's friends. Oliver having been born in Papua is really an Aussie but had to give up his Australian Passport when he was posted to NATO..... I am afraid I never met Bruce McKenzie or his wife--Robin did, of course. I was probably involved with the children at that time and we were rarely in Nairobi..... Here in the U.K. it is such a small island and so full of people that those who like myself have lived in remote forest areas don't find it easy to accept the hurly burly of life here and so don't get around so much. Oliver has invited me to Prague--he has been very busy with the Battle of Britain Reception. It would give him the opportunity to honour those Czechs who flew with us in the war.... Roland and his family are extremely busy in Tanzania at Dodoma with the Missionary Aviation Fellowship. He did his aeronautical training at Ballarat and has a great love for Australia and keeps up with quite a few friends..... Rosemary and her family are well and busy and I am able to see them quite often. Her husband is a surgeon at the Cancer Hospital in London..... I am kept pretty busy with my seven grand-children, if not seeing them at least writing or knitting.from Margot Knight.

VETERANS AFFAIRS--International and Australia.

Perhaps the main problem of the Australian ex-service movement currently is the continuing pile-up of cases awaiting decision by Repatriation Boards and particularly by Repatriation Review Tribunals. The latter was discussed recently at a Conference in Canberra attended by various ex-service officials including Peter Alexander. The Tribunals remain uncertain of the law as it affects the onus of proof provisions--various Federal Court decisions have left unsettled questions.

The Repatriation Act over the years has become highly complex and the Minister is setting up a Consultative Committee to help revise it. Organisations on the

03 7839181.

MILDURA ALL STATES REUNION, 1983.

Cheque payable to
458 Sqdn.

To Mr. Bill Hurford, Hon. Treasurer, 1/9 St. Johns Avenue, Frankston, Victoria, 3199.

I wish to book single/double: Grand Hotel/Caravan Park: have my own accommodation. I attach herewith a cheque for \$....., being \$50 deposit for each individual.

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

Veterans Affairs. (cont.) Committee will be the R.S.L., A.V.A.D.S.C., Legacy, and the War Widows Guild. AVADSC is the crest organisation which unites the 12 interested National ex-Service Associations, including the A.F.A. Peter Alexander is its Hon. Secretary. Much time in recent months has also been spent with an RSL proposal that the other Associations form a Committee to advise the RSL. After prolonged and careful thought many of the "other" Associations seem to be coming to the reluctant decision that it too closely resembles a "take over" bid in which their specialised skills and needs would be at the bottom of a rather large pile.

On the international level the World Veterans Federation has had its triennial Assembly in France. Australia was well represented by delegates, mainly paying their own way, and attended debates on international Veterans interests -- research into veterans medical and surgical needs; peace-keeping through UNO; Development Assistance between veterans in different countries; the great needs of the (probably millions of) new Veterans in Asia and Africa for who nothing but nothing is done by their own countries--which are just too poor. Elections resulted in the re-election of the existing Executive led by Dutchman "Bib" van Lanschot and including Peter Alexander elected to a second term as World Vice President from Asia/Pacific Region.

AN APPEAL TO MEMBERS--PARTICULARLY IN N.S.W.

Throughout the post-war decades 458 has had a close working relationship with the Air Force Association--in N.S.W. there has for long been a 458 Squadron branch of the A.F.A. It has led to much involvement of 458 in the affairs and improvement of repatriation, etc. Various 458ers have held office. Graeme Coombes has been Federal Treasurer of the A.F.A. and Peter Alexander Federal Secretary for over 20 years.

The Squadron Committee would ask members to join or to renew their A.F.A. membership. When sending in your annual 458 dues please include the amount covering your AFA membership too. This will help the long continuing and enduring work done for Australian ex-servicemen particularly Airmen (and their widows) and particularly 458 ers.

TO ALL OUR READERS-----A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR
from the 458 SQUADRON COUNCIL.

SEE YOU IN MILDURA.
