

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



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

Flight Correspondents:

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

LAST CALL FOR MILDURA.

Anzactime 1983 will see the 21st All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron at Mildura, Victoria. If you have not yet booked, do so now. Stan. Tarczynski gives the current position below in this issue. The programme is an excellent one. It is--
Friday April 22nd. 6-8 p.m. Reception at the Grand Hotel. Welcome to 458.

Saturday April 23rd. Squadron Conference at 9.45. Golf, midday at Mildura Country Club. Bowls; Races. Dinner-Dance and River trip in the evening aboard the paddle steamer 'Avoca' 7.30 p.m.;

Sunday April 24th. Visit to the Merbein Witchetty Tribe at 11 a.m.--via Cowra Station. Dinner at the Wentworth RSL on the return;

Monday April 25th. Dawn Service. March at 10.30 a.m. Mildura RSL afterwards for light refreshments. Evening--Farewell at the Grand Hotel.

Most visiting members will stay at the Grand Hotel--but bookings are in demand.

VICTORIAN NEWS.

from Stan. Tarczynski.

At the time of writing--the last week in January--the response for bookings has been disappointing, even though the Squadron News did not arrive (November issue) until the first week in January so far we have eight doubles and a single from Queensland; four doubles and a single from NSW, three doubles and a single from S.A.; nil from W.A.; and Victorians have booked eight doubles and three singles, plus three doubles at the Caravan Park and seven others not requiring accommodation. That is a total of 29 doubles and 7 singles.

Due to the long weekend and the popularity of the Grand Hotel, the Management will hold accommodation for 458 until the first week in March. Anyone making a late booking should telephone Bill Hurford STD 03 783 9181 immediately and forward \$50-00 for each individual by return mail to his address--1/9, St. Johns Avenue, Frankston, 3199. Please indicate if you want to book a double, single, or twin room.

Victorian News (cont.)

No.2 Flight, A.T.C. Presentation Night. Ern. Laming, resplendent in his white R.A.A.F. mess jacket and gongs visited with me the 19th Annual Presentation night on December 3rd at the Preston Drill Hall. He had to attend another official function following. This Flight has provided banner-bearers for the Anzac Day Marches in Melbourne and we reciprocated by presenting the Squadron History "We Find and Destroy" to a selected cadet--in this case Cadet P. Liistro. His name is also engraved on the Shield retained by the Flight. Because the Victorian Banner will be used at Mildura next Anzac Day we will have the services of cadets from Mildura A.T.C. In return we have agreed to present the Mildura Flight with a Squadron Plaque. Graeme Coombes, please note! We want to say thank you for the prompt despatch of a copy of the Squadron History required urgently for the presentation to No.2 Flight at Preston.

Barbeque at St. Leonards. St. Leonards on the Bellarine Peninsula is about 25 kilometers past Geelong and that's where John and Dot. Fleming have made their weekender into a retirement home. Hardly a weekender, as there are at least five bedrooms! After a long absence, we welcomed Ron. Russell and Ian Giles and their wives. Others to attend were:--W. Hurford, K. Morkham, Host J. Fleming, D. Evans (John's mother-in-law) M. Singe, J. Rodwell, and, on his own, Stan. Tarczynski. Apologies came from I. Alison, H. Ashworth, E. Laming, and T. Burgess.

Not only was this a Xmas B.B.Q. but we had an informal meeting for the Mildura Reunion. The ladies retired indoors to have their own meeting as they also hold a sum of money which has accumulated over the years. Stan. Tarczynski reported on his special three day visit to Mildura to tie up the ends, which would not have been possible without the sterling assistance of localite Don. Johnston who drove him around.

Gibraltar. Recently I visited John Islip who, before I moved to my new address, lived a block and a half away from me. Up to that time he was only a name and known to me as the last Adjutant--at Gibraltar. Imagine my surprise when we met face to face to realise that he had been one of my drinking mates many years ago at the East Malvern R.S.L. where we are both still members. John's health is not the best and he doesn't venture out much. Over a bottle of beer he opened for me he shewed me a copy of a letter to his son describing his part in putting on the changing of the colours by a specially trained squad from 458 at Gibraltar. It was a historic event as no other unit has performed this ceremony outside of a royal regiment. This letter is now to be entered (after much cajoling) in the short story competition on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the East Malvern RSL this year. It's a small world--458 never came up in our drinking days together!

CROWEATERS COMMENTARY.

from Geoff. Esau.

Yet another squadron, No.31 Beaufighters, RAAF is dedicating a commemorative plaque at Adelaide Airport on Sunday 13-2-83. It seems a very fitting spot to remember all our brothers in arms who did not return, and all credit to Ron. Badger who pioneered the idea and brought it to fruition.

Personal Pars. Our new Flight President, Arn. Scholer, celebrated his promotion by a spell in hospital with a troublesome heart. He assures me that he is fit and well again. Take care to stay that way, Arn., and all the best. Congratulations to Bill and Madge Taylor, recently returned from a visit to their son, Brett, and his wife, resident in Hong Kong. The Taylors celebrated the trip by becoming grandparents (not unexpectedly) to a baby boy while there. I enjoyed a day's fishing with Bill and a friend in his power boat some weeks ago. A most pleasant outing and quite a good haul taken. I must say that, for a pilot, Bill is an excellent fisherman and quite a good navigator!

Best wishes for a great reunion at Mildura to all those attending. Regards from S.A.

SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Ted. Jewell.

Since the last News it has been reasonably quiet here in the West. We had our Xmas function with a night out at an Italian Restaurant in Perth. As usual, there was a good roll up, and everyone greatly enjoyed themselves, with real Italian food and plenty to drink. There were about 30 members and wives.

Our next function will be down at my place at Mandurah. Elsie and myself are looking forward to all who will come down from Perth, which is about 90 Km. drive. We are expecting a good number of members and wives for a Bar BQ lunch and drinks.

I see Kingston "Nobby" Nobbs and Curly O'Connor from time to time as they both live in Mandurah. It's a great place to live in retirement--fishing, boating,

Sandgroppers Say (cont.)

bowls, or whatever you want to do.

The Itinerary for the All-States Reunion in Mildura sounds great, but after our trip overseas last year we find we have to stay home this time. I think we have two starters from the West. Charlie Davis and Henry Etherton.

Cheerio for now, best wishes to all.

CORNSTALK COMMENTS.

from Don.Bitmead.

All-States Reunion, 1983. Stan.Tarczynski has phoned me and written to Peter Alexander to state that there is a disappointing enrolment of members from this State. Would Cornstalkers let Bill Hurford know now if they haven't already, if they intend to go to Mildura. Remember it is a long weekend, and this town is a popular spot.

Socials/Activities. As has been previously mentioned in the "News", would members advise President Eric Munkman or me if they wish their names placed on our list for family nights out for dinner, etc., so that we can notify you of the dates and places when arrangements are made. Next Ethnic Dinner will be of French food again. Date will be March 29th, planned for somewhere south of the Harbour. Details available when you ring us. We have been the rounds of many ethnic dining places, starting originally with French and the wheel has turned full circle--back to French food, which is very good food indeed.

Christmas Get-together. This was a very happy and most enjoyable occasion when 49 of us attended the Air Force Club for dinner in December. Food was excellent as was the service. Sam Barlow presented us with a gift of excellent wine. This was the largest such gathering for years for such functions.

Pithy Pars.

Bishop R.E.Davies sent a Christmas Card and wished to be remembered to all members. Thanks, Bob.

Bill Waitt (U.K.) has kindly sent some photos to members who were in the U.K. and also expressed his and his wife's (Gwen's) immense pleasure in meeting the "Aussies" at the U.K.Reunion. Thanks, Bill.

"Dusty" Miller (Griffith) occasionally makes a hurried business trip to Sydney. Thanks for the 'phone call, Dusty, and I hope we meet soon.

Jim.Wren. We were all delighted to see Jim appear at our Xmas dinner. For the benefit of all members who were on the U.K./Europe trip he is looking very well and fully recovered from his illness;

Alan (Paddy) Walker of whom we haven't seen much in recent years also attended our Xmas Dinner. It was the first time he and Jim had met since the war sochins were wagging. Hope to see more of you both.

Bill Turier has come in from the cold--is a retired bank manager and now living in the Newcastle area. Good to hear your voice on the 'phone, Bill;

Jack (Black Jack) Baker has moved back to Sydney from the Blue Mountains. Hope you can attend the Anzac Day events, Jack;

Anzac Day 1983. As usual, our Reunion luncheon will be held after the March in the Great Southern Hotel's Henry Lawson Lounge, in George Street, near Central Station.

Q.FLIGHT REPORT.

from Jim.Holliday

It's either feast or famine with news in Queensland, the paucity being early this year. Both Moira and Tony Stone and Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson have always a flux of visitors over the Xmas holidays to their homes on the Gold Coast. The Cuthbertsons had their traditional New Year's Eve Party. The Baxters and the Footes were among the guests. Unfortunately Jim McKay had a stomach upset and could only be there in spirit. Wal Archbold has been a welcome visitor to the Cuthbertsons, and the Footes helped to welcome him. Other Gold Coast residents--Dorothy and Norm.(Shorty) Taylor, missed the Q.Flight Xmas party. They were holidaying in New Caledonia at the Club.Med. Apparently there's a clothing shortage there. Only bottoms are covered. His sore eyes soon recovered their health and still remain at their regained strength. The Taylors expect their second grandchild in March which beats the Footes who expect their first in June. Incidentally, Sel is "thinking" of retiring but usually he thinks about things for a long time according to Joan Foote.

President Jack Lewis initiated a happy and most successful "business" meeting for

Q.Flight in flight (cont.) members. Instead of holding one at night on a weekday, he called it for Sunday lunch at his home; and this enabled members outside Brisbane to attend. With this new blood, discussion was most fruitful. To top it all, Evelyn and Jack Lewis provided a most delightful lunch. The Piece de Resistance (or pieces) were some most savoury hot dishes by chef Jack, who's a noted dab at cooking.

Queensland seems to have a fair contingent for the Mildura Reunion and all look forward to a fine time.

TREASURER THANKS N.S.W. MEMBERS.

N.S.W. Flight Treasurer Stan Longhurst and the N.S.W. Committee are most happy at the way in which NSW members have paid their annual subs including their membership of the 458 Sqdn. branch of the Air Force Association. If you are a N.S.W. member who has yet to "pay up", there is another Sub. form herewith. Please help us to keep on keeping on.

ON THE EX-SERVICE SCENE IN AUSTRALIA.

Since the successful outcome of the Nancy Law case before the High Court of Australia many widows whose servicemen husbands smoked and later died of certain forms of cancer have been accepted as War Widows with all the benefits of that status. This is excellent; what is not so good is that there is now a long waiting list of applications at all levels of determination. There are, for instance, over 6000 cases pending before the Repatriation Review Tribunals. The reasons for this are debatable. Peter Alexander, as Secretary of the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council (AVADSC) has been invited to sit with the R.R.T. as an observer to assess the situation.

AVADSC recently held its Annual General Meeting in the presence of the Minister for Veterans Affairs (Senator Messner) and the Chairman of the Repatriation Commission (Mr. Derek Volker). Among matters discussed was the continuing desire of the Vietnam Veterans Association (which has been admitted to membership of AVADSC) for a judicial inquiry into the effects of chemical sprays. The Minister, like the RSL, opposes such an inquiry. The AVADSC and the Vietnam Vets. consider that careful review by a mind trained to assess evidence is justified. AVADSC re-elected its office-bearers for another year--these include Rear Admiral Guy Griffiths, who is the Council's independent Chairman; Bill Davison of the ex-prisoners of war; Raoul Shepherd of the Partially Blinded; Harry Cross of the Armoured Corps and Peter Alexander of the Air Force Association.

Another matter under negotiation is a possible Executive Board meeting in Australia of the World Veterans Federation. This would be early in 1984.

SQUADRON ADDRESSES. We now resume listing members addresses--a list which has been suspended for some months for space and other reasons.

New South Wales Mac--P.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| McManamey, Peter | "Brae Lodge", Princes Street, Newport, 2106, |
| Marks, H. | 11, David Avenue, North Ryde, 2112, |
| Marks, Harley | 359 Darling Street, Dubbo, 2830, |
| Mather, Air/Cdr. M | Lakeside Terrace, Medowie, 2301 |
| Menser, Barry | 7, Palm Road, Newport, 2106, |
| Mercer, E | 55, Chester Avenue, Maroubra, 2035, |
| Millar, R | 23, Thompson Street, Boronia Park, 2111, |
| Miller R., | 44, Ross Crescent, Griffith, 2680, |
| Mills J. | 50 Moore Street, Austinmer 2514, |
| Milner R.A. | 13, Avona Avenue, Glebe Point, 2037, |
| Mitchell T.G. | 45, Wyadra Avenue, Harbord, 2096, |
| Moore T. | 5, Milham Avenue, Eastwood, 2122, |
| Munkman E.T. | 15 Keldie Street, Forestville, 2087, |
| Murray C. | 10, Hockley Road, Eastwood, 2122, |
| Newton U. | 6, Music Street, Lismore 2480, |
| Peachey N | 43, Bedford Street, Willoughby, 2068, |
| Perkins, HA. | 7, Cockburn Street, Curtin, 2605, |
| Pettit P.W. | 26, Dudley Avenue, Roseville, 2069, |
| Piggott, A.T. | 17, Turner Avenue, Ryde, 2112, |
| Pilcher J. | Glennon, Arrawatta Road, Inverell, 2360, |
| Pomfrett, J | 29, Kerr Street, Mayfield, 2304. |