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4 5 8 S Q U A D R O N C O U N C I L O F F I C E B E A R E R S .

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South Australia	Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, S.A., 5064;
Victoria	Stan. Tarczynski, 22, Highgate Grove, Ashburton, Victoria, 3147.

458 SQUADRON in KIWILAND. Successful Tour.

Graeme Coombes writes: In accordance with established custom, 458 has continued its policy of holding overseas Conferences and accordingly, in March this year a party of fifty one travellers---members of the Squadron and their wives---set out to attend a Reunion in Auckland and to enjoy a 19 day tour of both islands.

The Conference and formal dinner were held in style at the White Heron Regency Hotel in Auckland, Mr. Dave Cox, Auckland District President of the N.Z.R.S.A. and Mrs. Cox, were entertained as Guests of Honour.

Formalities being thus concluded, the following morning the group, by courtesy of Kirra Tours, set off northwards---spending the night at the Bay of Islands, after a half-day's cruise round that magnificent waterway. New Zealand's northernmost point, Cape Reinga, Next day, after an exhilarating drive up the Ninety Mile Beach and an incredible exit up a riverbed! Back, via Waipoua Forest-- to see the largest Kauri tree in New Zealand, and so to Auckland again. We had a morning tea stopoff at Kevin George's utterly delightful home.

South from Auckland to experience the wonders of the thermal region---famous Rotorua-- after a guided tour through the underground Glow-worm grotto at Waitomo Caves. The sheep display at Rotorua's Agrodrome, trout at Rainbow Springs and Maori arts and crafts centre were all of great interest before moving on to Lake Taupo and thence to Wellington, New Zealand's capital city.

The following day the party boarded the Cook Strait ferry (trains, cars, buses as well as passengers) for the three and a half hour run to Picton in the South Island. A picturesque trip across the straight and down the beautiful Queen Charlotte Sound, where at Picton, two new coaches awaited to take the group on its South Island tour.

Thus to Nelson and then Greymouth on the West coast---where a little time was spent at Shantytown--an old gold-mining town--before moving on to Franz Joseph Glacier. Here a number of brave souls took a helicopter flight--in increasingly poor weather--to vie w the head of the glacier---cold, blue and awesome!

Coombes in Kiwiland (cont.)

The next day, south through the Westlands to Queenstown and beautiful Lake Wakatipu. Two days here to explore this most scenic holiday town and its snow slopes at Coronet Peak to enjoy the gondola ride and the views and the 'Remarkable' mountain.

Then on to Te Anau in Fiordland and a day's run to Milford Sound---weather a little indifferent but impressive grandeur, well worth the trip. South from Milford right to Invercargill and The Bluff---the southernmost point, many of the tour members sampling the Bluff oysters.

Northwards again now, through Dunedin, Oamaru and past the hydro-electric scheme at Waitaki and then onwards to Mt. Cook---at 12,000' Australasia's highest peak. Return via Lake Tekapo, across the Canterbury Plains, with its millions of sheep, to Christchurch---a beautiful garden city. After a tour of the city, so on to the International Airport and the end of a wonderful, memorable, holiday.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY.....

from Ted Jewell.

Anzac Day in Perth. As usual, we had a good roll up for our Anzac Day march, and once again the weather was good to us, with a nice sunny day. At the Dawn Service in Kings Park, a wreath was laid by members of 458 Squadron, W.A. Flight, in honour of Fallen Comrades. I must mention that we have Vera Etherton to thank for the lovely wreaths she has made for several years. There was the usual march through the streets of Perth, then down on to the Esplanade where the service was held with an inspirational address from the State President of the R.S.L. After the final march off, ably led by Flight President Bill Clues, we all assembled at the Hyde Park Hotel for drinks and lunch. It was good to see so many old faces there---quite a few are now unable to join in the March. We had a roll up of 45 members and wives. It was great to see Tim Dale come along in his wheelchair, looking great. Best wishes, Tim and Poss. Hope we see more of you.

Bill and Joan Clues were back in time for Anzac Day---they have been away for about four months over in the Eastern States, visiting their son Gary and daughter Vicki, who I am told will shortly be giving them a new grandchild. Bill and Joan will be off to Victoria in July for the happy event.

Skeeta Staveley came along to the March and later to the Reunion---told me he goes to see Curly O'Connor now and again down here in Mandurah.

Everyone is a little older but just as bright as ever---such as Charlie Davis, Henry Etherton, Shorty Long, Peter McCarthy, Ron Gannaway, Bill Clues, Sonja Hemy, Tom Foster.

South Perth. As usual during the winter months we have a day out at the South Perth Yacht Club for lunch which is always popular with everyone. So it has been arranged by Olga and Gordon Jones to go on on the 17th June. So we're looking forward till then.

Personal Items. Met Curly O'Connor several days ago here in Mandurah: still the same but is troubled with gout.

Had a letter from Jim Palmer after he had arrived home from the Reunion in New Zealand; said he and Lucy had a wonderful time with the other members. Should hear more about it in the "News".

Al and Joy Wheat are off to England in June for a ten weeks holiday. Says he will meet up with Bob Smith in London for a short spell. Bob who comes from Sydney was in the same aircrew as Al.

Peter and Doreen McCarthy went to New Zealand to meet their daughter-in-law's parents. They met Jim and Lucy Palmer at Auckland Airport. They enjoyed their trip very much---full of praise for the country.

As I write this it is pouring down as it has been for several days. Looks like we are well into winter now. Hope the farmers are getting their share---the likes of Jim Palmer. Regards to all.

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CORNSTALK COMMENTS

from Don Bitmead.

The International Reunion and tour of New Zealand.

Our Reunion Dinner and tour were a great success. On arriving at Auckland we were met by Archie Fell and Kevin George at the airport and found things all under control. As well as Mr and Mrs Cox as Guests of Honour we had the company of U.K. Flight members Fred and Pip Nieman, who were holidaying with their married daughter. We covered much territory in the 19 days and enjoyed every minute of it. In the North Island we were feted by Kevin George at his beautiful home. We also met Ron Verity who has embarked on the commercial growing of roses in Christchurch. Members attending this 3rd International Reunion were:

U.K. Peter and Eileen Leonard. Fred and Pip Nieman;

N.S.W.. Peter Alexander (Auckland Reunion dinner) Sam and Maisie Barlow; Kevin and Marie

Barlow, Jack and Lucy Bevan, Don and Bev. Bitmead, Ross and Pat Burgess, Graeme and Dulcie Coombes, Yvonne Crompton, Edgar and Madge Fancourt, Stan and Jean Longhurst, Eric and Dorothy Munkman, Col. Foreday, Fred Strom, Lil McGlynn;
 Queensland. Jack and Kitty Baxter, Gordon and Peg. Cuthbertson, Sel and Joan Foote, Bert and Isla Garland, Jack and Evelyn Lewis, Frank and Hilda Wilks, Clive and Joan Wyman, Eric and Bridie Lloyd,
 Victoria. Ted. Kennedy, Ernie Laming, Jean Dickson, Mick and Mavis Singe, Vin. Clohesy;
 S.A. Bert and Marjory Oliver
 W.A. Jim and Lucy Palmer.

Anzac Day March and Reunion lunch.

In wonderful weather, Eric Munkman again led a band of 45 faithfuls. Unfortunately, for most of the time we did not have a band near us so we finished by doing a "soft shoe shuffle" up George Street, trying to keep in step with those in front of us who were also in trouble. I hope that in future this lack of a band is rectified.

Those attending the smorgasbord luncheon were mostly the usuals. It would be good to see more of our flock who have strayed. In attendance were:

Peter Alexander Sam Barlow Red Jack and Black Jack Bakers Jack Bevan, Don. Bitmead, Bob. Bruce Graeme Coombes Keith Cousins Bruce Dean John Dunn Earl Hetherington Cy Irwin Bob Low Bob Lyndon Jack McGowen Bob Millar Eric Munkman Jack Preston Stu. Ricketts Tom Sherwin Bob Smith Noel Spurling Fred. Strom Bert Thompson George Unitt. We also had guests who I think we can call members--Marshall Allen Les. King Wal Mobbs, Col. Leary

It was good to see Bob. Millar who has been having eye surgery and also Bob Low, who has left Lake Cowal for Newport.

From the U.K. On April 18th Peter and Eileen Leonard were welcomed at the Airport by the Munkmans and ourselves. Since then they have covered much territory, touring New Zealand, and much of the coastal areas of Eastern Australia, with a visit to the Great Barrier Reef. As well, they turned south to Melbourne and the Singes where they had a short rest before travelling to Adelaide. They then hired a car to drive along the coast to Sydney. We shall be having the pleasure of their company for a few days before they head off for Bangkok.

Surprise Dinner for the Leonards. Eric Munkman arranged a surprise party for our visitors at the North Sydney Leagues Club on Saturday 28th April. It was a most enjoyable occasion with 27 members (mostly from the N.Z. tour) attending. Eric spoke of the high regard our touring members had for them and said we shall look forward to their return to Australia.

Vale George Catchlove. It is with sadness that we have lost another member. George was an "Early Bird" on our Squadron and only last year lost his wife. Quite a large number of our Squadron members attended the service. To George's family we extend our sympathy and condolences.

Squadron Ties. We have had a small number of newly designed Squadron ties produced in Sydney. They are of to-day's width, uncrushable (almost), dark blue in colour and embroidered with one motif similar in size and appearance to our lapel badge. They cost \$10.00 posted. As our stock is being quickly depleted, would members requiring one forward a crossed cheque to 458 Squadron Association.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS

from Jim. Holliday.

Anzac Day in Brisbane. Led by Flight President Jack Lewis, the usual contingent marched in the Anzac Day Parade. For the first time, as a concession to age, the Banner was carried by a member of the A.T.C. Crowds were the biggest and most enthusiastic for many years. Earlier in the morning, the attendance at the A.F.A. Memorial wreath-laying service was also the greatest.

At the Reunion after the March, we were joined by several Associate members and fellow marchers. Present were: Jack Lewis Clive Wyman Joe Elliott Chas. Warren Chester Jones Bernie Hughes Bernie McLoughlin Eric Kelly Bert Garland Bob Helyar Jim. Holliday. Apologies were received from Gordon Postle (business), Don. Brandon (overseas), Len. Macdonnell (unwell), and from the Gold Coast group, Gordon Cuthbertson, Jack Baxter, Norm. Taylor, and Tony Stone. Apology from Bob. Dangaard by proxy--Ivan Williamson who that morning attended Dawn Service in Mareeba with Bob, then motored to Cairns and caught a 'plane to Brisbane arriving in time to march with us. That's real enthusiasm! At the Annual meeting Jack Lewis was unanimously re-elected President and Jim. Holliday again fell for the job of Sect/Treas.

All-States Reunion, 1985. It's now official! After considering a report of investigations by Moyra and Tony Stone, Evelyn and Jack Lewis, Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson, and Jim and Peg. Holliday, the Annual Meeting approved the proposal that the 1985

Q.Flight (cont.) All-States Reunion be hosted by Queensland at Coolangatta (Gold Coast) from Monday 29th July to Friday 2nd August. The Assembly Centre is to be Greenmount Holiday Resort on Rainbow Bay with luxury accommodation at \$52 per room. Recreation Centre, R.S.L. Twin Towns Club. Details are to be finalised in time for publication in the next Squadron News. The meeting passed a special vote of thanks to Moyra and Tony Stone for their tremendous amount of preliminary investigation, particularly to Tony who has been recuperating from several serious operations.

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CROWEATERS CAUCUS. from Geoff. Esau.

Anzac Day. This saw the mini break of the season in Adelaide with rain at the Cross of Sacrifice Dawn Service. John Carey and Jack Riseley represented the Squadron and laid a wreath for the Fallen. Attendance was thought to be larger than average at this Service.

The 9.a.m. Service at Adelaide Airport was notable also for a larger than usual attendance and for the dedication by Padre Ben Williams of a plaque commemorating members of 459 Squadron who were lost. This plaque completes the roll of Squadrons commencing 45-- which together with many other units are represented at the Airport. It was pleasing to see Ron Badger in attendance there 'tho he was unable to attend the March later. A very pleasant chat over a few jugs of cheer was enjoyed.

Personal Pars.

In the last Newsletter I mentioned Ron Badger's having been in hospital but at the time of writing out again. What I did not know, having been away in January was that Ron had recently lost his wife, Betty, and for that I am very sorry. I, and I am sure, all the Squadron extend sincere sympathy to Ron in his sad loss.

It was nice to meet Craig Trewartha, son of Norm (Lofty) who made himself known to Squadron members on Anzac Day.

Our Treasurer Bert Ravenscroft has asked for a reminder to be included re the \$4-00 Annual subscription. Would those outstanding please forward this to him---

11, Thornton Street, Henley Beach, 5022.

Best wishes and kindest regards to all.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Stan. Tarczynski.

The first Committee meeting incorporating the ladies was held at the Air Force Club on March 9th. As we were the only occupants of the Dining Room the meeting was conducted throughout dinner. Most would agree that it is desirable to separate the meal and the meeting. Those in attendance were: Jack and Dot Fleming Dave and Betty Evans Harry and Nell Ashworth Ron and Joan Russell Mick and Mavis Singe Harald and Kath. Martin Ken and Beat Morkham E. Fleming and Mrs. Jean Pearson, Ian Alison, Yvonne Hutchinson Stan. Tarczynski and Bill Hurford. A lengthy written motion by Bill Hurford was approved, relating to possible cessation of activities by Victoria Flight: it reads--Any move of this nature can be initiated only by a motion, at a properly constituted meeting to call an extraordinary general meeting for that purpose and the motion can be carried on; by a majority of not less than 75% of financial members present. Notice of the meeting must be mailed to all financial members not less than 21 days prior to the date of the meeting and must:--

- (i) give clear notice of the purpose, date, time and place of meeting;
- (ii) state clearly that proxy votes will not be accepted.

After debate the motion can be carried by a majority only of not less than 75% of financial members present. The motion being carried will automatically appoint as Trustees the Flight President, Sec., and Treas. for the time being provided that those appointments are current. Alternatively a Vice President may be appointed as a third Trustee. The Trustees shall ensure that all accounts properly due by the Flight are paid and all remaining funds are donated to one or more suitable organisations benefiting ex-service persons and/or their dependents.

It was also decided that ladies pay an annual fee of \$3. These fees plus all members @ \$6 each are payable now to the Hon. Treasurer (Bill Hurford) at 1/9 St. Johns Avenue, Frankston, 3199.

Anzac Day. Led by Flight President Jack Fleming, 14 others made up two ranks in the March, behind the Banner which was supported by four lads of the A.T.C. with one other. The marchers were: J. Fleming, E. Kennedy, A. Green, J. Rosenberg, H. Martin, E. Laming, S. Tarczynski, R. Russell, S. Cartledge, G. Nash, T. Primrose, W. Henry, R. Eggers, W. Hurford---and a tall chap, grey moustache and hair whose name was O'Brien. If anyone can help, please advise as his name does not appear in our records.

Victorian Views (conc'd)

Then to the Melbourne Bowls Club at Windsor where our host Ian Alison had been busy all morning cutting sandwiches. After 15 years Roy Schoppe (Bill Taylor's crew) popped in, renewed his membership and imbibed to finis. Apologies came from Ken Morkham and Mick Singe who copped a current virus. Ern Laming gave me the following to be added to the Jean Dickson verse on N.Z.---

If you've never known true comradeship,
If it's something you've never heard
And good old fashioned fellowship
Is just another word.

If you've never known the loyalty
Of a dinkum Aussie mate,
Then you've never met the members
Of Squadron 458.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor and Others.

From Ron Verity, 90, Gayhurst Road, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Dear Peter, This year, more so than in the past, Anzac Day has been presented by the media as Austral 's Day. Apparently the Australian Forces made the early morning assault at Gallipoli and it is from this historical fact that they have given us the Dawn Parade which has become a feature of our remembrances. Thoughts of Australia and of the Squadron were given a jolt with the reunion I had with the travelling party when they were in Christchurch. I'm sure I would have benefitted more if I had been free to accompany them on their N.Z. Tour; but with my wife (and assistant) visiting our three married daughters in the North Island at the time of the visit, I could not leave the roses unattended. Happily I was able to have dinner with the gang at the Park Hotel, although this was not without its problems; and again I was able to invite some to visit the glasshouses where we grow the roses, and where we managed a cup of tea. I am writing to you because I realise that I have not paid anything to the Squadron for some time to cover the costs involved in sending me the News, which I much appreciate. Please let me know what my annual payment should be..... and the backlog!

Although I was made aware of next year's reunion in Queensland, where we were to expect a supershow, I would, if the time is right, to go to Canada the following year as three of my crew were Canadians. Regretably we have not been in communication but I would hope to ferret some of them out before going! One frequently speculates about their homes, their jobs, their interests---and just how they have made out.

Cheers, then---sorry you didn't see the South Island, it has some splendid scenery; but one needs the right weather for viewing. Regards to our visitors and a special cheerio to Eric and Dorothy. Sincerely, Ron Verity.

* * * * *

From Frank Robertson (to Eric Munkman), 28, Chapel Fields, Holme-on-Spalding Moor.
Two letters--December 5th 1983 and March 15th 1984.

Dear Eric, I understand that Clive Stride has written to you about the closing of HOSM. I have been in touch with the new owners of the site---Fisher and Thompson---about the Memorial Tree site by the Guardroom. The site will be respected as required during their ownership and my wife May and I have agreed to act as caretakers and we have been granted access to the site whenever we wish to keep the area neat and tidy. During November we have trimmed the deadwood from the tree, re-dressed the site with fresh chalk and planted new daffodil bulbs around the edge. On the 11th day the local branch of the Royal British Legion provided an appropriate wreath and a local charity provided a cross with poppies. Photos have been taken and I will send them in due course. Many of the lads at HOSM have asked about the future of the 458 Squadron Memorial Tree, and I have been pleased to inform them it will remain intact and I shall see it is always well turned out as befits the men it commemorates.

The Airfield concrete will be broken and dug up and the hard core used for building new roads, such as a York by-pass! I am in the process of interesting the village council into providing a memorial stone or plaque in memory of the airfield in WWII because I believe only the three hangars will be left standing a few years from now. I hope this finds you and yours fit and well. My family are all well as can be expected as the winter chills get about our vital parts! However, the social diary is filling up nicely so no doubt now and again we'll get enough Xmas cheer to thaw us out for a time at Xmas. All the best to you for 1984!

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Thank you for your letter giving me your recent news; I sure envy you your holiday by the beach and I sure love prawns and most other seafood.

Correspondence (cont.)

May and I trimmed the tree and cleaned up the site in November and she planted ffofil bulbs around the front. We took some pictures and I had hoped to include some shots of the results of our efforts in the spring. Alas, the photos were the last I was to take of my beloved wife. Following abdominal pains which had bothered her for some time, she had to go into hospital for an exploratory operation. Sadly, it was cancer and she died two weeks later. Mercifully, she rallied enough to get out of hospital to her own bed and I had time to call in my two sons and daughter, Lynn, to care for her until her death on 30th. January. She died happily with her

family and not in any pain and we were glad to have her with us at home. I'm now getting by on a day-to-day basis and hope to continue my efforts for the Museum at Elvington by going to a "get-together" in the old Control Tower there on Sunday April 8th with lunch at the Old Rectory Hotel in the village. I was back at work a month after she came out of hospital as it was soul-destroying staying at home or nearby with my son and family in Beverley.....I visited my brother in Scotland last weekend and the snow made the hills in the background very picturesque, and I hope it stays there.....

All the best to you both, Frank.

From Al. Wheat, P.O. Box 160, Geraldton, W.A., 6530. (sent to all Flight Secretaries).

Dear.....With the able assistance of Peter Alexander, the Western Australian Air Force Association Museum, and the Western Australian Agent General in London (Ron. Douglas, ex 460 Sqdn.) I have been granted permission to inspect and photograph the interior of the only Wellington in captivity at Hendon R.A.F. Museum during our (Joy and myself) holiday trip in June/July.

Ron. Douglas has advised me that he passed a copy of the correspondence to the Group Captain in charge of the Museum and he suggested that he (the Group Captain) hit 458 Squadron for a donation as the Museum is conducting an Appeal for funds this year. In the circumstances that Hendon has the only Wellington in the world I believe we should assist with the cost of its preservation. W.A. Flight is donating \$50 to the Appeal and I would appreciate a cheque from your kitty to build the total to a reasonable sum and thus assist in the maintenance of the Wimpy

Sid Thompson hopes to arrange a get together of RAF 458ers in London on 19th or 20th July. Should any member happen to be in London at that time, please contact Sid on phone Home 01 857 0946 Office 01 430 6413.

Best wishes to all,

Al.

GENERAL EX-SERVICE NEWS.

The Repatriation battle continues to rage behind the scenes with the Government appearing determined to introduce changes which will, we think, not help the ex-serviceman/woman. First Bill likely to be tabled in the Senate late in May;

The Air Force Association held a historic meeting of its Federal Executive at R.A.A.F. Base Richmond recently with all State Presidents (except one) present. Opened by the C.A.S., Air Marshal D. Evans, the Association meeting recognised that if it is to continue it must attract young serving men and women. The Federal President of the AFA--Air Commodore Geoff. Michael--is to address meetings of personnel at all Australian Bases. The AF.A. is to change its name to become the R.A.A.F. Association. But all existing branches and services to WWII members will continue unchanged.

The international body for ex-servicemen--the World Veterans Federation--is to hold its Council meeting in Athens in October this year. Peter Alexander who is the World Vice President of WVF (for Asia and the Pacific) expects to attend.

Repatriation Benefit rates are revised from time to time and the Department of Veterans Affairs publishes summaries. The latest is dated May. Copies can be obtained from the Department in each capital city. Among other information in the Summary is a table shewing the effect of existing Income Tests on the Service Pension under and over age 70.

ETHNIC DINNER IN N.S.W. The next dinner will be held at RAJAH RESTAURANT, Pacific Highway, Crows Nest at 7.30 on Friday June 29th. All members wives and friends are invited. If you are coming PLEASE telephone Don. Bitmead (587 2007), or Eric Munkman (451 0824) or Peter Alexander (419 5024). The Restaurant is licensed.
