



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

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458 SQUADRON COUNCIL OFFICE-BEARERS.

Squadron President; Clive Wyman (Q.) Squadron Vice Presidents; Col. Fereday (ACT)
 Archie Fell (N.Z.)
 Squadron Treasurer; Peter Alexander (NSW) Editor of 458 Squadron News; Peter Alexander
 Squadron Hon. Auditor; Bert Thompson A.A.S.A. (N.S.W.)

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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;
 N.S.W. Don Bitmead, 11, Scarborough Street, Monterey, NSW. 2217.

CORNSTALK COMMENTS. from Don Bitmead.

Award of the Annual A.F.A. Vice Presidents Trophy. Our 458 Squadron branch of the Air Force Association in N.S.W. was proud to be presented with this Award for the best membership increase in 1983. This is a feather in our hats so members please keep up the good work you have done in being financial and participating in the various Squadron activities. The Trophy was presented to Stan Longhurst at the AFA Annual Assembly Dinner at the Lakemba Air Force-Navy Club by Peter Alexander who is Chairman of the Vice Presidents Committee. The last time our branch received the Trophy was in 1978.

Ethnic Night. Another good evening was held on 29th June at the Rajah Restuarant, Crows Nest. A total of 31 members wives and friends enjoyed the food and each other's company.

The next Ethnic Dinner. This will take place on Monday 24th September at the ATHENS STAR Restaurant at 65 Alexander Street, Crows Nest. We would be pleased to see many of you there. Please ring Eric Munkman (451-0824), Don Bitmead (587-2007), or Peter Alexander (419-5024) if you are coming.

Vale Bob Pollock. We were saddened to learn that Bob Pollock passed away on 28th May. Bob was with the Electrical Section. Jock McGowen, a life-long friend, represented 458 at the funeral service. To Dorothy and the family, we extend our condolences and the sympathy of all 458ers.

Accidents. Some people break bones by falling off roofs, ladders or trees but I had never met anyone who fell put of a golf buggy, breaking an ankle. Did this happen at the 19th hole? Sorry to hear of this mishap and other accidents Dusty. Hope you are O.K. now.

Changes of address. Would members who change their addresses please advise your Flight Secretary, immediately. We do like to keep our nominal rolls correct.

Cost of Squadron Merchandise. These are: Squadron Plaques \$30; the History "We Fight and Destroy" \$13; Tie \$10, lapel badge \$3. When requesting items please enclose a cheque to 458 Squadron.

The Melbourne Cup In order to keep the Flight financial we shall be dispatching some books of raffle tickets to members, for this annual event. Should you wish to help by selling tickets please contact Eric Munkman. It is most important that butts and money be returned well before the event occurs.

SANDGROPPERS SAY..... by Ted.Jewell.

As usual over the winter months the local news is not very plentiful, as some members are away chasing the warmer weather in the north of the State.

Once again a very enjoyable luncheon was had at the South Perth Yacht Club for members and wives who were able to attend. It has always proved a most popular day out for Sunday lunch and drinks.

Bill and Joan Clues who are in Melbourne visiting daughter and son-in-law Alan, have just become proud Grandparents of Jessica---the first baby for Vicki and Alan Ham. Congratulations.

I received a letter from Jim.Palmer who said that when in New Zealand on tour with the Squadron there were inquiries about some W.A.members. Eric Lloyd was asking about Noel (Bardee) Humphries. It was in the News that he died about six years ago --he, incidentally was my boss and Chairman of Brisbane and Wunderlich in Perth. Some others were asking about Reg.Willis and Tony Glassford. I am afraid I have not seen either of them since the war years but if anyone knows their whereabouts, perhaps they could drop me a line so I could pass it on in a future News.

The venue for the All-States Reunion sounds great. Coolangatta in Queensland would be an ideal spot. I still remember what a wonderful time we had at the last All-States Reunion held in Queensland. I hope we shall get a few starters here in the West. Elsie and myself are pretty sure to be there. What about it, W.A.Flight ?

Cheerio for now with best wishes and kindest regards to all.

CROWEATERS' CAUCUS.

from Geoff.Esau.

Collectively S.A.Flight has gone into recess for the winter, having had no official engagements since April. A Memo for the future relates to dedication of a Commemorative plaque at Adelaide Airport to all Australian Hudson Squadrons. This will be at 11 a.m. on Sunday October 28th. Make a note of it.

An early member of 458 Squadron, Fin.Mitchell of North Brighton was run to earth by Ron.Badger through his bowls club. Fin., a golfer, turned to bowls after a leg operation. Holme-on-Spalding Moor was mentioned in conversation with Ron. and one thing led to another ! Fin. went overseas with the Blue Draft in 1941 and was in Administration with 458 before being posted to London. Welcome to the Club, Fin.

Personal Pars. Our deep sympathy to Ian and Fee Showell on the recent death of their son, Hal.

Tom.Phillis---who was Bill Taylor's Navigator is in Daws Road Repat.Hospital. Ron.Badger is back in Adelaide Hospital but is hoping to return home shortly. To both Tom and Ron, our very best wishes for a return to happier circumstances. Bill and Pat.Cribb have just returned home from several days at Arkaroola in the Northern Flinders. They had a wonderful time and were most impressed with the set up and the scenery. Their daughter, Cheryl and son-in-law Peter Buchan and three daughters have returned home after several years in Hong Kong which Granny and Granddad are finding very agreeable. Having recently acquired another granddaughter myself I understand.

Regards and best wishes to all from S.A.Flight.

Q.FLIGHT-NEWS.

from Jim.Holliday.

1985 ALL-STATES REUNION.

Location:	Coolangatta/Tweed Heads ("Twin Towns")
Date:	Monday 29th July to Thursday 1st August extending to 2nd August
if needed;	
Venues:	Accommodation: Greenmount Beach Resort.
	Recreation: Twin Towns Services Club;
Programme:	Monday; Assembly. Evening, Barbeque;
	Tuesday; Mountain Tour. Evening, Official Dinner;
	Wednesday; Tweed River trip; Evening---Concert;
	Thursday; Morning---Conference, Afternoon, golf and hopefully, bowls;
	evening, free.
	Friday; Surprise programme.

Greenmount Beach Resort is new and luxurious, ten stories high, 152 rooms---each with

Q.Flight News (cont.)

tea-making facilities, 'fridge, T.V., ---à la carte menu, bars, swimming pool, ample car park---and on the beach. \$52 per room, single or double. (Note: other accommodation is available, but is scattered). Greenmount resort is two minutes from Twin Towns Services Club, the largest in Australia. Total cost for the Reunion is now being assessed. Costs and deadlines will be advised in the next News.

regrettably our man at Twin Towns, Tony Stone, has had a most unfortunate sequence of surgery. At the time of writing, Tony is due for further surgery. This time it's his spine which has a chronic condition from his accident at Shallufa. We wish him rapid recovery to enjoy next year's reunion on his home ground. Other news is that Don Brandon has joined the ranks of the retired, having sold his big business at Beenleigh.

VICTORIAN NEWS.

from Stan.Tarczynski.

Passing of Don. Johnson

We report with great regret the death of Don (Johnno) Johnson of Mildura, at the age of 63. Johnno was a well-known and well-liked member of 458 right through the war years, as a very young Fitter and during the long peacetime years when he was with 458 through thick and thin. He had his own share of both culminating in his long illness and finally death from emphysema. Those 458ers who were at the last All-States Reunion at Mildura will recall how, despite his illness, he was a major organising force in making the Reunion such a success and in welcoming his fellow 458ers and their families. We shall miss him and we shall remember him.

Annual General Meeting.

This was held at the Air Force Club, Hawksburn on Friday May 18th. It commenced with dinner at 6.30 p.m. with the ladies, who later attended the Meeting for the first time.

The Air Force Club attendance in the Dining Room, on a Friday night, was for the second time, Nil, apart from 458 which was below the number of bookings.

Flight President.

Jack Fleming was elected President unopposed for a second term and those in attendance were: J. and D. Fleming, I. Alison, H. and K. Martin, R. & J. Russell, W. & A. Hurford, K. & B. Morkham, D. & M. Singe, C. & Y. Hutchinson, Mrs. J. Dickson, E. Laming, R. Schoppe, and S. Tarczynski. Treasurer Bill Hurford collected a number of \$3 annual subscriptions from the ladies and of course \$6 from the members of which \$3 is for the Squadron News.

The News.

It is noted that the Squadron Council posts the Squadron News to approximately 86 Victorian members excluding widows, irrespective of whether they are financial or not. A very large number are NOT FINANCIAL, and have been so for a long time. How about it, chaps---cough up and write to Treasurer Bill Hurford with \$3 for the News and \$3 for Vic. Flight membership. Address: 1/9, St. Johns Avenue, Frankston.

And next.

Melbourne Cup Day is the date, November 6th., for our next Get together. At Joan and Ron Russell's place, 25 Harcourt Street, West Doncaster. BBQ/BYO and please bring picnic chairs and tables, etc. Plenty of small change---and if you intend coming please ring Ron. 848 3120 or Tarz 256196.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid. Thompsatt.

How time flies! It only seems a couple of weeks ago that I wrote, but I guess it must be a few months. So, here goes.

It was last year when we had to cancel our annual get together, that was a great pity but I am sorry to say we had to cancel it again this year as only a handful of us could make it for one reason or another. I know a number of the lads are getting on the wrong side of 65 or so but I only hope they can now and again get together again. We have a visitor from Down Under to meet in July-- Joy and Al. Wheat who are touring Europe and will meet us on their way home. So, I am hoping a few of the boys can arrange to meet in London.

A week or so ago I received a letter from Margaret Knight (Robbie Knight's widow) so I hope to meet her at one of our functions.

Mick Mason has let me know he has finally retired and handed over the business to his daughter. Hope he can now travel about a bit more before he gets too old. Norman Gilbert is off to the States for a short while. Both Hugh Hamlet and Norman Duke are house-hunting.

Eric Phillips and George Pigg wish to send regards to their friends in Aussie. Greetings to you all!

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter to the Editor.

From Peter Leonard, Sinoia House, Dorlangoch, Brecon, Powys, Wales.

Dear Peter, May I be permitted the use of the Squadron News in order to express my sincere thanks to those members of the Squadron who helped to make the visit of my wife and myself to New Zealand and Australia so memorable.

The greeting we received from Eric and Dorothy, and Don and Bev, at Sydney Airport was the keystone to the whole visit. As was also the meeting next day with Mick and Mavis Singe who during the past two years had kept contact with us after the U.K. Reunion in 1982.

Eileen and I will not forget also the kindnesses of other members of the Squadron including Stan and Jean who took us far beyond the suburbs of Sydney to view the countryside of New South Wales.

May I take this opportunity also to thank those of you who attended the dinner in our honour when we returned from a tour of Queensland. It was such a pleasant surprise and will never be forgotten by either of us.

Before leaving for home and while spending a few days with Don and Bev, I did receive a 'phone call from Cyril Murray who unfortunately had left Sydney for a holiday in Queensland with his Children. I told Cyril that the next Reunion will most likely be in Vancouver and he appeared to be very interested. I understand you told Cyril that I was staying with Don. Thank you for going to the trouble of contacting Cyril.

We were able to visit quite a large part of Eastern Australia. After leaving New Zealand, Eric, Don and Stan showed us the areas around Sydney, and Mick took us around Melbourne. Later we journeyed by car from Adelaide to Sydney via the Murray Valley.

Before closing may I thank you also for all you have done quietly behind the scenes in making our visit so pleasant.

yours sincerely, Peter Leonard.

P.S. I have written to Sid. Thompsett about the Squadron Conference.

E D I T O R I A L .

THE FUTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN EX-SERVICE MOVEMENT.

In comparison with ex-service (Veterans) movements in other parts of the World ---and we are in touch with them through the international body, the World Veterans Federation---the Australian ex-service world is different in a number of ways. Firstly, of course, we are generally much better off than ex-service people in most of the World. The big task ahead of the international ex-service movement, if it is sincere about its principles, is to trigger some action to help the hundreds of thousands of new veterans in Africa and Asia for whom nothing whatever is done by their own Governments yet (too poor, they say, truthfully perhaps).

The second difference is that we have so many ex-service bodies in Australia. There are good reasons for that, of course, as Australians have tended to want to be with the people they served with---or with the people who share their particular disability, e.g. Partial Blindness, through whom representations can be made promptly to Canberra by people who know the facts (not two years later by people who don't).

The third difference is that we have largely remained a wartime group. We have failed to attract younger, peacetime, service men and women. This fact---the reasons for which are many and probably not wholly understood---is catching up with us. We are growing old. Who, but who, is going to do the work we do, exercise the influence we have, use properly the assets we have accumulated?

Late, perhaps too late, many ex-service bodies are trying to tackle the problem. The internal controversies of the R.S.L. are known from the Press. As far as we of the Air Force Association are concerned, after rather inactively making the peacetime airman/woman eligible some years ago, we are now being energetic. The new A.F.A. Federal President, Air Commodore Geoff. Michael is addressing personnel at RAAF Bases. Brochures are printed. The C.A.S. is helping. The time of decision is, really, the coming year. And time will show what the future of our time-honoured organisations is to be. Both the A.F.A. and the RSL date back to W.W.I. To who, with failing hands, are we to pass the torch?
