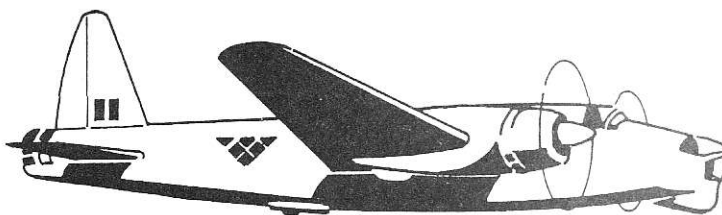


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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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 .

Squadron President:Col.Fereday (A.C.T.)Squadron Vice Presidents:

Squadron Treasurer:Peter Alexander(NSW),Ted.Jewell (W.A.)

Squadron Secretary:Graeme Coombes (N.S.W) Ron.Russell (Vic)

Squadron Hon.Auditor:Bert Thompson,AASA (NSW):Editor Peter Alexander

Flight Correspondents:

Victoria:	Stan.Tarczynski,36,Winmalee Drive,Glen Waverley,3150,
U.K.	Sid.Thompsett,49,Amblecote Road,Grove Park,SE12 9TN,
N.S.W.	Cy.Irwin,3/23,Cecil Street,Ashfield,2131,NSW,
Queensland	Jim.Holliday,43,Stella Street,Holland Park,4131,Q.,
Western Australia	Ted.Jewell,61,Wyaree Road,Mandurah,W.A.,6210,W.A.,
South Australia	Geoff.Esau,24,Fowlers Road,Glen Osmond,S.A.,5064,

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from Stan.Tarczynski.

THIS is the moving season with a vengeance (Squadron News keeper of addresses please note). Yours truly has come to his final resting place for the term of his natural life at 36,Winmalee Drive, Glen Waverley,3150--Tel no.561 1619. Col.Hutchinson has retired and moved to the Adelaide Hills at Stirling,and will notify Geoff. Esau. In reply to my appeal in the last News as to the whereabouts of Jack Cruttenden (ex Leopold,Vict)he replied to give his new address as 398,Springfield Road,Mitcham,3121. Upon making a 'phone call to Harry Ashworth at South Oakleigh,his successor revealed that he is now living at 13,Harberson Drive,Rosebud 3939. It is likely that Ian Alison may soon leave his Mont Albert home for a farm at Creswick (near Ballarat).

In view of so many movements it is quite possible that other Squadron members may have moved or may be contemplating a change of address. It would be greatly appreciated if any such change of address were passed on as soon as possible to your Flight Secretary. Likewise any personal items of interest which could be published in the News would be doubly welcome. As Peter Alexander commented,we could do with articles similar to that which Yank Martin contributed in the last News.

The traditional Melbourne Cupday BBQ was held at Joan and Ron. Russell's place at West Doncaster--under cover in the double garage. Apart from our hosts,those present were--Beat and Ken.Morkham, Ann and Bill.Hurford,Mavis and Mick Singe,Dot and Jack Fleming, Betty and David Evans,Elaine Timms,Helen Arnel and Ern.Laming,Stan Tarczynski and his friends Nancy and Bill Storer.

A quick Committee meeting was held before the running of the Cup.

Victorian Views (cont.)

Sweeps at 20c. were run on all races except the Cup, which was 50c., and the 10% Tote take benefited Squadron funds.

It is only now that the sad news has been revealed that Woozle Wurr's wife Pat passed away. At this belated hour we do extend our deepest sympathy.

On Saturday Nov. 10th at Point Cook there was a short ceremony at the Australian Flying Corps Cenotaph which was attended by about 200 people, amongst who were Joan and Ron Russell, Dot and Jack Fleming, Ern Laming, and Mavis and Mick Singe. A wreath-laying ceremony followed the service which began about 11 a.m. A breath taking aerobatic demonstration followed. This was a Farewell Service being the final one before the transfer of the RAAF Academy to Canberra. Air Marshal Wrigley was also in attendance.

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CORNSTALK COMMENTARY.

from Cy. Irwin.

Over the course of post-war years members of our Squadron in NSW have always found time to bond together in sporting interests and participate as teams in the Squadron name in events generally sponsored by the Air Force Association or allied bodies. Present days, having gone through the more physically active cricket and golf phases we have blossomed out into the noble game of bowls. As forecast in the last Squadron News the Squadron fielded two teams in the annual Air Force Bowls Day at West Lindfield Club on Sunday 18th. August. I can report that although not bringing home the bacon our teams acquitted themselves well. Members taking part were Alan Piggott, Frank Ward, Stan Longhurst, Dick Healey, Arthur Jollow, and Cy. Irwin. An invitation is extended through this News issue to 458 bowlers to keep in touch for future games. We shall certainly be fielding teams in the 1986 event.

The recent Melbourne Cup sweep conducted resulted in prizes going to 1st. Allan Rackham; 2nd Zelma Chalmers, 3rd. Allan McLean. Our thanks to members who disposed of tickets and our congratulations to the winners.

Tom Moore has written to say that he and Val. have moved to the Bush--5 kilometres from Orange and close to their family. The address is "Turana", 6, Nandillion Ponds Drive, Ammerton Estate, Orange, NSW. We wish them happy days in their new home.

Flight members on the sick and injured list are Don. Bitmead--some further surgery after his recent accident--Fred. Strom (Heart), Peter Pettit (Hip surgery), and Jack Aitken (virus).

We hope for good reports from them.

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of Squadron members Dick Whiteman, Jack Thredgold, Geoff. Cannon, Frank Hickey and Jim. Wren. We will remember them and express our sympathy to wives and families left.

To conclude: Xmas 1985 is almost with us, NSW Flight wishes all Squadron members and families a happy festive season and may 1986 be good to all.

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CROWEATERS' CAUCUS

from Geoff. Esau.

I note from the last News that 458 had not been inactive regarding the repatriation proposals in Canberra and I believe not without some success. Congratulations, Peter, on your not inconsiderable part therein!

A committee meeting was held at the Talbot on the afternoon of November 11th to arrange a pre-Christmas Flight Do. John Carey, Reg. Priest, Colin Hutchinson, Bert Ravenscroft and I, after some weighty and well lubricated discussion resolved on a late afternoon Get together on Sunday 8th. December, the venue being the very kindly lent home of Jack and Verna Riseley. Unfortunately the event will have passed before this gets to print but all members are being informed. More later!

Personal Pars. Colin Hutchinson has returned after some years in

Croweaters' Caucus (cont.)

Victoria to live at Ashton adjacent to Mt. Lofty. Welcome home, Colin. Bert Ravenscroft was most impressed with the organisation and hospitality encountered at the Queensland All-States Reunion, and has written to that effect to those responsible. He mentioned meeting Johnny Excell and, I believe, Pat Enright and Jim. Perry in Cairns and his cousin, ex-458er, but unrecognised at the time, Theo (Smiler) Ravenscroft in Rockhampton! The old adage "Meet your Mates in Queensland" seems to be spot on. It must have been a memorable reunion. Kind regards and best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS. from Jim. Holliday.

Our Melbourne Cup sweep was again over-subscribed. The winner was Keith Austin, with second going to Norm (Shorty) Wilson, and third money to Hilda Wilks. Our sincere thanks to all who contributed. Our sweep also sparks off a lot of correspondence from our members in far flung parts of Queensland, and we are able to learn a lot about those who, because of distance, we do not meet very often.

Keith Campbell really is enjoying retirement, especially the golf--if only the putter would work! Alan (Snow) Atherton now living in Mackay, the centre of the sugar industry, says "its doom and gloom" for the locals. But the fishing's still good. Theo Ravenscroft advises a third grandchild. Also, one of the "terrible twins" Roy Rabone and his wife called in at Longreach with their caravan, on the way to Mt. Isa. Then, when in Rockhampton for a repeat check-up, he had a knock on his hotel room door and there was cousin Bert Ravenscroft, from Adelaide--first meeting in 40 years. Bert and his wife, Lorna, of course were on tour to Cairns after the Coolangatta reunion. Their grandfather, according to Theo was a magistrate and "a bit of a rogue". Apparently he didn't pass on any of his bad genes! After a few trips to get conditioned Jack and Sheila Hobbs plan next year after Easter to take their caravan around Australia.

Other personal items. Jack and Kitty Baxter had a great trip to North Queensland in their ocean-going cruiser. Sailed as far as Cooktown. Then they took an airtrip to the Gulf, visiting Kowanyarra, Edward River, Arukuna and Weipa. Bob. Dangaard and wife Vera had a day in Cairns with John and Ruth Excell when they toured the North after the Reunion. Erle Hetherington writes that he's now back permanently at his home town Cairns. The boat he helped his son-in-law build he (Erle) steamed up to Cairns from Sydney, stopping only once, at Mooloolabah. George Reed, now fully recovered in health, and active as ever in R.S.L. affairs at local, Tully, sub-branch. Marg., George's wife, is also involved in the Womens' Auxiliary. The sub-branch raised \$2000 for Legacy. George asks that his best wishes be conveyed to "the President" in Ballarat, "old G.T." in Melbourne, and to A.J. "the Rogue" in Adelaide. Had a postcard from Dud. and Enid McKay from St. Wolfgang in Austria while on a trip to England and the Continent. They are enraptured with the "Sound of Music" Mountains.

Amendment. In the list of those attending the Coolangatta Reunion in the last Squadron News, the names of J. Joyce and Jim McRea were overlooked. Our apologies. To those members and their wives who wrote to us after the Reunion our Committee desires to express its appreciation of the comments made.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Ted. Jewell.

Many apologies for not contributing to the last News, but Elsie and I were still enjoying Queensland's hospitality when the news was due. We had a wonderful time on the Sunshine Coast for several weeks, with very many thanks to Clive and Joan Wyman for making their house at Caloundra available to us for

Sandgroppers Say....(cont.)

our stay and also a car for use over the same period. We appreciated it very much and thanks again. It may be a little late to talk about the Reunion at Coolangatta but as usual Queensland put on a fantastic reunion which would be hard to beat. It was great to see so many new faces amongst the big crowd there---some I had not seen since leaving the Squadron. Elsie and I enjoyed every minute of the dinners, bus trip, and the evenings at the Twin Towns Services Club and then to finish it off, a few hours with Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson at their home on the river. We are already looking forward to the next Reunion which we believe will be in Sydney.

Death of Tim Dale. Tim died in September after an operation on his leg which had to be amputated. He had been sick for several years after he had a stroke. He was one of the original 458ers, a Fitter IIE and well liked by all. There was a big roll up of 458 members at the Crematorium with Al. Wheat giving a short address on Tim's place in the Squadron during its operations overseas and then said the Ode before the Service ended. Poss, Tim's wife, is very much part of 458 and comes to all our functions which is very good.

Other personal and general items of news.

Joan Priest has moved over to Western Australia after selling her property at Robe and is now living near her daughter at Gidgegannup about 30 miles from Perth. Joan hopes to meet us some time after she has settled in, maybe for our Xmas function.

W.A. Flight has been fairly active over the last year. We hired a bus for the day and 35 members and wives enjoyed a lovely day in the country, morning tea at the National Park, lunch at the old town of York. Then on to Beverley for a short stop to see the local Airways Museum which has several old 'planes. Then back to Perth.

We had another day at the South Perth Yacht Club as guests of Olga and Gordon Jones. This is always a popular outing for Sunday lunch. After a few drinks in the lounge we go into the dining room for a smorgasbord meal. I am sure everyone ate too much--it was a seafood meal--we then have a few more drinks with our meal and stay there talking until they just about throw us out. Bill Clues arranged an outing for the day to Kings Park several sundays ago. We all drove our cars to the Park where we were to meet and after finding a nice shady tree we settled down to do whatever anyone wanted to do, eat, drink, chatter and even sleep if you wanted to. Ron and Alice Gannaway came along with their daughter and six grandchildren. As it happened to be Pete and Doreen McCarthy's 40th Anniversary, we helped celebrate the occasion with some bubbly Bill Clues had thoughtfully brought along, plus a present which Joan had for them both. A great day! We always seem to average about 25 to 30 members which is very good.

W.A. Flight is to have a Xmas function with a Night Out at the Village Inn Restaurant, Mt. Pleasant, so we can look forward to that.

Nobby Nobbs and Tom Foster finished up in the same hospital ward at Hollywood recently, both having new plastic parts put in. Nobby with arthritis in the hips and Tom the same in both knees. There will be no holding them back when they recover.

Jack Cobb dropped in home the other day. He has a weekender in Mandurah. Hadn't seen him for some time. Charlie McCarthy was at Tim's funeral. Doesn't get around much, he said. Clarrie Eagle was there--years since we had seen anything of him. Syd Baker has started coming to our functions again. Good to see you, Syd.

A very merry Xmas and happy New Year to all 458 members.

BRITISH BULLETIN.

From Sid.Thompsett.

Back in the summer I received a letter from Jock McGowen, who was here travelling the country, about the state of the Squadron Plaque and tree at Holme-on-Spalding Moor. Time and distance unfortunately prevented me from visiting the site personally but fortunately we have one or two members who live fairly close to the area. Betty Johnson (widow of Guy) lives in York and she visited the site and assured me the site was in fairly good order but also I telephoned Fred.Nieman and he made a visit and sent me the following report. Visited Holme as promised: the Tree and surrounds are in excellent condition. The Tree is far too large to be moved. I would suggest it is left in peace. The Plaque is at present with Frank Robertson. I went to see the Vicar of the church on the Hill regarding the plaque being placed in the church. He was not in but his charming wife did not anticipate any problems. I am writing to Frank Robertson asking him to hand the plaque to the Vicar for him to get the necessary authority from the Bishop at the next Diocesan meeting. My own feeling is that the church is the right place for the a memorial plaque.

I also agree on this. The old airfield is now an industrial estate. I cannot see that the future of the Tree would be very secure: if it survives into the future--O.K. but the Church is permanent.

Eric Munkman sent me an address of a 458er from Holme-on-Spalding Moor--Reg.Humphries from Surrey. I have been in touch and it seems we have swelled our numbers by another one. I received a note from Dickie Downer (Tombs) letting me know he is still enjoying life down by the sea at Worthing: sends greetings to all who remember him. Has even promised to try to get to the next Reunion. May I wish all members Down Under a happy Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

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Editor's Note: the future of the Tree at Holme has been carefully considered by Squadron Conference and Squadron Council in consultation with U.K.Flight and arrangements are proceeding for installation of a 458 Memorial in the Church in conjunction with an R.A.F. Squadron which followed us at Holme--and indeed stayed there much longer than we did.

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ON COURSE FOR CANADA

Interest in and arrangements for the 4th International Reunion of 458 Squadron in Canada in 1986 are progressing well. Jack Baker advises us the tentative date for the Reunion in Vancouver is July 26th 1986. The Squadron Party will leave Sydney on July 20th with a 4 night stopover in Honolulu reaching Vancouver on July 24th. After the Reunion there will be an 8/10 days tour of the Rockies returning to Vancouver for Sydney. Those wishing to continue on may do so and Veterans Travel will need details later on. Veterans Travel, 215 Clarence St., Sydney (Vic.Williams) are the contact point for details. Those indicating an intention to travel are, so far:

Don and Bev.Bitmead	George and Beatrice Brain	Col.Fereday
Frank and Thelma Ward	Sid and Pat Bartram	Black-Jack Baker
Ernie Laming + 3	Jim and Peg Holliday	Bill and Peg Hull
Wal and Dora Archbold +2	Jack and Lucy Bevan	Ron and Enid Miller
		Peter and Eileen
		Leonard

So this is moving well--Be in it !

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THE AUSTRALIAN REPATRIATION SITUATION.

Australian members will have been following the struggle to preserve the historic Australian Repatriation system from the Press and will be aware of successive Government retreats. These retreats have followed much pressure from ex-Service organisations--particularly AVADSC, with which through the RAAF Association 458 is associated.

The Government withdrew the appalling 40 year rule and has agreed

Repatriation Situation (cont.)

to a revised "Onus" clause. More recently under pressure in the Senate they agreed to restore repatriation rights to new entrant to the Defence Forces (until there is an adequate Military Forces Compensation scheme in being). They also withdrew a rather shameful piece of discrimination in respect to the Service Pension for certain Allied Veterans of the Vietnam conflict period. These amount to gains most unwillingly conceded. It is, in our view, quite certain that if AVADSC had not existed some of these concessions would certainly not have been achieved. The situation remains unsatisfactory in other respects---the situation of the T.P.I. pensioner; of the woman service pensioner with a dependent husband; of the Home-service WWII veteran and of course the new "Onus" clause remains obscure. Peter Alexander's comment to the Joint Ex-Service Conference in Canberra was that until the clause reached the High Court only three persons really knew what it meant--i.e. the three persons of the Holy Trinity. But at least it seems better than the Government's original clause.

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT.

The World Veterans Federation which is the (only) organisation for all ex-service Associations around the world and to which 7 Australian Associations belong recently held its 18th General Assembly in Rotterdam. Among the 9 Australians attending was Peter Alexander who has been for six years the World Vice President of the WVF for Asia and the Pacific. The Assembly considered at length an Agenda of both rehabilitation and political matters of interest to its member countries. Peter Alexander was re-elected for an unprecedented third term as VP polling 31 of the 32 possible votes. Delegates then travelled to Nepal for a regional meeting where co-operation in our area was negotiated in a lively and friendly way by Asian/Pacific countries. The Deputy Chairman of the Australian Repatriation Commission, Miss Jocelyn McGirr, attended both Rotterdam and Nepal.

CHRISTINA MCKENZIE MOVES FROM KNOWLE.

Norman Duke advises us of the sale of Knowle (which will become "the most comfortable Nursing Home in England") and the move of Christina to Northamptonshire. Our best wishes to her and her boys there.

THE LAST WELLINGTON RETURNS FROM A WATERY GRAVE IN SCOTLAND.

We are also indebted to Norm. Duke for further details of the resurrection of a Wimpy from Loch Ness where it had been since 1940.

Up to this point there had been all of one Wellington still in existence, at Hendon Museum, where 458ers have inspected it. (That, out of the 11,461 that were built--someone did some monumental sabotage at the end of the war).

The Loch Ness kite was first noticed in 1976 by some Americans who thought it was a Catalina. It was soon recognised by the Scots as a Wellington and in 1984 an Association was formed to raise it from the Loch--200' below. The airframe was damaged but not corroded--and the rear navigation lights lit up when connected to a battery! It is to be renovated in Barnes Wallis' Stratosphere chamber and when the proposed Brooklands Museum opens in 1987, R for Robert, after 45 years under water will be a major exhibit there.

The aircraft was flown on its last flight by a S/Ldr. Marwood-Elton with a crew of trainee navigators from 20 O.T.U.. It flew into a snowstorm over the Monadhliath Mountains, lost an engine and ditched. 5 of the crew landed safely but the rear gunner's parachute did not open and he died. The pilot landed the aircraft on the Loch and as he paddled ashore saw the aircraft sink in 90 seconds. He has commented he thought it would be hidden for all time.

(Norm Duke and Joyce are retiring--our best wishes to them).

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