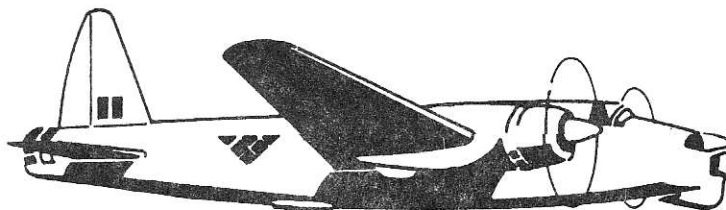


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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

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Squadron Treasurer: Peter Alexander (N.S.W.)----Australia-Ted Jewell (W.A.),
Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (A.C.T.) -Ron. Russell (Vic),
Squadron Hon. Auditor: Bert Thompson (N.S.W.) Canada----Bryan Quinlan (B.C)

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NEXT TO NELSON Bay. With this issue of the News comes full information and booking forms for the next All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron---to be held around Nelson Bay, N.S.W., for the five days commencing October 11th 1987. This Reunion, the 25th, is being most thoroughly prepared by Reunion Secretary, Jock McGowen, and the N.S.W. Committee which has spent much time on its planning. The Reunion represents one more gift by 458 Squadron to the men (with their ladies) who served it in the long-distant war years and who, in many cases, serve it still. The News urges its readers to take this opportunity: to read the accompanying forms and RETURN them promptly with the necessary deposit of \$50 per head.

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WORDS FROM THE WEST: W.A. Flight News. from Ted. Jewell.

458 Members, with wives and friends, had a great night out at the Village Inn Restaurant for our usual Xmas celebrations. Everyone had a wonderful time with an excellent meal and drinks. We had 50 come along, which was very good indeed. With all the noise you would have thought there was twice that number.

Charlie Davis and wife Betty were unable to be with us as Charlie was still recovering from operations on both knees, for arthritis. Hope everything is coming along well Charlie.

Words from the West (cont.)

"Nobby" Nobbs has also gone into Hollywood Hospital for another hip operation. He had one side done about twelve months ago and has now had the other done. His wife, Esme, told me he is progressing along alright but it is a slow process before being good enough to get around.

Had a 'phone call from Curly O'Connor last week and he said he has sold up everything in Mandurah and shifted back to his house in Victoria Park permanently. He has visits from Skeeta Staveley fairly often. We saw Skeeta last on Anzac Day. He said he does not drink these days.

458 members and wives are coming down to our home at Mandurah on Sunday 1st February for a BBQ. Usually have a good roll up; hope we have some good weather.

Best wishes to all 458 members.

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FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA. and from Geoff Esau.

After the very successful FLIGHT reunion held in 1985 (after a lapse of years) in the home of Jack and Verna Riseley it is pleasing but not surprising to report that the 1986 reunion was equally well attended. The venue for 1986 was the Aviation Institute at Adelaide Airport, by courtesy of the Manager, Brian Watson. Facilities included a BBQ area under cover, indoor and outdoor tables and chairs, Bar and sundries so that all seasons were catered for admirably. Those present included Bert and Lorna Ravenscroft, Bill and Madge Taylor, Syd and Pat Bartram, Roger and Margaret Angove, John and Ruth Excell, Colin and Yvonne Hutchinson, Eric and Mattie Baker, John and Pat Carey, Maisie Thomas, Bill and Pat. Cribb, Arn. Scholar, Reg. Priest, Betty Burnard, Mel and Ruth Senn, Kevin Tait, Ivy Smart, Brian and Joan Woodhead, and Geoff. and Heather Esau. Apologies were received from Dawn McGlasson and from Jack and Verna Riseley.

Personal Pars. Kath. Bax is a member of the Womens Auxiliary of the Daws Road Repatriation Hospital Uniting Chapel. During the past year the Auxiliary has undertaken the task of making service badges in tapestry of units with S.A. affiliations. In this regard 458 Squadron was not overlooked and our banner has been photographed, reduced to the appropriate size and printed on a tapestry for working in the original colours. I think the Auxiliary is to be admired and congratulated for assuming such a unique and enterprising venture and so further perpetuating a little of the State's history. John Carey has had some vision troubles which, at best, have been very inconvenient. I hear his specialist has been puzzled as to the cause but is recommending contact lenses. Best wishes for a speedy solution, John.

Jack and Verna Riseley are, I understand, putting the finishing touches to another house-building project into which they hope to move in the near future. May it prove as comfortable and as hospitable as the present one as well as being more conveniently situated from Jack's point of view. Jack tells me that a minor complication to this involvement is that the Partially Blinded Soldiers Association of which he is S.A. President is holding the 1987 Commonwealth Conference in Adelaide in early March. Good luck with it all, Jack!

A meeting of the Committee of the Airport Memorial Association is scheduled for February 10th. More anon.

Best wishes and regards to all.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS. From Jim. Holliday.

Evelyn and Pres. Jack Lewis hosted our 1986 Christmas Sunday BBQ lunch and there was a most satisfying response. The lush green lawn of the lovely garden surrounds to the Lewis home on Moreton Bay was crowded with wives and members under beach umbrellas enjoying the cloudless sunny day. As well as Kath and Eric Kelly,

Q.Flight News (cont.)

Joan and Clive Wyman, Joyce and Jim McKay, Chas. Warren and friend, Isla and Bert Garland, Peg and Jim Holliday from metropolitan Brisbane, Enid and Dud. McKay came from Caloundra, Joan and Sel. Foote from Ipswich, Chester Jones from Mt. Beppo, Hilda and Frank Wilks from Toowoomba, and Kitty and Jack Baxter, Peg and Gordon Cuthbertson, Norm. Taylor and daughter Amanda--all from the Gold Coast. And we were pleased that Hank and Margo Ewens from the Lewis' local area of Victoria Point, could attend. Hank had had a lot of therapy from Repat. recently. And at the party were also the regulars, Molly Higgins, friend of the Garlands, and Bobby and Sel. Williams, friends of the Footes. Apologies and Christmas greetings came from George Reed of Tully, and from Theo Ravenscroft of Longreach.

A highlight of the function was the announcement that Evelyn Lewis had been awarded a Life Membership of the Pacific Golf Club. For most of her 25 years of membership, Evelyn served on the Associates' committee including terms as Captain and President. She has also been a delegate for many years to the Queensland Ladies Golf Union, and concerned with the hosting in Brisbane for young girl golfers from Country districts. So, Evelyn has been awarded a well-deserved honour, the third only to an Associate in the history of the Club.

On the grapevine we hear that Chas. Warren is fitting out a long-wheel Dosed van for further country camping; Norm. Taylor intends to drive his immaculate black vintage Valiant to the Newcastle Reunion; and that Digger Kelly proclaims he is not ready for retirement yet.

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IRWIN ON THE AIR.

N.S.W. Notes from Cy. Irwin.

Firstly, a report in the Xmas function held by our Flight on Tuesday, 9th. December. A party of 50 in attendance to enjoy an end of year dinner and the opportunity to exchange Xmas good wishes. We were pleased to have with us Barry Brooke, State President of the R.A.A.F. Association, to present to members Eric Munkman and Stan. Longhurst Certificates of Merit--awarded to them for long service and work done at the last Annual Assembly (N.S.W.) at Orange and confirmed at the RAAFA Federal Conference at Richmond last September.

Squadron President Col. Fereday made the trip from Canberra as did Squadron Secretary Graeme Coombes with Dulcie who also are now permanent Canberra residents.

The catering and service provided by the Air Force Club in the new premises it shares with the Pitt Club at 49 Market Street, Sydney, was first class and a special thank you is expressed to them.

Omitted from our last News was advice of the Winners of the Melbourne Cup Sweep. The winning ticket was held by Dorothy Aitken, Second by Keith Cousins, and third by Sven Hansen. Our thanks to those who returned tickets, and congratulations to the winners.

We are sorry to report the death of Squadron Member Ron Tonkin of St. Hubert's Island. We send our sympathy to his widow.

The coming All-States Reunion at Port Stephens.

We N.S.W. members, headed by Reunion Secretary, Jock McGowen, are looking forward to the hosting of the All-States Reunion in October. Jock is pleased with early response and bookings. There is much to do in the months leading up to a Reunion. Flight members in the area, and the Committee are out to ensure an enjoyable reunion in the Nelson Bay/Shoal Bay/Williamstown area.

To Bruce Dean.

To Bruce (Dizzy) Dean, who is in Concord Repat. Hospital with a serious illness, 458's affectionate greetings and best wishes.

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VIEWS FROM VICTORIA.

From Stan. Tarczynski.

We always reserve the first Sunday in December for our Xmas BBQ, which, through the good graces of the Morkhams, is held at their place

Views from Victoria (cont.) in East Burwood. Ken went to a lot of trouble in setting up the tables, chairs and umbrellas, etc. in his lovely little side-of-the-house garden; it looked like being a very hot day. As soon as the first of the guests arrived, down came the rain! So, we all resorted to the double garage after the cars were moved out.

Ken being very innovative had a nice big trestle table made out of solid old doors, painted white. The walls of Ken's garage are painted white and the ladies amused themselves and their imaginations by admiring the Picasso-type decorations.

Later, we adjourned to the lounge room for afternoon tea, some squadron and other films by Ken., and finally to Tarz's amazement, Mick Singe gave a magnificent rendition on the piano of Paderewski's Minuet. Those present were: our hosts Beat and Ken. Morkham, Mavis and Mick Singe, Betty and David Evans, Kath and Harald Martin, Ern. Laming and Helen Arnel, Elaine Timms, Stan Tarczynski and Peter McDonald.

Wedding Bells for the W.O.D. With the forthcoming marriage of Ern. Laming and Helen Arnel, the Ladies Auxiliary decided to present a small wedding gift. A quick get-together was organised. The Air Force Club would not re-open till too late, so the Russells kindly offered us their hospitality. It had to be before Jan. 17th as they would then be going away.

Our hosts entertained royally, the ladies brought a plate, and these rolled up, after 5 p.m. Elaine Timms, Mavis and Mick Singe, Beat and Ken Morkham, Rita and Tom. Primrose, Stan. Tarczynski, Helen Arnel and Ern. Laming. Helen proudly introduced her two daughters and sons-in-law. Ron made a short speech and wished them well, and Joan presented, on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary two beautifully-boxed goblets.

A Reminder to all Victoria FLIGHT Members. we would like to see a few more new (old) faces at the Anzac Day March. Assembly point will be opposite Melbourne Town Hall in Swanston Street--you can't miss the Banner! After the March we go straight to the Melbourne Bowling Club in Union Street, Windsor--just a few steps down from Chapel Street. ANNUAL DINNER (Mixed) and ANNUAL MEETING--the latter to start at 6.30 p.m. followed by dinner at the Air Force Club, Cromwell Road, Hawkesburn, These on the last Friday in May--the 29th.

Vale Tony Weir. Vic. Flight members will remember Tony, the Polish fighter pilot who befriended Tarz when they both lived in Mont Albert. He joined Vic. Flight many years ago and will be remembered for the good time he had at the Mildura Reunion. Having been retired, Tony in October with his son Ken., was on the country show-jumping circuit with three of his son's successful horses--and having a ball as usual. On the night of 14th October he returned early to the House-truck and was found later by his son lying face-down after a massive coronary--mercifully instantaneous. To Linda and family we extend our heart-felt sympathies.

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SQUADRON COUNCIL MEETING. Members of 458 Squadron Council (the body that controls our Federal affairs between Conference s and consisting of the Squadron officers and a delegate from each Flight) met on December 9th---to consider proposals for the next International Reunion, which is to be in Australia. Council decided to recommend to the next Squadron Conference that it be held not before 1989. Locations under consideration include Central Australia (Alice Springs) and Tasmania.

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REPATRIATION---and the WAR MEMORIAL.

Action--mainly through AVADSC--continues in relation to the position of the totally disabled (the TPI pensioner) who now has to meet a work test before acceptance. If, for other reasons than his war-caused disability he can't find work (e.g. because he is over 65) he is out. To get even the 100% General rate pension now seems to be almost impossible. As to the Memorial and the victimisation of its Director--space prevents our expressing our anger! More later!

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