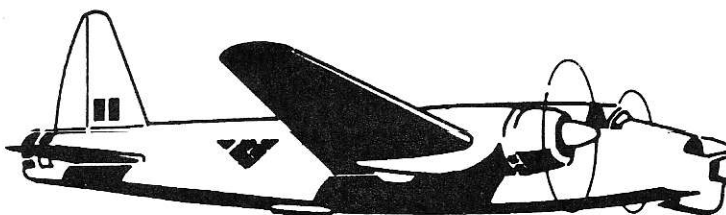


458

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 .

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

Editor: Peter Alexander.

Flight Correspondents.

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Queensland	Jim. Holliday, 43, Stella Street, Holland Park, 4121, Q.;
Western Australia	Ted. Jewell, 61, Wyaree Road, Mandurah, 6210, W.A.;
South Australia	Geoff. Esau, 24, Fowlers Road, Glen Osmond, 5064, S.A.

ALL-STATES REUNION BOOMING.

The numbers are coming in extremely well for the next ALL-STATES REUNION at Nelson Bay on the 11th to 16th October, 1987. Separately, in this issue are the names of those 458ers who have accepted. If yours is not there, it still can be. Write to the Organiser, Jock McGowen, PO Box 110, Beverly Hills, 2209.

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THE CORNSTALK ANZAC DAY.

from CY. Irwin.

A quiet time for N.S.W. Flight Members since the last News came out. This issue will cover future planning.

The recent Anzac Day here was well attended. A glorious day for the March, and our unit joined the Air Force section, marching behind Eric Munkman and Squadron and Australian banner and flag. This year Peter Alexander was part of the March Commanders group at the head of the March but went round again with 458. After the March, the Reunion and lunch at the Great Southern Hotel in upper George Street was enjoyed. Reports for the year were heard and received and Flight office-bearers were re-elected for the coming year, after which

Cornstalk Comments (cont.) members enjoyed an afternoon of good fellowship and yarn-swopping. A good feature was the pleasing number of country Squadron members who made the journey to Sydney to be with us.

The Roll Call: Joe Pratt Sam Barlow Bert Thompson Jack Aitken
 Red Jack Baker Harry Baines John Preston Bob Bruce Bruce McDonald
 Stuart Ricketts Bob Smith John Dunn Don. Bitmead Wal Mobbs
 Marshall Allan Jock McGowan Eric Munkman Tom Ridgway Keith Cousins
 Fred Strom Ralph Bailey Black Jack Baker Stan Longhurst Cy Irwin
 Peter Alexander Bob Lyndon Bob Millar Jack Bevan Frank Ward
 Noel Spurling Laurie Crowley Bob Low

Air Force Anniversary Dinner. Eric Munkman, and Stan Longhurst attended on Squadron behalf the Evening function at the Pitt Club on 31st. March to celebrate the anniversary of the formation of the R.A.A.F.

Future Functions. We shall again this year participate in the Annual Air Force Bowls Day at Lindfield, originated by Dick Healey, and we ask all lawn bowlers in our midst to keep this in mind.

And in July--Book this now! Next function for NSW 458ers is to be on Tuesday July 14th, 1987. It will be a Christmas in July dinner at the Pitt Club/Air Force Club premises at 49 Market Street, Sydney at 6.30 for 7.15. Fare will be Game pate, roast turkey with vegetables, plum pudding, coffee. Please book with Eric Munkman --451-0824.

Last but not least arrangements for the October All-States Reunion at Nelson Bay/Shoal Bay/Williamstown area are proceeding well. A list of those attending is included in this News with the object in mind of members in all states recognising old mates and make up their mind to be there and meet up once again.

Vale Dizzy Dean. All 458ers will feel the loss with the passing of Bruce "Dizzy" Dean whose illness was reported in the last News. After sad last years, after the death of Linda his wife, and much illness, Dizzy died in February. His friends were able to be with him in his last days. Bruce was a notable pilot in 458's early period. In the post-war years he worked in the retail field with a period in the Gilbert Islands. He was a regular supporter of 458 functions in Sydney and will be greatly missed.

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid Thompsett.

Another very successful reunion was held on April 25th at the Royal Air Force Club in Piccadilly. Those attending were Mick Mason, Harry Bishop, Eric Phillips, Leon Armstrong and wife, Bill Waitt and wife, Harry Filley and wife, Peter Leonard and wife, Norman Duke and wife, and myself and wife. Although numbers were down this year none the more everyone had a very enjoyable time. Peter Leonard shewed us his photographs taken in Canada and said what a wonderful time he and his wife had. Peter also said how much he and his wife are looking forward to the next reunion in Australia. Chico Mercer has written to say how busy he is preparing himself for his trip to Australia in October.

After all this time another 458 member has come to light, through Dewi Davies. He is Frank Baggott, a member of the Signals Section. It was unfortunate that he was unable to attend this year's reunion, but he hopes to do so sometime in the future.

Norman Duke, who also went to the Canadian Reunion brought along a section of the Wimpey that was raised from Loch Ness--in fact it was the W.Op's table top. You no doubt know that Norman in fact is one of a small but enthusiastic band of people cleaning and restoring this aircraft.

Quite a few of our members who could not make the reunion would like to send regards to all in Australia: Hugh Hamlet, Dickie Downer (formerly Tombs), Charlie Humbles, Fred Nieman, Bert Sleight, Ken. Morris,

The British Bulletin (cont.) George Pigg, Bill Swann, Betty Johnston, Dewi Davies--and others.

Back last March 7th., a few of us met up in London to celebrate Mick Mason's 80th birthday. We met at the St. Ermin's Hotel, where we held our All-States Reunion. A few of you in Aussie might have forgotten it now, but you really made Mick very happy by signing the birthday card some long time ago. This about wraps it up once again, so with kindest regards to you all from the U.K. Flight, I say cheers. All the very best. Sid.

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

From Stan. Tarczynski.

Anzac Day turned out to be a glorious autumn day. Vic. President Ron. Russell headed the 458 banner followed by Vin. Clohesy (from Hamilton) Ken. Morkham with a walking stick, Gordon Nash, Mick Singe, Ern. Laming, Eddy Bradshaw, Jack Ellis, Jack Fleming, Bill Hurford, Tom. Primrose, Stan. Tarczynski, and Stan. Cartledge with his son Ian--and three grandchildren Karin, Janine and Michelle. This was the first march Ted. Kennedy had missed. He used to come down from Ballarat. As usual reliable Ian Alison was there at the Melbourne Bowling Club to greet us after the March. "Yank" Martin also turned up with a walking stick, hobbling on his both legs after his big op. All the others above mentioned were present at the Melbourne Bowling Club with the exception of Stan. Cartledge, Gordon Nash and Tom. Primrose.

As ever Ern. Laming is in the news. He has been awarded the Telecom Advance Australia Award of Merit for service in community work. In 1926 he was troop leader of the second Thornbury Scout troop. He then became Assistant Scoutmaster, cub master, group scoutmaster, and finally a life member on November 24th, 1932. From 1960-68 he was involved with the Preston Air Training Corps. In 1981 he was made an honorary member of the Regular Defence Forces Welfare Association. He has also had a long association with the Freemasons. From 1960 to 66 he served as President and Secretary of the Reservoir High School Parents and Friends Association. From 1929-37, he served with the 57/60 Battalion, then in 1938 he joined the R.A.A.F. and stayed there as Warrant Officer until 1960. In his earlier days he played football with local Thornbury teams. In 1931 he began his involvement with the Victorian Football Association as an umpire. He played cricket in a number of places while in the armed forces including--perhaps the most interesting location--in Japan, followed by Point Cook and the arid lands of Laverton and Wagga Wagga. We salute you, Ern. !

Tom and Rita Primrose had a big day on March 6th this year when they celebrated their Golden Wedding (50 years). Assisting them were son, David and wife Gloria,, with grandchildren, Sarah, 14 and Greg., 10: and daughter Eleanor and her husband Eddy, with four grandsons, Wayne, 23, Peter 21, Warren, 19 and Rodney, 17. They were living on Cloud Nine when, to cap everything, they received congratulatory telegrams from Prime Minister Hawke, Premier Cain and Governor McCaughey. Surely it was a rare occasion for anyone to receive such accolades.

Any information about personal and family items would greatly assist your scribe in further publication.

Our next function is the annual general meeting to be held at the Air Force Club on the last Friday in May--the 29th. The meeting will be followed by a dinner.

* * * * *

Q. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Jim. Holliday.

Rain marred the March on Anzac Day. Near the saluting base it came down heavily and continued until we reached Anzac Square. We were fewer this year. Illness, holidays, private priorities, and heavy rain on the outskirts of Brisbane, reduced the ranks. However the vacancies were filled by associate members and unattached airmen who served in the Middle East. One said he joined us at Sardinia. Unfortunately, he failed to pass on details as promised. Hopefully, we'll catch up next year.

Q.Flight News (cont.)

After the March, a most successful reunion was held at the Atcherley Hotel. It was voted one of our best. Members attending comprised: Pres: Jack Lewis (who led our contingent on the March), Clive Wyman, Eric Kelly, Bob Helyar, Gordon Postle (who drove up from the Gold Coast in heavy rain), Jack Hobbs (down from Burrum Heads because Sheila wanted to march with the A.W.A.S.), Chester Jones, Joe Elliott (recuperated well from his operation), Bernie McLoughlin (joined the March as we passed the Irish Club) Bernie Hughes and Jim Holliday.

Members who telephoned or otherwise apologised were Bert Garland (an inescapable family celebration), Len MacDonnell (hurt his dicky back the day before), Gordon Cuthbertson (left stranded by rain on the Gold Coast), Jack Baxter (visiting family interstate), "Hank" Ewens (recovering from medical tests), and Jim McKay (returned on Anzac Day from visit to son in Austria).

Joining in the march and the Reunion were three Associate members, all ex-R.A.A.F., all staunch supporters of many years: Cec. Bull, Mick Surley, and Sel. Williams. All keen poker players, too.

McKays in Europe

Joyce and Jim McKay report a very interesting overseas trip. Prime object was to visit son, a highly respected engineer in concrete construction. It was cold in them thar hills but cosy enough inside to watch the young folk skiing outside.

It was warmer in the valleys and in the cities in other parts of Europe. They wound up their trip with a drive yourself tour of England. Highlight was a visit to Holme-on-Spalding Moor. The airfield appeared in the process of being prepared for disposal as an industrial estate. However the Memorial Tree is still flourishing, well-tended, and, at the time, had two recently-placed wreaths at its foot. Jim treasures two weeks of warm-hearted hospitality and nostalgia with David (Junior) Phillimore on his farm in beautiful Surrey. Jim and David were tentmates in the M.E. when serving on 216 Squadron. David wants to contact "Farmer" Wheatley who, he understands, was transferred to 458 Squadron.

Finally, for the record, at the Annual Meeting held on Anzac Day, re-elected President, and Jim Holliday had the position of Secretary/Treasurer again forcibly thrust upon him.

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FAREWELL TO ANOTHER OLD MATE--Passing of TED.KENNEDY.

The News has heard with great regret, from Stan. Tarczynski, of the death of Ted. Kennedy. Ted, of Ballarat, was a Fitter on 458 and in postwar times, a businessman. He was one of the band of stalwarts who went with 458 to the U.K. in 1982. He was preparing to go with the Squadron again, this time to Canada when his final illness came upon him. After months in hospital following surgery he has passed on. We shall miss an old friend.

* * * * *

ANZAC DAY NOTES FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA. from John Carey--for Geoff. Esau.

The 458 Contingent marched into camera range during the Adelaide Anzac March and the television commentator said "and there's Geoff. Esau carrying the 458 Banner". Actually, our dependable scribe was back home watching it on television. After he had done all the preparatory work as Flight Secretary, his doctor had placed him on the sick list. He dobbed Flight President John Carey into submitting this report.

Weather-wise, Anzac Day in Adelaide this year could not have been better. Clear skies, no wind, and a maximum of 28 degrees. A record crowd (difficult to estimate but certainly in the four figure category) attended the 9 a.m. ceremony at the Air Force Memorials at Adelaide Airport. Numbers were swelled by an international reunion of Pathfinders and by national reunions of 456 and 31 squadrons.

A central cairn has now been erected among these unique memorials of

From S.A.Flight (cont.)

trees and brass plaques. It commemorates the late Ron Badger of 458 who originated and developed them. The first tree was planted there as a memorial to 458 Squadron in 1958. There are now 29 Memorial Trees and plaques on the lawn surrounding the building that houses the Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith Vickers Vimy. Peter Thom laid the wreath at the 458 Tree and plaque. Also representing 458 at the ceremony were Kath and Jack Bax, Freda and Ted Creighton, Madge and Bill Taylor, Syd Bartram, Jack Riseley, Ken Robertson, Ray Whitrod, and John Carey.

At the March.

A welcome visitor at the March was Bob Cock from Gunnedah, N.S.W. Bob, a pilot of 458 at Malta--was originally from S.A. but had not been back here for 20 years. Others marching were: Eric Baker, Syd. Bartram, John Carey, Ted Creighton, Bill Cribb, John Excell, Keith Grimshaw, Paul Hallan (Norm.'s son), Col. Hutchinson, Alex MacKinnon, Bert Oliver, Reg. Priest, Bert Ravenscroft, Jack Riseley, Ken Robertson, Arn. Scholar, Kevin Tait, Peter Thom (who carried our new banner) and Brian Woodhead.

Our usual get-together afterwards at the Talbot Hotel was graced this year by Pat Bartram, Freda Creighton and Gwenyth Porteous.

Anzac Day is the day our Treasurer, Bert Ravenscroft, collects the annual subs. He would like to remind those S.A. Flight members who could not make it that his address is 11, Thornton St., Henley Beach, 5022.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Ted Jewell.

I was unable to attend the Anzac Day reunion in Perth this year because of illness, but our President, Bill Clues, rang to tell me what happened during that period. Bill represented W.A. Flight of 458 Squadron at the wreath-laying ceremony at Kings Park Dawn Service and said that it rained quite heavily at times, but he managed to keep fairly dry under an umbrella. At the March in the city he was disappointed with the roll up of members who were able to attend. Maybe we have come to the stage when many are not now able to participate in the March anymore. W.A. Flight was led as usual by our President, Bill Clues with Jim Palmer, who was up for the day from Kojonup carrying the banner with his grandson marching with him in the Flight. Bill Clues' little granddaughter decided she wanted to march with granddad, which she did for a time holding his hand.

After the March and service on the Esplanade, members, wives and friends met at the Hyde Park Hotel, where a good time was had by all. Members present were: Hensell Hemy, Charlie Davis, Ron Gannaway, Tom Foster, Bob Ellis, Gordon Jones, Stan Hopewell, Tom Howard, Bob Grenville. Charlie Davis is coming along slowly after his earlier operation on his knees. All the best, Charlie.

I have had a spell in Hospital and am still recuperating after several operations for skin cancer. Hope that that is the finish.

Curly O'Connor has been around home several times recently; brought some fresh fish one day--very nice too, Curly. He has moved from Victoria Park and is now living at Safety Bay, about 30 miles from Perth.

458 members and their wives came down to our home at Mandurah for a B.B.Q. lunch in February and we had about 30 drive down for the day for a nice sunny and enjoyable day. It was Bill and Joan Clues' Wedding Anniversary on the same day so we all helped them to celebrate.

Associate members Phil and Shirley Hicks invited all W.A. Flight members to their home on 29th March for a Bar B.Q. lunch. It was a great day with around 30 members there. It is good to see everyone having a good time at the various functions we have during the year. Bill Clues will check out some restaurants for our next dinner. Bill is a keen cyclist these days, in a cycle club and does tours with them. Will be coming through Mandurah later this year. He was out riding on a cycle path when all of a sudden a post came up from nowhere which Bill duly hit. He came off second best, still fairly sore and bruised.

Pete McCarthy was at the Bar B.Q. but has not been too well. I think

Sandgropers Say....(Concl'd)

he said it was his liver playing up. Hope you are feeling better now, Pete. Best wishes from W.A. Flight, Ted. Jewell.

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VETERANS WELFARE MATTERS--ON THE INTERNATIONAL AND THE LOCAL SCENE.

After the disputed passing of the Veterans Entitlements Act, AVADSC, the crest organisation of ex-service Associations of which Peter Alexander is honorary secretary, urged that a Monitoring Committee be set up to watch its effects, particularly in relation to the "Reasonable Hypothesis" concept now introduced. Under pressure in the Senate, the Minister agreed. That committee has now been set up with retired Justice Toose in the chair. Peter Alexander was rung up in London by the Minister, during a recent trip, and asked to be a member. With some hesitation and after consulting back home, he accepted. The Committee has met, in Sydney, for the first time and invites written submissions from any ex-service organisation or individual. Its address is:

The Secretary, Monitoring Committee, PO Box C129, Clarence St. P.O., Sydney, 2000.

Let the Committee know what you think is wrong with the system.

Other Committee members are Ian Gollings of the R.S.L., Robbie Robertson of Legacy, Jocelyn McGirr of the Repatriation Commission and Lionel Mead, former Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation in N.S.W.

During that international trip, Peter attended the Council meeting of the World Veterans Federation in Brighton and prior to that had discussions in Yugoslavia concerning the needs of the large numbers of new veterans in Africa, America and Asia for whom nothing is currently done.

He then had a week in Ireland. Visited Dublin, Cork and Blarney where, he wishes it known, he performed the athletic and daunting feat of kissing the Blarney Stone.

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CORRESPONDENCE: Letters to the Editor.

After many years---welcome back to 458.

From T. Meredith, 90 Parc y Fro, Creigiau, Cardiff, S. Wales.

Dear Sir, After trying for about a year to purchase your book "We find and Destroy", I asked relatives in Australia if they could possibly find out how and where I could write for the book.....It was with great pleasure and surprise, on their recent visit, to receive from them your autographed copy of the book, dated 20/2/87. I enjoyed reading it very much indeed. Many facts corresponded to my diary notes and were as vividly recalled as if they were recent events, instead of history of 44 years ago. The March from Holme, the Mataroa and Mendoza, the route march at Clairwood, the shark infested swim at Aden (I was standing by W/O Vale at the time). I still have a leave pass signed by F/Lt. Baird dated 9-10-42. St. Jean, Agir in Palestine and back to Shallufa, all readily come to mind, as do Horace the Goose and his pals, and petrol humping. I had no idea such an Association as this existed & must admit to a feeling of regret that I have not participated in any of the celebrations.

Now I am very curious and interested in hearing more of the activities of 458 Squadron.....Also, having two sons, I need another book to avoid disappointing one or the other. Could you please let me have the address of the 458 Sqdn. Association in U.K. if one exists and prices of mementos and of the book. Regret I have responded so belatedly, but if I had only known....I was posted to 458 at Holme at the end of Feb. 1942 and served with the R.A.F. for 6½ years of which 4 were overseas. I am hoping to move in about three weeks time, I must still have the itch acquired during my service days. Hope you receive this letter as I am only guessing your address.....Thanking you again for your autograph and all the best for now, yours sincerely,

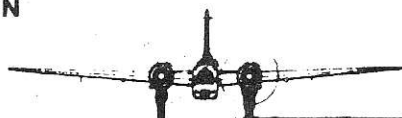
T. Meredith.

(Ed. The letter was a little delayed but will be answered at once, of course).

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458 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION 1987 ALL STATES REUNION



all reunion
correspondence to

JOCK MCGOWEN
P.O. BOX 110,
BEVERLY HILLS, 2209
N.S.W. AUSTRALIA
PHONE: (02) 502-1689

REUNION REPORT.

20th. May 1987.

It is with pleasure that I submit to members this updated report on the forthcoming reunion. You will see that from the list of members who have already paid their deposit that the reunion is shaping up to be a great success. We expect to receive another 15 or 20 entries before we will be forced to close off the bookings about the end of August.

So you can see just who is coming we set out below a list of all the members who have sent in their entry and have paid their deposits. One Motel is already fully booked and another is getting that way so we do suggest that you give us a third choice when sending in your entry.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY SENT IN THEIR FULLY PAID ENTRY.

1. Stuart Ricketts.	NSW	22. Wal Archbold.	NSW	43. Bob Bruce.	NSW
2. Don Bitmead.	NSW	23. Frank Ward.	NSW	44. Bob Smith.	NSW
3. Eric Munkman.	NSW	24. Syd Bartram.	S.A.	45. Jack Baker.	NSW
4. Jock McGowen.	NSW	25. Jim Palmer.	W.A.	46. Walter Mobbs.	NSW
5. Fred Strom.	NSW	26. Jim Holliday.	Q.	47. Graeme Coombes.	ACT
6. Ron Miller.	NSW	27. Clive Wyman.	Q.	48. Max Richards.	NSW
7. Stan Longhurst.	NSW	28. Frank Wilks.	Q.	49. David Evans.	VIC
8. Peter Alexander.	NSW	29. Arnold Ashton.	NSW	50. Eric Purcill.	NSW
9. Bill Chapman.	NSW	30. Col. Fereday.	ACT	51. John Fleming.	VIC
10. Peter Bailie.	NSW	31. Mick Singe.	VIC	52. Ken Brown.	NSW
11. John Baxter.	Q.	32. Bill Fiddes.	NSW	53. Dave Firth.	VIC
12. Bill Hurford.	Vic	33. John Excell.	S.A.	54. Ken Mercer.	United Kingdom.
13. Bob Millar.	NSW	34. Ron Russell.	VIC	55. Charles Forman.	Canada .
14. Tony Stone	NSW	35. Bob Dangaard.	Q.	56. Al Wheat.	WA
15. Gordon Curhbertson	Q.	36. Ern Laming.	VIC	57. Bert Ravenscroft.	SA
16. Sel. Foote.	Q.	37. Harry Ashworth	VIC	58. Jim Whittem.	ACT
17. Bill Cribb.	S.A.	38. Ian Alison.	VIC	59. John Carey.	SA
18. Lofty Chalmers.	NSW	39. Ray Turley.	WA	60. Laurie Crowley.	NSW
19. Tom Moore.	NSW	40. Charles Warren.	Q.	61. Bob Lyndon.	NSW
20. Henry Etherton.	W.A.	41. Sam Barlow.	NSW	62. Ian Giles.	VIC
21. Jack Lewis.	Q.	42. Harry Baines.	NSW	63. Eric Lloyd.	Q.
				64. Berie McLoughlan.	Q.
				65. Jack Hamilton.	NSW
				66. Cyril Murray.	NSW
				67. Ray McDougall	Qld.

FUNCTION BOOKINGS.

R.S.L. Function.	125.	Williamtown Air Base.	103.
Golf.	16.	458 Dinner.	123.
Bowls.	12.	Coach Pick up.	77.
Beach Barbecue.	87.	Rose Farm Final Dinner.	121.
Newcastle Visit.	10.		
Bay Cruise.	116.	Outside Fishing.	8.

ACCOMODATION DETAILS.

Dutchies Motor Lodge.	available rooms.	4	rooms booked.	2.
Marlin Motel.	available rooms.	11.	rooms booked.	4.
Penninsula Motor Inn.	available rooms.	26.	rooms booked.	20.
Aloha Villa.	available rooms.	16.	rooms booked.	3.
Port Stephens Motor Lodge,	available rooms.	17.	rooms booked.	17.
On Site Vans.	available vans.	6.	vans booked.	1.
Caravan Sites.			sites booked.	2.

Many members are arranging their own accomodation.

RAFFLE TICKET SALES.

Painting of Wellington Take off.... 80 tickets sold , Book, " Wellington Special"...16 tickets sold.
Car Badge.....15 tickets sold.

We do hope we sell a lot more tickets to help with costs.

GENERAL COMMENTS.

Your committee is very pleased with the entries so far, and there seems little doubt that we will all have a great time together with our old mates.

If you know a member who has been absent without leave for a long while well, give him a nudge, " IT IS LATER THAN YOU THINK."



Jock McGowen, Reunion Secretary.

to be held at NELSON BAY N.S.W. 11th to 16th october 1987