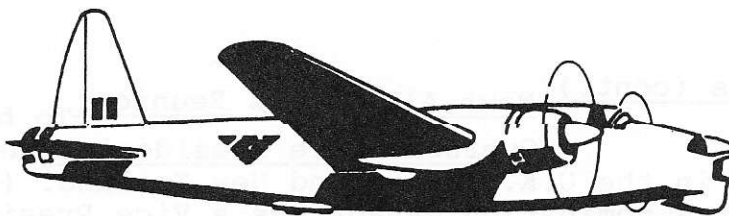


458

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: Ron Russell (Vic.) Squadron Vice Presidents:
Squadron Treasurer: Peter Alexander (NSW); --Australia- Ted Jewell (.W.A.)
Squadron Secretary: Graeme Coombes (ACT); John Carey (S.A.),
Hon. Squadron Auditor: Bert Thompson (NSW) --Canada Bryan Quinlan (B.C.)
--U.K. To be appointed
--New Zealand--To be appointed

Editor: Peter Alexander.

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*Note: New Address.

HOW JOCK TURNED IT ON--The 25th All-States Reunion at Port Stephens.

With this issue of the News comes a detailed report on one of the most successful of all 458's Reunions. It was planned to the last detail for months in advance--even to the flowers in Motel rooms for members arriving, in special 458 Flower vases--plus tissue kits, etc. While he was closely supported by his N.S.W. Flight Committee and others did a lot (mentioning particularly Bill Fiddes and Eric Munkman), this was Jock's Reunion and will be remembered that way. After 42 years of peace, it was a remarkable achievement. But 458 is remarkable!

Thanks, Jock McGowen !

* * * * *

NEW SOUTH NOTES. from Cy. Irwin.

The detailed report elsewhere with this Squadron News issue will cover the fun and games of the All-States Reunion. This report covers the Squadron Conference which as is normal at Reunions, with the benefit of direct representation from all States, was held at the Marina Resort, Nelson Bay on the Wednesday afternoon. A summary of its decisions, under the chairmanship of Col. Fereday, follow;

N.S. Notes (cont.)Next All-States Reunion.

To be held in Victoria during 1989. Overseas Vice Presidents. There are to be Vice Presidents resident in the U.K., Canada, and New Zealand. (The U.K. Flight is being asked for a nomination, Canada has a Vice President, and N.Z. Members are hereby invited to make a nomination);

Squadron Memorial in the U.K. Frank Robertson is to continue to act in a liaison capacity with the Squadron Memorial at Holme-on-Spalding Moor.

Merchandise. No further production orders for Squadron wall plaques (we have one in stock only). Squadron Ties are still available.

Veterans Affairs matters. Conference heard a report from Peter Alexander on the Veterans Entitlements Act which has brought some disadvantages to Veterans (particularly if they are over 65). Peter is one of the six members of the VEA Monitoring Committee set up by the Federal Government.

Honours for Squadron Members. The Conference decided to confer Life Membership of our Squadron Associations on Peter Alexander and Eric Munkman, Peter's being back-dated to 1985. Suitable badges and certificates will be designed and presented later.

Memorial at RAAF Base, Williamstown. Possibilities to be investigated of a Memorial at this Base, where 458 first assembled.

The Melbourne Cup Raffle. This year's Competition was well supported by members. Our thanks to all who participated. Winners were:

First: Jack Lawson,
Second Mrs. M. Lancaster,
Third: June Pettit.

All horse holders were notified prior to the race.

Our Xmas Get-together.

This will be held at the Air Force/Pitt Club in the late afternoon of Tuesday December 15th.

AND N.S.W. Flight extends to members the wish for a happy Xmas and festive season, and may 1988 bi-Centenary year be a good one for us all.

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VICTORIAN VIEWS. from Stan Tarczynski.

Victoria Flight is delighted at the elevation of Ron Russell to be Squadron President but saddened with his impending departure from Melbourne to the Gold Coast. Ron and Joan have been hosts to our Melbourne Cup Day B.B.Q for 20 years. They have not yet made up their minds to the exact locality of their new home but until the New Year will be staying at their son-in-law's place at 18 Hertford Rd., East Doncaster, 3109. (Record keepers please note).

At the Barbeque. Those in attendance were the hosts, Ron and Joan Russell, son-in-law Joe and children, Andrew and Georgina; Dot and Jack Fleming, Dave and Betty Evans, Ken and Bea Morkham, Elaine Timms, Bill Hurford, Rupert and Beth Pearce, Mick and Mavis Singe, Ern and Helen Laming, Stan Tarczynski and Vin. Clohesy all the way from Hamilton. The winners of the main sweep on the Cup were: Dot Fleming, Helen Laming, and Ron Russell.

Planning. We held our normal Committee meeting and the main item was a decision to form a Project Committee for the 1989 All-States Reunion in Victoria. The first meeting will be held this December. Victorian Flight President Ron Russell welcomed new members Rupert and Beth Pearce, friends of Ern Laming, and, of course, Vin. Clohesy. Vin. didn't waste much time since Nelson Bay as he produced a comprehensive series of brochures for the City of Hamilton-- "Wool Capital of the World" as a suggested venue for the Reunion.

Personal Pars. A letter received from Joan Munday informing of her change of address to 67 Glenalvie Pde., Cannon's Creek, via Five Ways, Vict., 3977. For the uninited--near Tooradin, Westernport Bay. Joan recalls the good times at Reunions, Xmas parties at Woozel And Pat Wurrs when they were at Tooradin. Her son Bruce is on a property

Vic.Views (cont.) in the Adelaide Hills (two boys and a girl). Daughter Anthea (divorced) is living in Brighton, has two girls and is in the fashion business with a partner. Joan wishes to be remembered, particularly to Mick Mather, Kath and Yank Martin, Peter Alexander, Jim Holliday, Sam and Maisie Barlow, Eric Lloyd, Ken and Beat Morkham and to anyone else she has forgotten to mention, she says "Hi!".

Although Ken Morkham has retired for some time now, it is not too late to congratulate him on the Life Membership of the Victorian Institute of Engineers, of which he is the only recipient.

Frank (Shorty) Wilson has left his seaside sojourn at Rye on the Mornington Peninsula and is now living in the outer suburb of Wantirna South, 3152, at 181, Stud Road. Tel: 2222827. His health is not the best. We wish him well and hope he will soon be able to attend one of our functions.

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

I hope I am in time for this issue of the News. Elsie and I have been away for a short holiday to Kalgoorlie and Esperance. When we came home both had caught a bad dose of 'flu which left us pretty crook for a week or two. Happy to say we are now feeling O.K.

Not much Squadron news at the moment. We are having an Xmas dinner function on Sunday December 6th in Manning. It appears at this stage we should have about 50 members, wives and friends turn up, so we are looking forward to a very enjoyable day.

As this is the last news before the New Year I would like to take this opportunity to wish all 458 members and wives a very merry Xmas and happy New Year.

458 SQUADRON COUNCIL JOINS WITH ALL FLIGHTS TO WISH READERS EVERY ENJOYMENT AND HAPPINESS AT CHRISTMAS AND DURING THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR 1988.

NOTE FROM THE (FAR) NORTH. from Sid Thompsett.

I have at long last finalised my move to Lincoln. So, from November 27th my address will be 6, Asheridge, Branston, Lincoln, LN4 1NR, England.

It now gives me three weeks or so to get all straight for Christmas. May I send you all in Australia Christmas greetings and a very happy New Year from the U.K.Flight.

Sid's earlier report, written in anticipation of his move, read:

...I have now retired from work (10 months before my 65th birthday).

Dusty Miller and wife Enid came to London in July but unfortunately I could not get out of a previous engagement. But Norman Duke and Joyce along with Leon Armstrong met them and enjoyed a nice lunch at the Londoner. A few weeks ago Leon and Doreen Armstrong, Mick Mason with Amalia, Harry Bishop together with myself and wife, Violet, went to Norman and Joyce Duke's place near Guildford for a B.B.Q. The weather did its worst and simply poured. But we all enjoyed a very nice get together.

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REPORT FROM NORMAN DUKE ON AN IMPORTANT OCCASION.

May 1st--Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. After a distinguished career of 37 years, and no less than 47 registered engineering patents to his name, Peter Eastcott was being honoured by G.E.C. of Canada at a special retirement shindig. Not-so-old chums from the Malta/Protville era of 458, circa 1942-3, Mick Reid, RCAF Pilot from Mississauga, George Powell RCAF Wireless Op. from Elliott Lake, Ontario, and Norman Duke from Cranleigh, England made a surprise appearance with their wives. Peter was a Navigator with Mac (Bruce McKenzie) in Malta with George as his W.Op. Mick Reid was invited to the rostrum to spill the beans on Peter's wartime record. After the initial shock, a memorable private

In Canada (cont.) reunion continued when we were royally entertained by Peter and his wife, Bea, in their delightful home. We spent the rest of this truly memorable week with Mick and Mary Reid in Mississauga...the old 458 spirit is still alive and well in Canada.

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From Q.Flight (Jim Holliday) and South Australia (Geoff. Esau) Flight News.

With Editorial apologies to them for some abbreviations due to space--and time--shortages. Time because the Editor has been overseas (yes, again) in North America and Christmas holidays are upon us.

Q.Flight. It's pleasing to report that Tony Stone has recovered--back at bowls. Remember Gordon Postle's plea for White Wimpey photographs ? he was inundated with immediate replies and says "Thanks". There was an article, including a photo of the Squadron at Foggia in the Gold Coast Bulletin. The boat in which the photo appears is Gordon's fifth. The first was called 458 and the successors Wimpy. However, none were of geodetic construction.

I saw two cars at the Reunion with 458 as part of the registration and have noted that Len MacDonnell has followed the fashion. Chas Warren's new Campervan is almost in the Wimpy class. Doesn't do any low flying in it --took 21 days from Cairns to Brisbane. Bernie McLoughlin has ceased gallivanting around Queensland as a District Court judge. Has retired and is catching up on sitting still. Sheila and Jack Hobbs temporarily stationary after yet another tour of the Outback. Highlight a flight to Cape York. George Reed was recently up that way fishing on the Norman River.

Three 458ers have recently made contact for the first time: Gary Stephenson, Bone and Alghero; Doug West (of Jock Graham's crew) recently moved from Tasmania and learned about 458 from a Pathfinder neighbour. Seeks a photo of the crew. The third is Gordon Dalrymple--a school teacher, serving all around Queensland until his recent settling in Brisbane.

Q.Flight welcomes them ! Thanks for Melbourne Cup support--Winners were Bob Helyar, Fred O'Brien and Erle Hetherington.

Some regrettable illnesses: Theo Hutton in a nursing home; Hank Ewens has leukemia; Dick Boydell two heart attacks and a gall bladder removal (now recuperated); Ac Taylor has had a growth removed.

* * * * *

S.A. Flight. Compliments to the All-States Reunion organisers. October 18th saw the unveiling of a Memorial to Ron Badger at the Airport--primarily responsible for the concept of the Squadron Memorials there, without his unflagging drive they would not have eventuated. The Service, conducted by Padre Ben Williams was well attended. Bill Taylor spoke for 458. Heather Badger unveiled the plaque on a granite boulder on the lawn.

With regret I advise the recent death of Col. Bowley of Flagstaff Hill. Our sincere sympathy to his widow. (Col was a Fitter on 458 and one of the long-serving members of the Squadron so well remembered by so many--Ed)

Al and Joy Wheat called in on their way home from Port Stephens. The Jack Riseleys, Bill Taylor, John Carey and I met with them together with Al's two sisters, Jean Tonkin of Elizabeth and Isla Shepherd of Perth, at the Talbot Hotel and enjoyed reminiscing for an hour or two over drinks. It was some years since the two Sandgroppers had seen their Elizabethan sister so I can imagine not a little midnight oil being used after we left them.

Speaking of enjoyment, Bert Ravenscroft as previous linkman with the Aviation Institute had been asked to arrange a Sunday lunch for 458. Unfortunately due to his much later than expected return from the Port Stephens Reunion, no date was available prior to Christmas. Happily, he was able to book for Sunday 14th. February 1988. Venue:

Aviation Institute Clubrooms, Adelaide Airport. Same form as 1986. Full Bar and B.B.Q. facilities, table, chairs, inside and out. BYO, snags or cold collation. Telephopne reminders will be organised in late January.

Best wishes for Christmas and the new year (1988) to Squadron members and their families the world over from S.A.

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458 SQUADRON

ASSOCIATION

1987 ALL STATES REUNION



FINAL REPORT ON THE 1987 NELSON BAY / WILLIAMTOWN REUNION.

It took over 18 months to organise, many miles of driving, countless telephone calls, late nights by the dozen, we kept the post office in business with stamp sales and I guess the breweries sold the odd can of Pale Ale, but in the long run it was worth it. The letters that have been received from members from all over bear testimony to the fact that it was a success.

I know that Jim Holliday from Queensland will forgive me for using the words he used to me in his letter, and I quote " A NICE BALANCE BETWEEN COMPULSORY PARADES AND EXTENDED LEAVE PASSES. THE PRESCRIBED MEALS WILL LIVE IN MEMORY AND THE OPPORTUNITIES TO NATTER WERE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS ". Thank you Jim and Peg for those kind words and thanks to all you other kind people who sent me letters and made phone calls, from as far away as Perth.

Let me also thanks those of the Committee who gave me help, the Ladies who sold raffle tickets at the various functions, Those kind people who donated reffle prizes and then to Bill Fiddes who battled on despite having an impending By-pass operation, this he had and was able to attend the 458 dinner at the Bowling Club, my sincere thanks to all, and finally to my wife Anne for putting up with the lawns not being mowed for so long.

We had in attendance some 102 members, not all at the one time some only came for a day or so, mostly they stayed the full time. There were 83 wives so all in all a great roll up of 458'ers after some 40 odd years. There were 6 members who could not come at the last minute one, Charles Forman from Canada passed away late in August. The others who were sick are now well and that makes us happy.

We had a couple on Sick Parade at Nelson Bay, one Tony Stone and the second Sam Barlow, both are now O.K. and we missed them during their short absence.

Financially the reunion was not a drain on Squadron funds which was to a slight degree expected earlier on, nearly \$ 20,000:00 passed through the kitty, a lot of that came from raffles and a very kind donation of \$ 500:00, " to buy the boys a drink " from the late Ted Kennedy, through his brother Les, what a kind gesture from one of our old mates.

LET ME NOW RUN THROUGH THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS.

The Welcome Function at the R.S.L. on the Sunday night had some 169 in attendance, we had a good supply of liquor and lots of small eats, it was a very informal affair with plenty of time to mix around with your old mates.

The Bay Cruise on the Monday was to attract some 144 people and despite being a dull overcast rainy day was voted a great success, we had a sit down lunch at Moffats Oyster Barn and with the weather the way it was and a few grogs here and there all were able to stay on their feet until we tied up at the pier about 4.00 p.m.

Tuesday was our Beach Barbecue, one thing was certain, not one Bikini in sight, it rained on and off all the time, but if they get wet on the inside, the outside looks after itself, and 146 of our gang beleived every word of that famous saying, the Barbecue was catered by a local resturant and with a special 458 Cake he made for us, all agreed it was a great day. We must say though it was a good thing we had Rinso Purcill and Ernie Laming as Officers in charge of erecting tents, seem to have forgotten the Middle East drill. Or at least most had.

Wednesday out to WILLIAMTOWN AIR BASE, I do beleive that a couple of the old huts are still in use, not sure for what purpose, but we were treated to morning tea in the Airmans Mess, after studying the menu for Lunch some of the blokes tried to join up again, Roast Beef, and not out of a tin. We were then taken to a hanger where we were able to study at close hand a Mirage and also a FA.18, we could not look into the cockpit of the Hornet, but after a quick look in the Mirage cockpit it was agreed it was " just a little " more complicated than a Wimpy. Probably the most impressive sight was the tool kit for the Hornet, had to be worth \$ 50.000:00, just as well Otto Mann was not there.

Wednesday night was our 458 Dinner at the Bowling Club, this was a sit down affair and we had the pleasure of the company of W/Cdr. Gary Jent, who was standing in for Air Commodore Denis Robertson, the Air Force had put a special top level meeting on at the last minute, [nothings changed.], We had speeches, not many, Bill Fiddes and myself were presented with a Pewter Tankard, suitably engraved with the 458 Lapel badge attached, all in all a great night, the food was terrific, and lots of it, the amber fluid was in abundance and we had coaches to take us home to avoid the local booze buses.

This function topped the score with 170 members and their wives coming along, not a bad roll up, even Ernie Laming was muttering someting about we got more on parade than he did, a night to remember.

The Squadron Conference was held in the afternoon and Ron Russell from the Victorian Flight was elected President for the next period.

On the Thursday we had the Final Dinner at the Rose Farm, this is a most attractive place, those who wanted could go for a trip around the Farm in "trains" and were then able to study the growing and all aspects of the cultivation of one of the best Rose Farms in the Southern Hemisphere.

We then had cocktails in the Rose Garden with more small "eats" and even had a flying display of the Mirages from Williamstown, we like to think it was for our benefit, it even beat the take off of the five FA/18 Hornets on the day before for noise.

While wandering through the area of the large dining room we were all fascinated by the gigantic Pig on the Spit, this was later to be our main course with all the trimmings, there was Roast Beef, Ham Turkey and you name it was there, it was certainly one of the best if not the best dinner I have ever had, I am sure most members, and there was 148 there agreed. After the main course came the sweets with loads and loads of fresh calories, and strawberries as well, Oh Boy! what a dinner.

At this function we had the pleasure of Sqd./Ldr. Rick Townsend and his wife Jenny as our Guests, Rick was able to relate a story or two after dinner, and was most interested in the cutaway drawings of a Wellington we had on display.

At this function the main raffles were drawn, the prize winners were :-

Accommodation for 5 nights at the Peninsula Motel, donated by Peninsula.	Sam Barlow.
Wellington Take Off, Painting by Tom Moore, donated by Tom Moore.	Dusty Miller.
Book, Wellington Special, by Alec Lumsden, donated by Jock McGowen.	John Excell.
458 Squadron Car Badge (1953), donated by Jock McGowen.	Peter Bailie.
Basket of first class Booze, donated by Harry Baines.	Jack Bevan.
Bottle of Johnnie Walker Red, donated by Marlin Motel.	John Bilney.

Sam Barlow also donated six bottles of first class white wine and these were drawn by lucky number throughout the various functions.

There was also a trip to Newcastle by bus for those who wanted to go, some 20 paid but did not all show up for the trip, I understand that those from interstate enjoyed the visit, a pity Tony Stone was in hospital, I am sure he would have loved a return visit to the Great Northern.

Then there was outside fishing, Bob Lyndon and his faithfuls got up about 5-30 a.m., but I understand the fish were on flexiday or at least that was their story.

We had a Squadron Bowls Day and there were some 13 members under the control of Stuart Ricketts who joined forces with the locals and had a good morning's bowling.

Golf was another story, under the guidance of Lofty Chalmers, ably supported by Max Richards, for those who do not know both Lofty and Max are locals and have lived in Nelson Bay for quite a while, some 22 poor misguided individuals set out to do battle, now for the results :-

The Mens winner	Max Richards.
The Mens runner up	Lofty Chalmers.
The Ladies winner	Zelma Chalmers
The Ladies runner up	Jeanette Hemming.

As Max Richards said later, being a local one gets to know where the Crows nest, and where they like to pick up the balls, could be called "Local Knowledge."

I did not hear one genuine complaint, nor for that matter did any other Committee member, the weather was beyond our control, but just as well we had it that week for the following week, trees were uprooted in a miniature hurricane, so we would have had a bad time as it was the weather was not all that bad.

We had a miniature exhibition at the R.S.L. Function and some items of this were carried on to the other functions. There was a Middle East Map giving our History in that area as well as all the C.O's, D.W.O's etc all those who were the Squadron Notables were mentioned. We had a list of the original 458 members from Williamstown in August 1941, Details of the Wellington Cockpit taken from the Pilots Notes of the day. Many photos as well as the Squadron Albums that had been updated for the reunion, and we also had a display of Vickers Aeroplane models, the same ones as Queensland but again updated.

Finally we all know that the next one is in Victoria and we are all looking forward to good reunion, Mick Singe seems like he has got the job whether he wants it or not, get the lawns mowed now Mavis it could be your last chance for quite a while, all our N.S.W. information will go to Mick and the Victorian Flight to help them put on a good show, and we all wish them luck and look forward to seeing them in 1989.

Thanks for coming, and we hope to see you all again, Jock McGowen and the N.S.W. Flight.

Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.