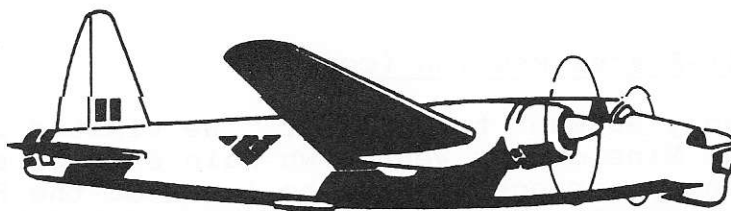


# 458

## 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:John Carey (S.A.) Squadron Vice Presidents:  
Squadron Treasurer:Peter Alexander (NSW)----Australia: Jack Lewis (Q.)  
Squadron Secretary:Graeme Coombes (ACT) Stan.Longhurst (NSW)  
Squadron Hon.Ausitor:Bert Thompson (NSW) Canada Jim.Donaldson (Manitoba)  
U.K. Norman Duke  
New ZealandRon.Verity.

Editor:Peter Alexander

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U.K. Sid Thompsett,6,Asheridge,Branston,Lincoln,LN4 1NR,England.

#### ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ALL-STATES REUNION.

Melbourne was the centrepont of the 26th All-States Reunion of 458 Squadron,in the period 9th-14th April,1989. The Organiser was an Associate Member,Rupert Pearce,to whom the Squadron is indebted and on whose detailed report the following is based.

Victoria Flight engaged the services of Atkinson Conference Services Pty Ltd who provided the administrative back-up. But there was still much planning to be done. My thanks to the ladies,to the Committee,to those who made up satchels,donated prizes,made up photographs,and who helped in many other ways.

We had in attendance 61 members,including four from overseas. There were 53 wives and friends and a number of apologies. It was a creditable roll up,knowing that our numbers are decreasing as time passes.

The Programme. "Meet Your Mates" at the Victoria Hotel was attended by 98. The Squadron Albums had been updated,the Middle East Map,the Wellington photographs at Gibraltar,and the 458 Banner were on display. Bruce Ruxton,State President of the RSL was Guest Speaker. It was an informal occasion with lots of chatter.

The Tour of the City Sights attracted 81. Time was against us but we did see some of Melbourne's Parks,and historic Williamstown. Evensong at St.Pauls Cathedral was attended by 30 members.

26th All-States Reunion (cont.)

On Tuesday 90 went to Ballarat. We visited Sovereign Hill; some went down the Mine, others went down Main Street, and saw life in the 1850s. Les Kennedy arranged for us to lunch at the RSL Club. Later with members of the local Air Force Association and R.S.L. a wreath was laid on the Cenotaph. We returned to the Gold Museum to see more exhibits of local history, including the uniforms of Air Comm. Jack Dowling and of Sister Cuthbertson. Coming back to Melbourne we passed down the Avenue of Honour, elm trees planted in remembrance of servicemen from the Bacchus Marsh — who served in W.W.I. A very interesting day.

On Wednesday, we had 85 on the coaches, firstly to Belgrave, then on the Puffing Billy train to Lakeside. Puffing Billy is a magical symbol of the Dandenong Ranges and travels, as an antique steam train, for 13 k.m through tree ferns and eucalypt forest. Then to Corranderrk Park where it was intended to have lunch before going to Healesville Sanctuary. Unfortunately rain and too many coaches created problems.

Thursday took 47 to Point Cook (now officially, RAAF Base Williams, after the Founding Father of the RAAF, Sir Richard Williams). A 458 Squadron Plaque, presented by Ron Russell was given to the RAAF Museum. The Museum was very interesting but we noted there were no models of the Wellington to be seen. We had lunch in the Sergeants Mess, a short talk on the Flying Training School and so back to Melbourne.

That evening brought the Squadron Dinner at the Air Force Memorial Centre with 109 present. Bill Fordyce, an early 458er was Guest Speaker. He had many humorous reminiscences before, during his POW days, and after his return. Jim Holliday who was in the same POW camp thanked Bill. As a matter of interest, Len Netherway was another member who shared some of Bill's experiences. The food was good, the company excellent and the coaches took us safely back to the Hotel.

Bowls and golf numbers were down and overnight rain caused cancellation.

Finance. It was not intended to make a profit but final figures indicate that we did.

Thank you for sharing those days in Melbourne with us.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY..... from Ted Jewell.

Our President Bill Clues represented 458 W.A. Flight at the wreath-laying ceremony at Kings Park. Many thanks again to Vera Etherton who made and supplied the wreath. Later on, at the March, it was disappointing to see so few line up behind the Banner. We only had eight members this year. W.A. Flight was led as usual by Bill Clues, with Ray Turley carrying the Banner. After the March and Service we retired to the Windsor Hotel, South Perth, for lunch and drinks. Here, we had quite a good roll up. There were about 35 members and wives and friends. We met Doug (Bruno) Anderson at the Anzac Service; said he couldn't march with us as he was marching with his grandson who was with the Vietnam Veterans. Still the same old Bruno.

Personal Pars. Charlie Davis informed me that Al Wheat was down in Perth for an operation but was now doing O.K. and back in Geraldton. Hope you are fighting fit again, Al.

I had a letter from Charlie McCarthy several weeks ago: said he doesn't get out much these days, spends most of his time in the workshop. It was good to hear from him as it has been some time since we had seen him.

Associate Members Phil and Shirley Hicks invited members to their home in March for a BBQ lunch. It was a great day with around 30 people there. We hope to have further functions during the year. Best wishes !

# # # # #

VIC. FLIGHT NEWS.

from Stan.Tarczynski.

The recently-completed successful All-States Reunion in Melbourne is chronicled separately in this issue by Rupert Pearce. For a non-member to have devoted so much time and effort is beyond comprehension. We will not forget you, Rupert, at the Annual General Meeting.

At the time of writing, immediate Past Squadron President, Ron Russell, has spent a week in hospital for observation, and finally for transfer to the Austin Hospital for major heart surgery, which was of six hours duration. Six years ago he had a by-pass operation. The last report is that he is in intensive care but will be able to see visitors in a few days time.

Anzac Day.

One of the biggest spectator crowds for a number of years lined the route to the Shrine on a glorious sunny autumn day. Only 13 458 members marched, led by Jack Fleming, followed by the Squadron banner supported by cadets (2 male, 2 female) from No.2 Air Training Corps. Unfortunately a junior band providing the marching music turned it into a quickstep, causing several to retire.

Two visiting W.A. members got lost on the way, arriving at the Melbourne Bowling Club, Windsor much later, having travelled via the M.C.C. Bowling Club at the M.C.G. Bad luck, John Lilley and Peter McCarthy! Those who marched but did not return to the Club were Vin. Clohesy (all the way from Hamilton), Stan Cartledge and two grandchildren, and Bill Henry whose leg went on him and had to rest. Our deepest sympathy to Bill who lost his wife last October (of which we had not been aware). The others were:

Jack Fleming	Bill Hurford	Mick Singe	Stan Tarczynski	Rupe Pearce
Neil Dean	Tom Primrose	Jack Ellis	Shorty Bradshaw	Arthur Green

Arthur has not been well and had not been sighted for several years. Waiting and lined up at the Bar were Yank Martin (with walking stick), Ben. Cormack, and Ian Alison. John Lilly and Peter McCarthy struggled in later, followed by Kath Martin and Val. Cormack.

Whilst in Melbourne, Ben and Val Cormack stayed with Nancy Cugley and they want to acknowledge her hospitality, as she gave up her bed for them.

A nice letter was received from Thelma Riddoch thanking those members of 458 who attended George's funeral in Ballarat for the floral tribute and for the 458 Banner leading the cortege.

Subs and Functions. Vic Flight members are reminded that annual subs. are now due---\$6, which includes the Squadron News. Subs should be sent to Bill Hurford, Hon. Treasurer, 1/9, St. Johns Avenue, Frankston, 3199. Wives are invited at \$3 to become Associate members.

The usual BBQ on Melbourne Cup Day on the first Tuesday in November will be at Ken and Beat Morkhams', 19 Terang Avenue, E. Burwood--Tel. 288 3116 and festivities commence always before the first race--hope to see some new faces, but let Ken know you are coming.

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BRITISH BULLETIN.

from Sid. Thompsett.

Everything is going along steadily for the Reunion and rededication ceremony on 16/17th. September. The Reunion will be at the Viking Hotel North Street, York on Saturday 16th September at 7.30 p.m. Response has not yet been too great, but quite a few won't commit themselves at present but do expect to come. A few of our members who have never been before will be coming, which will be very nice. A few others who won't be at the Reunion have said they will be at the Ceremony at HOSM, on Sunday 17th, starting at 1445. We will be getting together at the Red Lion from about 12 onwards. Frank Robertson is getting all the finer points of the ceremony sorted out and from what he has told me it should be a very moving and memorable service. Can I ask anyone who intends to come to either or both days to let me know in good time especially the Reunion as I will have to let the Hotel know the actual numbers in good time.

A couple of letters from Ern. Laming have arrived; he is now over in the U.K., so I hope we may be able to speak a while on the 'phone, as he says he is on a very tight schedule. I have to report the death of

British Bulletin (conc'd)

Hugh Hamlet who passed away in late January; he had been suffering from Alzheimers Disease for about two years. (Ed. 458ers will remember Hugh was the Squadron artist and was reputedly the author of our Winged Torpedo emblem. We are sorry to hear of his illness and passing).

Our weather seems to have changed to fine and warm, so let's hope it continues. Best wishes to all in Aussie.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE UPDATING OF THE AUSTRALIAN REPATRIATION SYSTEM.

As Australian Veterans know, after legislation, the Australian system underwent changes in recent years, many of which the ex-service movement has regarded as unsatisfactory and continues to fight to have changed. For instances, treatment of the veteran becoming totally disabled after age 65; and, for further example, the Guide to the Assessment of Veterans Pensions MkII.

That apart, the Department has taken a look at itself and produced a "Corporate Plan" designed to update its activities in the light of the ageing of the WWII veteran. It decided, in April, to send overseas a small party of four to investigate what some other countries have done to adapt for the old age of veterans. The four were the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Allan Kerr), Geoff. Stonehouse, Queensland head of the Department; Alf. Garland (National President of the RSL); and Peter Alexander (as Hon. Secretary of AVADSC). Apart from the updating --called OUTREACH by the Dept-- they were interested in what other countries have done about Veterans Hospitals. (The Australian Government currently proposes to hand the Repat. Hospitals to the States by 1995).

Peter Alexander and Allan Kerr first visited Finland, which has a high reputation. Alf Garland and Geoff Stonehouse were in Egypt at the unveiling of a Memorial at El Alamein.

In Finland we noted their high commitment to rehabilitation, particularly preventative therapy. They believe it better to prevent than to treat illness and offer disabled veterans (accompanied by wives) up to a month annually in a comfortable rehab centre, for test, diet, exercise, etc.)

In the United States the party of four talked in great detail with the American Administration and Veterans associations. The American situation is immense, with perhaps 19 million veterans and 170 hospitals. In Canada, where we had similar discussions in Ottawa, Prince Edward Island (the Shangri-la to which the Canadian V.A. has been sent under (the name of decentralisation) and in Vancouver.

Generally the Canadians do more than we do for the Aged--those left in large houses when the children grow up, who have leaking gutters, long grass to cut, shopping problems, etc. They have a generous system they call V.I.P. (Veterans Independence Programme). Their Hospitals, handed to the Provinces, present problems arising from the different needs of Acute and Chronic (longterm) patients.

Peter's views, which he hopes the rest of the party share (the report is currently under discussion) are as follow:

- a) It is no good the Aust. Government saying it is going to hand over the Hospitals by 1995 and expect ex-service support. It will need to spell out first how many beds it will retain priority for veterans for, in what cities, with what medical and surgical capacities
- b) we should institute as soon as possible a Veterans Care programme like the Canadian system. Perhaps by degrees but soon;
- c) we should copy both Canadians and Americans and provide a free Advocates service for Veterans making applications/appeals;
- d) like the Americans we should provide office space for ex-service Associations in Departmental offices to advise veterans;
- e) we should do something about preventing war-attributable illnesses as distinct from treating them after they occur.

We shall see the Minister on these matters shortly.

Peter had intended to spend a month in Scotland but found his time there

Repatriation. (conc'd)

cut back to a week, before going to Finland. But he, with Rita and daughter Melanie, did spend an idyllic week partly in his ancestral island of Jura in the inner Hebrides, and partly in Kintyre, at the Clan MacAlister Centre (of which he is a Trustee). The weather was beautiful, and the view from Jura over An Linne Rosach (the Sound of Jura), under the setting sun, reminded him of legendary Narnia.

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CORNSTALK COMMENTARY. From Cy.Irwin.

Firstly, from N.S.W. Flight, words of congratulation to Vic. Flight for the very successful hosting of the 1989 All-States Reunion in early April. Returning N.S.W. members who attended were high in praise of their Victorian hosts.

In Sydney, the Anzac Day March and Reunion saw a good roll up of members. The weather dampened the March but the 30 or so members who finally gathered at the Great Southern Hotel for the Reunion luncheon had a pleasant natter over old times, plus a few beers. Reports were presented for the past year's activities and the Committee re-elected under Flight President Eric Munkman. It was pleasing to have with us Fred. Kleckham, who hails from North Queensland. Fred was in Sydney and took the opportunity to link up with some of his old mates. The Roll Call was:

E.Munkman	D.Bitmead	S.Longhurst	J.Aitken	J.Baker
B.Thompson	R.Low	C.Irwin	J.Preston	J.Bevan
S.Ricketts	J.McGowen	R.Smith	R.Lyndon	J.Dunn
R.Scholes	W.Hull	M.Allan	H.Baines	R.Bruce
W.Mobbs	S.Barlow	R.Bailey	A.Ashton	K.Cousins
F.Kleckham.				

An apology was received from Peter Alexander, absent overseas.

Future Events. The Annual R.A.A.F. Association State Assembly will be held at Taree on 17th/18th June. 458 will be represented there.

Lawn bowlers among our members are reminded that the Annual Air Force Bowls Day at West Lindfield is scheduled for August, probably a mid-week day this year. 458 will field two teams and members interested in the day are asked to contact Stuart Ricketts (Ph.817-2414) if they would like to participate.

Also we plan a dinner on June 13th at the Ryde School of Cookery. Contact Eric Munkman 451 0824.

A message to Lofty Bracker, still convalescing after a long illness. He is at present at Buena Vista Private Hospital, Bellevue Hill. We send good wishes and hopes for future improvement.

We have heard with regret recently of the death of Jack Pomfrett, a 458 pilot from the Newcastle area. Our sympathy to his family.

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THE SQUADRON CONFERENCE MEETING.

During the All-States Reunion, the 458 Squadron Conference met. This is the Squadron's top body on which all Flights are equally represented. It received reports and accounts. It awarded Life Membership of the 458 Association to Jim Holliday (who received many congratulations). It approved expenditure on the Holme Memorial and elected Squadron Officers, who now are:

Squadron President	John Carey (S.A.)
" Vice Presidents	Jack Lewis (Q) and Stan Longhurst (NSW)
" Treasurer	Peter Alexander (NSW)
" Secretary	Graeme Coombes (ACT)
" Auditor	Bert Thompson (NSW).

The 1991 All-States Reunion will be in S.A.--probably in the Barossa Valley.

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OVERSEAS SQUADRON OFFICERS.

Squadron Conference confirmed the appointments of Overseas Flight Squadron Vice Presidents, who, with Flight Officers, where such exist, oversee the progress of the Squadron in their country. Those in office are:

U.K Norman Duke: Canada Jim Donaldson New Zealand Ron. Verity.

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CROWEATERS CAUCUS.

from Ted. Creighton.

But it will rain on Anzac Day!

The driest State in the Continent was living up to its name. Adelaide had seen little or no rain since Xmas. So, for weeks and weeks the feeling was--it will break on Anzac Day--it always does. But lo and behold! the day dawned bright and clear. Sighted at the Airport at 9.a.m, were Sid Bartram, Geoff Esau, Bert Ravenscroft, Peter Thom, Bill and Madge Taylor, Ted and Freda Creighton. Kath. Bax, with arm in plaster, had been ferried to the Service by Kevin Tait. It was good to see you, Kath. President John Carey placed the Squadron wreath.

Additional to the Airport stalwarts, our ranks at the March were made respectable by the addition of: Eric Baker Bill Cribb Keith Grimshaw Col. Hutchinson Bert Oliver Reg. Priest Brian Woodhead. Our supernumeraries Paul Hallam, Alec McKinnon, and Lynn Skinner also turned out. Friends of the Bartrams, Don Porteous, Bill Sinclair and Jack Nelson attended the Airport Service, Marched with us and were present with their partners shepherded by Pat Bartram, at the Talbot. After the long hike down to the Cross of Sacrifice and back again to the Talbot in really warm and sunny conditions all and sundry settled down in the Garden to enjoy a beer or two. We were heartened to see that the all and sundry now included Jack and Verna Riseley with daughter Donna chatting away merrily with Pat and Joyce Enright--but then guess what? Down came the rain and we got water in our beer. Viva Anzac Day, S.A.--the season HAS broken. The wreck of the Wimpeys. An interesting note from Col. Hutchinson.

Dear Ted, I recently entertained a bloke named Frank Walker who was in the R.A.F. for some 27 years. In wartime Frank was a T/W/O Mechanic Airgunner and had his hands badly burned. He gave me some interesting Gen on the 458 Wimpeys we flew back to Lyneham from Gibraltar. The aircraft were all sent to the Central Disposal Unit at Little Rossington, Gloucestershire in late 1945/early 1946. Here they joined all the other Wimpeys to have guns, radio, radar, instruments and engines removed. Then each had one wing lopped off and all the aircraft were stacked "wing up" at 90° in close formation side by side until they were later wrecked for the metal in the airframes. A sad end I thought but there it is!--Col. (Ed. We understand that about 13,000 Wimpeys were made and now two remain. Someone did a monumental job of sabotage!)

Personal Pars.

Vale Ron McRae. With regret we record the death of Ron McRae on May 3rd 1989. Bert Ravenscroft represented the Squadron at the Funeral Service and a Squadron donation has been made to the Heart Foundation.

In hospital for eye surgery Arn. Scholar unfortunately could not attend Anzac Day Parade. Hope you are seeing things much brighter now, Arn.

Brian Woodhead has changed address to enjoy the breezes at 9, Glassenbury St. Goolwa, 5214, Tel 085 553871, while Pat Enright has had to forsake Robe for 4, Koonunga Ave., Rostrevor 5073 Tel. 3372989.

NEXT ALL-STATES REUNION ! 458 SQUADRON 50th. ANNIVERSARY ALL-STATES REUNION SOUTH AUSTRALIA 1991. OCTOBER 20 to 24 inc. WATCH FOR FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RESERVE THE DATE!.

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Q. FLIGHT NEWS. from Jim. Holliday.

Anzac Day.

Queensland's record and almost continuous rains did not respect Anzac Day. It showered and marching numbers were down.

A few of our younger 458ers braved the elements. For the first time, yours truly, recovering from a dose of 'flu and brow-beaten by

Q.Flight News (cont.)

his Doctor, fell out. Numbers, too, at the Reunion were down. The muster included Jack Lewis, Chester Jones, Bob. Helyar, Bert Garland, Eric Kelly, Bernie McLoughlin, Clive Wyman, Jim. Holliday, and four stalwart Associates. Apologies were received from Gary Dalrymple (holidays), Dud. McKay (growing mouldy in Cairns' continuous wet), Bernie Hughes (having a hiccup with his heart), Al Stone (another minor operation on his back), Keith Campbell (reunion with his wartime colleagues), Gordon Cuthbertson (chronic maladies restricting his driving), Jack Baxter (full of 'flu), Ron Russell (delayed in Melbourne with a Heidelberg recall), Jim. McKay (nursing an ankle), Gordon Postle (business interfered), Don. Brandon (family visit to Adelaide). As predicted, Jack Lewis was re-elected as Flight President and yours truly given the mantle of Sec/Treasurer. It was our last Reunion at the Atcherley Hotel --it's due to be demolished. Fortunately Bernie McLoughlin has arranged future reunions at the Irish Club.

Victoria. Congratulations to Victoria on the Melbourne Reunion. The contingent of sixteen from Queensland gave it a XXXX rating. Among the points winning our plaudits were Bruce Ruxton's address, the warm welcome at the RSL Ballarat, and Squadron member, Bill Fordyce's after (official) dinner speech which was not only informative but sparkled with wit. B.G.S., Victoria!

Life Membership. Of course, the Melbourne Reunion of '89 will always be special for me, it was there that you good folk of the Squadron, through the Squadron Conference, conferred on me the honour of Life Membership. I treasure this distinction and will wear the badge with great pride. Thank you all. It's been a pleasure to contribute to the continuance of friendships formed when serving the Squadron.

Padres' Tape. On the 'bus to Ballarat, I was surprised by the playing of the "Padres' Tape" over the PA. Eric Munkman was the inspired sponsor. The making of the tape arose from desperation. At the Interstate Reunion at Broadbeach in June 1970 (it celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Squadron Stand-down at Gibraltar) a Church Service/wreath-laying ceremony could not be arranged. To provide a substitute I wrote to the three Padres, Johnny McNamara, Bob. Davies and Fred McKay, pleading that each voice a "message" on tape. Those messages were played prior to the session on the "unwritten" history of the Squadron. The tapes then languished in my archives until 2 years ago when Bernie McLoughlin asked for copies. These he distributed among Squadron mates and sent a copy to the Canberra War Memorial. Al. Wheat sent a copy to Norman Duke in Britain. I have supplied copies from the "Master" tape to some 8/9 members who asked in Melbourne. Should other members desire a copy, the cost, including pack and post, is \$4.

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CALL THE ROLL ! An Alphabetical List of those attending functions during the Melbourne All-States Reunion, 1989.

Alison, Ian	Anderson, Don and Joan	Archbold Wal and Dora	Bailey, Ralph
Bartram, Sid and Pat		Bevan Jack and Lucy	Bilney, John
Bitmead, Don and Bev		Brain, George and Beatrice	Brandon, D & T
Carey, John and Pat		Chapman, Bill and Anne	and Mrs. Moncrieff
Vin. Clohesy	Coombes, Graeme and Dulcie	Cribb, Bill and Pat	Crowley, L and B
Cugley, Nancy	Cormack Ben & Val	Dean, Neil and June	Evans, Dave & Betty
Excell, John and Ruth		Fereday, Col	Firth, Dave
Fleming, Jack and Dot		Foote, Sel	Fordyce, Bill
George, Kevin and Dawn (NZ)		Giles, Ian and Beryl	Green, Ivan & Irene
Hamilton, Jack and Elsie		Hobbs Jack and Sheila	Holliday, J & P
Hurford Bill and Anne		Kelly, Eric & Kath	Kennedy, Les
Laming, Ernie & Helen		Lehdey, Arthur	Leonard, P & E
Lewis, Jack and Evelyn		Longhurst, Stan and Jean	Martin, H & K
McGowen Jock and Anne		Miller, Ron and Enid	Morkham, K & B
Munkman, Eric and Dorothy		Netherway, Len and Reabie	Maxwell
Palmer, Jim and Lucy		Pearce, Rupert and Beth	Percy, Cec
Purcill, Eric and Gloria		Ravenscroft, Bert & Lorna	Riddoch, T & R.
Russell Ron and Joan		Showell Ian and Fee	Simpson S. & M
Singe, Mick and Mavis		Smith, Bert and Christine	

Strom Fred and Lil McGlynn  
Ward, Frank and Thelma  
Williams, William and Shiela (Wales).

Tarczynski Stan and George  
Wilks, Frank and Hilda Wyman, Clive

plus  
James, Jimmy Johnston, Eric, who attended the dinner.

Members not with us due to health or other circumstances:

Alexander, Peter and Rita  
Baines, Harry and Nita  
Baxter, John  
Cuthbertson, Gordon and Pat  
Godfrey, Harry  
Lloyd Eric and Bridie  
Oliver, Herbert  
Timms, Elaine  
Whitten, Jim and Dorothy.

Ashworth, Harry and Nell  
Baker, Red Jack Baker, Eric  
Carpenter, Norm.  
Fiddes, Bill and Inge Garland, Bert  
Kennedy, Flora Laughlin, Bill  
McLoughlin, Bernie Nash, Gordon  
Taylor, Bill Tarczynski, June  
Verity Ron and Mary (NZ) Wyman, Joan

AND  
Ken Morris of Leeds, England, sent his best wishes for a successful Reunion.

Computer print-outs were kept of attendances at all the Melbourne Functions.

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