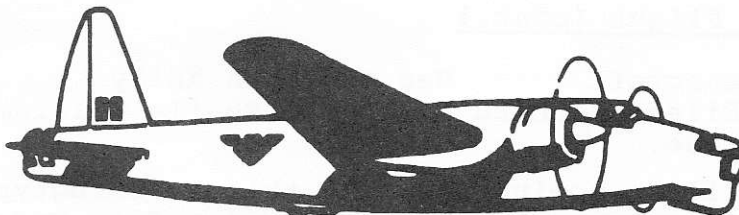


458

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	Mick Singe (Vic);	Squadron Vice Presidents:
Squadron Treasurer	Peter Alexander	Australia: Bert Ravenscroft (S.A.)
Squadron Secretary	Graeme Coombes (ACT)	Jim Palmer (WA)
Hon. Sqdn. Auditor	Frank Ward (NSW)	U.K. Peter Leonard (Wales)
		Canada Jim Donaldson (Manitoba)
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THE NUMBERS GROW FOR ALL-STATES REUNION, St. KILDA, 1995.

The Victorian Flight News. from Rupert Pearce.

This will be the last News before the Reunion so, please return your registration before the 25th October. Do it now! The Guest Speaker at the Squadron Dinner will be Wing Commander Peter Isaacson, AM, DFC, AFC, DFM. He had a distinguished war record and is currently Chairman of the Shrine of Remembrance.

Acceptances to date are in from the following:

Jim and Lucy Palmer	Jack and Dot Fleming	Don and Joan Anderson
Cyril and Hetty Murray	John and Pat Carey	Bob and Dorothy Smith
Bob Bruce	Vic Gibbons	Tom and Val Moore
Kevin and Dawn George	Eric and Dorothy Munkman	Ivan and Irene Green
Bill and Dorothy Turier	Mick and Mavis Singe	Ron and Joan Russell
Don and Bev Bitmead	Peter Bitmead	Al and Joy Wheat
Bert and Marjorie Oliver	Wal and Dora Archbold	Bill and Flip Kelliher
Peter and Rita Alexander	Ian Showell	Harry and Nita Baines
John and Ruth Excell	Ron and Sue Eggers	Sam and Maisie Barlow
Peg Cuthbertson	Dusty and Enid Miller	Frank and Thelma Ward

From Vic Flight (cont.)

Bert Ravenscroft Ned and Kath Kelly Rupert Pearce
 Peter & Eileen Leonard William & Sheila Williams Jock McGowen
 Tom Primrose.

Others will be coming in while this is being typed. There have been a number of apologies. We quote one---from Padre Bob Davies: "I have a warm affection and respect for the men of 458 Squadron; please give them my very best wishes for a very happy and worthwhile Reunion."

Personal Pars.

Bill Fordyce asks members for information about Jim Paroissien who was with the Squadron in the Middle East, for his son, Brian Paroissien, Suite 5, 861 Doncaster Road, Doncaster East Vic. 3109 (Tel. 03-9840 2255). Leslie Russell, 60 Reynolds Parade, Pascoe Vale South, 3044 Tel. 03- 9386 2948) seeks information re Arthur Rowe who served with him at Berca and may have been a member of 454 Sqdn. Dave Firth writes that following an operation for cataract, he expects to move to Tatura.

Vale. We are saddened to tell of the sudden death of Jack Cruttenden on August 13th. He was a member of Dusty Miller's crew. Our sympathy to Audrey and their children Lois, Ross, Kenneth and Hilary. 458 was represented at his funeral service in Geelong by Dusty Miller, Jack and Dot Fleming, Ian and Beryl Giles.

Our Annual Meeting. There were 27 members present and 14 apologies. Mick Singe and Rupert Pearce continue as President and Secretary, Neil Dean was elected as Treasurer; Jack Fleming and Jack Ellis continue in their positions.

Australia Remembers. Jack Ellis represented 458 at a ceremony to remember two Air crashes at Arthur's Seat near Dromana. One, an Avro Anson in 1938, the other a Beaufort bomber in 1942.

Thousands of wooden crosses have been placed at the Shrine of Remembrance in honour of the War Dead. The crosses will in the end be burnt and the ashes spread in the Shrine area.

Bill Fordyce featured in a story on the making of alcohol during his P.O.W. days broadcast live from a Gala Tribute at the Palais Theatre.

Advance Notices. R.S.L. Annual Remembrance Service at the Springvale War Cemetery on 5th November at 2.30 p.m.--expected to conclude at 4.p.m.

Melbourne Cup Day--7th November. This year we will meet at the R.A.A.F. Association at South Yarra at 11.30 a.m.

R.A.A.F. Association Pilgrimage to Point Cook--12th November. Service commences at 11-30. Light lunch available for \$10 at the Officers Mess. A free bus trip for those unwilling to drive. Bookings needed by October 25th. Further information from the Flight Secretary.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION. from Jock McGowen.

Eric Munkman has asked me to include these few words as he was unable to get them in last time. "In our May issue, mention was made of changes in office-bearers and I name Stan Longhurst and Jock McGowen...a few words from me are called for. Firstly, Stan has been Flight Treasurer for some 25 years. Took the job until we found someone else. Stan, it goes to show--never volunteer! Stan has held the money strings so well for so long and I wish to thank him personally for the job well done and the assistance he has given....Thanks, Stan. Jock was Secretary for some 8 or 9 years and his efforts have made my life easier--particularly with the Nelson Bay and Canberra All-State Reunions. His work is well known to all of us. His final effort was the presentation of his model collection to the No.8 E.F.T.S. Museum in Narrandera, as a lasting tribute to the 458 boys who gave their all. Thank you, Jock, for a job well done."

*In June we had another beautiful TAFE Luncheon at Ryde. Present were: Kevin Barlow, Bob Bruce, Iris Ricketts, Stan Longhurst, Bob Millar, Eric Munkman, Bill Hull, Bob Smith, Frank Ward, Don Bitmead, Jock McGowen, Kevin Thompson and Noel Walter in most cases with wives and in some cases by friends. A good lunch.

The Cornstalk Communication (cont.)

The next Luncheon will be held on Friday November 3rd. First in first served. Ring Eric Munkman to make your booking.

*Congratulations to Eric and Dorothy Munkman--50 years of wedded bliss. Keep it going, you pair. With heart by-passes and knee operations, you'll be around for another decade or so.

*After the Australia Remembers March on August 12th, we met at the Criterion Hotel for a beer or two. A pleasant surprise was Bill Addinall and his wife Mavis. They met and married at Gibraltar. Mavis was a Wren. Bill's gunner Dave Westgarth and his wife Judith were there. We hope they will make the Melbourne Reunion and meet up with another old crew member, Donald Strong. Others at this function were: Peter Alexander, Harry Baines, Sam Barlow, Don Bitmead, Keith Cousins, John Dunn, Merv Hargreaves, Stan Longhurst, Bob Lyndon, Jock McGowen, Eric Munkman, Pete Pettit, John Preston, Bob Smith and Noel Walter. A pleasant little gathering, and the beer was good.

*Had a short talk with Tony Stone. He is still battling on; must be a down somewhere---he has given up his beloved XXXX for Toohey's Blue. Bill Fiddes is up and about again after his second by-pass. Last one in 1988. He is driving his beloved Leyland P76 again, so must be O.K.

*Finally; a last chapter about No 8 E.F.T.S. Narrandera. A bronze plaque has been mounted in the Museum reading:

JOCK MCGOWEN GIFT-APRIL, 1995.

The spirit of the No.8 E.F.T.S. Memorial enhanced by the gift of model aircraft by Jock McGowen, April, 1995. Dedicated to members of the R.A.A.F. who sacrificed their lives in the cause of freedom especially those of 458 Squadron and No.8 E.F.T.S.

As far as can be determined this is the only Memorial to 458 which is available to the Public to see---others are all on Air Force Bases. So it makes me very proud to be associated with this Memorial and also to be a member of 458.

* Get in line for the Melbourne Reunion. Air Fares never cheaper if you quote Australia Remembers. Jock McGowen.

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CROWEATERS CHINWAG. from Ted Creighton.

A roll call of 35 made our midwinter luncheon at the Feathers--a great success and showed that S.A. Flight can break its hibernation if it wants to. The mob came from far and wide. Jim Perry headed down from Port Augusta, John and Ruth Excell from Murray Bridge, Bert Oliver with the help of a stick and Marjorie were up from McLaren Vale, and Col and Yvonne Hutchinson came out of the Hills of Ashton. Roger and Margaret Angove made sure there was a Doctor in the House. Buck Pedersen couldn't come but sent a donation to buy the boys a drink--cheers, Buck! We were pleased Verna Riseley joined us. Barbara Ringwood was there even though John had high-tailed it to the Oshkosh Air Show. The Yanks had better brace themselves for a visit from Kevin Tait and Ivy Smart. Ian Showell sent apologies.---the Old Man of the River bobbed up recently on TV in a segment of the "Spirit of S.A." which recognises people who have made their mark in South Australia. Tim O'Riley phoned in apologies and mentioned that Wally Beer's letter of a few issues back reminded him that he has an excellent photo of Wally's cottage in the UK.

Fin Mitchell has been on Sick Parade at Glenelg Community Hospital. Ian Sorell, navigator with Jim Munday in the early days and now having to battle a bloke named Parkinson, has deemed it prudent to change his address to the War Vets Home. Our best wishes to Ian and to longterm resident Arn Scholar. Bill and Pat Cribb have changed their address---incidentally to just a chip shot from the Feathers. A note from Jim Palmer brought us up to date on Hank Ewens and we have moved his name onto the post-war Casualty List. Last issue, the Gremlins got amongst this List and unfortunately the names of Alf.

Croweaters Chinwag (cont.)

Conway, Tom Hanlon, Col. Michell and Ray Warwick missed publication.

One Final IMPORTANT item. S.A. Flight members are urged to attend the Annual Get-together at the Adelaide Airport from noon on Sunday November 5th. Usual arrangements and seating indoors. IT IS IMPORTANT DISCUSSION IS HELD IN RELATION TO THE NEXT ALL STATES REUNION PROPOSED TO BE PRESENTED TO THE SQUADRON COUNCIL LATER IN NOVEMBER.

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS. from Jack Lewis.

It has been quiet Q.Flight-wise, what with some on cruises and overseas trips and interstate and this made it difficult to organise a winter social.

Personal News. Received a letter from Danny Dangaard recently. He is well, but his wife, Vera has not been the best recently. Bob does not expect to make the November Reunion, wishes he was as fit as he was fifty years ago. Don't we all, Bob! Bob says Earle Hetherington has another Mercedes and is busy planning a trip around Australia. Pretty good for a man of 83.

Flight President Eric Kelly and wife Kath leave on 17th August for 25 days holiday flying to Darwin, then a coach trip down the W.A. coast to Perth, where Eric expects to meet with Lock Simpson. Then flying back to Brisbane.

Don Brandon is away for three weeks south to meet his old friends Bob and Ruth Foster from the U.S.A. who will be flying into Richmond. Bob is a Chaplain with the A.A.F. Don will be their host and will show them around during their stay. He hopes to contact Frank Ward and others of his old crew.

V.P. Day. Was a great success in Brisbane--celebration and Remembrance. We had a wonderful crowd viewing the Celebration March of ex-servicemen and women involved in the anxious days of the Pacific War. Not forgotten were serving personnel and school children--all receiving a tumultuous applause. It was great to see so many young children in the crowd: they really cheered the marchers and did their share of showering us with streamers, etc. Unlike Anzac Day the march was not organised as marching units. All ex Navy together; likewise with Army and Air Force. One disappointing fact. Q.Flight only managed to have President Eric Kelly, Judge Bernie McLoughlin and myself representing.

Heard only to-day news of Harry Dorge, Toowoomba who has had a complete knee replacement and still not mobile. Hopes to make the Melbourne Reunion. Cheerio till next time--I'll see you in Melbourne Jack Lewis

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KIWI CALL. from Kevin George.

As usual little that is newsworthy from New Zealand. You may be interested to hear that as a result of a long and extensive wet period, New Zealand is importing vegetables from Australia. However, there are signs in Northern N.Z. at least, that we are drying out somewhat.

In response to your enquiry, I am pleased to be able to advise that my recovery is "proceeding well", thank you. I can now walk distances and without a limp if I slow down to a pace appropriate to an elderly gentleman.

The usual team, Ivan, Ron, Arch and Kevin, accompanied by their wives is intending to be present in Melbourne in November and are looking forward to the Reunion with pleasurable anticipation. On this occasion Qantas has agreed to grant quite generous fare discounts for our international and internal air travel. Kind regards, Kevin G.

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CANUCK CAUCUS. from Jim Donaldson.

With me being chief cook and bottliewasher, as all the other things that being a wife entails, that we men know so little about until the time comes, when due to circumstances beyond our control we are forced into the position that we have to admit it sure would be nice

Canuck Caucus (cont.) to go out and just earn some money again.

So, my excuse for my not getting my reply back to the Editor on time is: the reminder did not arrive until 16th and there was no way Canada Post could get it back on time even if I wrote right back: another reason is I had absolutely nothing to write about. That is, unless I write about forest fires and lack of rain, and you I am sure know enough about them from your own experiences at home.

We are learning a lot more about Australia and the rest of the world with the new TV channels that have come on line in the last year. The wife and I regret the fact that we did not see more of the world. However, we have lots to be thankful for, and now the world is coming to us.

Good health and God Bless to you and all our mates. Jim.

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THE BRITISH BULLETIN. from Norman Duke.

Writing in haste. Hope it arrives before the deadline.....

As requested by Squadron President Mick Singe, preparation is well under way to produce a nominal roll of current U.K. Flight members, listing their service with 458, for presentation at the November Reunion by our U.K. Vice President, Peter Leonard. A most interesting and rewarding task for "yours truly".

Personalities.

Norman Gilbert has unfortunately been hospitalised recently with what is described as a "mini stroke". The good news is that after a delicate op. to a neck artery he is en route to full recovery, and should pass his next D.I. with flying colours. Best wishes, Norman, from all of us.

Margot Knight. We were delighted to make contact with Margot, the widow of Robin Knight, after receiving her address from Eric Munkman during his whistle stop VE tour. A proud grandmother of 9 grandchildren, she sends us up to date news of her family. Eldest son, Oliver, now retired from the R.A.F. and lecturing to budding Air Attaches; son Roland, an aeronautical engineer stationed in Nairobi with 3 sons; and daughter Rosemary with her hands full with four children and a surgeon husband. It was good to learn that she still receives greetings from some of Robin's former crew.

Jock Pattison. Correct spelling this time.... is still keeping the flag flying at Holme--and his powered glider flying. He tells me he managed an aerial salute at the local VE night celebrations on May 8th. last.

Edgar Carter Jones. So many of our Squadron members have led very full and active lives. Among other talents, Ed has managed to fit in 25 years as a magistrate and JP. Also I am sure he will not mind my mentioning, particularly in the week when we commemorate VJ Day, that he is the current President of the Formby British Legion.

Fran Baggott..... a trip down memory land for you, Peter. Your old friend describes a 'close encounter' our Editor had with a scorpion whilst living under canvas with the Squadron in Palestine. How fortunate for us all you survived. (ED. Actually, it was a (large black) Centipede)

I met a very engaging Aussie at my local golf club last week. He was visiting from Perth with his Pommy brother-in-law (or outlaw as he described him.). You bump into these odd types everywhere these days! Anyway he recounted a tale about his grand or great grand father who had a piece of land down east in South Australia who once employed Ned Kelly as a stockman. A good yarn, eh. Maybe you've heard this one before a time or two or three. (ED. Clearly we must study Ned's history more closely!)
"Bye for now, Kind regards Norman.

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

Associate members Phil and Shirley Hicks had W.A.Flight members to their home on July 2nd for a casserole lunch;ladies taking a hot dish. We all had a great day with about 20 turning up. Everyone had a very enjoyable time.

Passing of two Original 458ers. Two original 458 members who were with the Squadron when it was first formed passed away during July. Ernie (Skeeta) Staveley on 7th July;Syd Baker on 21st July. They will be remembered by everyone--Skeeta particularly for his glass-eating Act. Personal Pars.

Peter McCarthy has had a spell in hospital after having a blood clot removed. John Lilley is having another spell in Hollywood Hospital;has been there for three weeks I was told.

At a Service for the Victoria Celebrations on 15th August,in Kings Park,Henry Etherton laid a wreath at the War Memorial in remembrance of all past 458 Squadron members.

V.P.Day Function. Our Flight President Bill Clues organised a lunch on 15th August at the Freeway Motel in South Perth to help celebrate the end of hostility in 1945. We had a very good response seeing it was during the week. A few drinks and some lovely food. 35 people attended the following 458ers and wives included:Bill Clues,Ted Jewell, Doug Anderson,Gordon Jones, Henry Etherton,Bill Kelliher,Ray Turley, Stan Hopewell,Jim Palmer,Norm Carpenter,and Ben Cormack. Regards,Ted.

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ROUND and ABOUT--a VETERANS VIEW.

The year Australia has remembered has,so far,been a very considerable success in its two objectives---enabling those of us who played some part in WW II to remember and rejoice;and,perhaps more importantly, making an impact on Australians of to-day and on the Press. There have been a host of events well organised and generously supported by the Minister and Department of Veterans Affairs--to whom very great credit. 458 has taken part as we should. We have been represented in Europe and North Africa by Eric Munkman.

We hope the year will finish on an excellent note with the issue of an Official Australian Veterans Charter,setting out Australia's long commitment to its Veterans and their widows. The Department of Veterans Affairs is currently,under its present leadership,co-operative and helpful. The same cannot be said for some other Federal Ministers and Departments. The RAAF Association has been held up for over three years by the Department of Administrative Affairs in its endeavours to start a Retirement Estate in Sydney in ways we would call unbelievable if we didn't think most readers would find them only too believable. But we are winning.

Progress of an Appeal. Smoking while on service has been accepted by the Veterans system as a cause of various disabilities and/or death. It used to accept smoking as a cause of prostate cancer. A recent change of the law introduced a system whereby a panel of Professors issue Statements of Principle determining what causes which ailments. They disallowed smoking as a cause of prostate cancer. Result:those who claimed before a certain date (or their widows) were accepted. Those claiming later are not. This unsatisfactory situation is being challenged by an appeal to a new system of appeals against the Statements of Principle by another group of professors (the Specialist Medical Review Council--SMERK is its acronym). We (your Editor is involved in the review--not the ailment!) are preparing lengthy cases and evidence while the new system lumbers into being.

Indemnity for Advisors. Veterans advisors and advocates (even when volunteers) are liable at law for giving wrong advice--no matter however honest and careful. This situation is to be remedied with Department of Veterans Affairs help and we are serving on a Steering Committee planning provision of Indemnity Insurance for the Advisor and his/her Association.

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