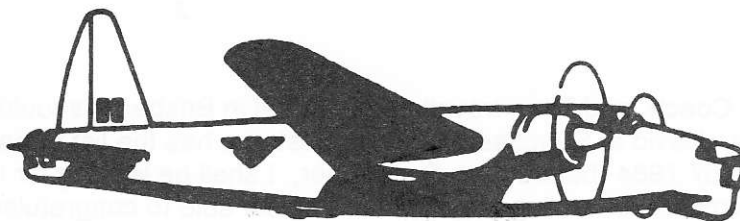


458

SQUADRON NEWS



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4 5 8 S Q U A D R O N C O U N C I L

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ON YOUR MARKS.....

All is set for the All-States Reunion at Caloundra. There is a very good attendance coming. We look forward to some lovely Spring weather on the Golden, Pacific Coast--in the company of many old friends. See you there!

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Q.FLIGHT NEWS. From Jack Lewis.

All is now finalised or will be for the coming All States Reunion by the time the News is circulated.

To all Air, Coach, and Train travellers on arrival in Brisbane, should you be in doubt for the coach to Caloundra, David at Suncoast Pacific in Brisbane has the list of names. Ring David--3236 1901--or myself --3207 7984 (before 11th September, I shall be leaving for Caloundra that day).

Members attending the Reunion may be able to congratulate the Wallabies on their Bledisloe Cup win--they are in training at Caloundra and have been since May-and will till October.

Our Sick report. Bob Dangaard has not been the best, but still hopes to make the Reunion if his health improves, according to Erle Hetherington. Harry Dorge suffered a heart attack last month and was rushed to hospital but he has registered for the reunion and we look forward to his being there. Frank Wilks, after a spell in hospital with an infection has been transferred to a Nursing Home from the Hostel he has been in for some time. It has been a big worry and strain for Hilda.

Bert and Isla Garland have had to cancel owing to Bert being hospitalised during that week to have a glaucoma operation. I don't think Bert and Isla have missed a reunion for a very long time.

Congratulations to Charles and Hazel Ruthven from Victoria Point--they celebrated their Golden Wedding with family and friends at Redlands Sporting Club recently. Charles is up and down with his health. All the best, Charles.

We in Queensland are keeping our fingers crossed to turn on lovely Spring weather during the Reunion.

Regards. Jack.

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VICTORIAN NEWSLETTER AUGUST 1998

AGM HELD ON MAY 26th. AT THE RAAF ASSOCIATION, SOUTH YARRA

Members present were Neil and June Dean, Ron Eggers, Jack and Margaret Ellis, Don and Shirley Granger, Ken and Joann Hinton, Harold and Cath Martin, Beatrice Morkham, Rupert Pearce, Norma Pollard, June Shoppe, and Mick and Mavis Singe. There were 19 apologies.

Mick Singe was re-elected as President. Rupert Pearce was re-elected as Treasurer-Secretary. Jack Ellis was elected as Senior Vice President. Don Granger was elected as Junior Vice President. Lunch was taken at the conclusion of the meeting.

Social Activities - Lunch at the RSL Frankston on 23rd June was enjoyed by Neil and June Dean, Ron Eggers, Jack and Margaret Ellis and 2 friends. Ken and Joann Hinton, Don and Shirley Granger, Roy and Barbara Pearce, and Mick and Mavis Singe. There were 6 apologies.

Cup Day: We are awaiting advice as to whether this will be held at the RAAF Association, Cromwell Road, South Yarra or at the Oakleigh Masonic Temple at Drummond Street, Oakleigh. If held at South Yarra, lunch will be provided, if held at Oakleigh, it will be a BYO BBQ. Our members will be contacted as soon as the venue is known.

Personal - Harry Godfrey had a 4 bypass operation on his 80th birthday. Prior to the operation, the nursing staff presented him with a cake and insisted on singing 'Happy Birthday'. He is well.

Mick and Mavis Singe are presently in Western Australia. Mick is to have a knee replacement on August 18. We trust it will be successful.

Christine Smith has had a long period in hospital and in rehabilitation. We are pleased to tell she is progressing.

Jack Fleming is still under doctor's orders and Dot says his eyes are a big worry. He has a problem in reading the paper and doing crosswords.

Joan Munday is now living at Coronet Bay, Victoria.

Doff Pollock is a resident at Peppertree Hill Village at Rowville, Victoria and enjoying its facilities.

VALE - We regret to report that the private funeral of Gordon Orchard was held on June 9. Gordon was a well known pilot with the Squadron in the Middle East before returning to Australia. He served as a Wing Commander, with a Liberator Squadron in the South West Pacific area before being discharged. He left a wife and 7 children.

Also that John (Roger) Rodwell died on July 15 after a long illness. He was in hospital in Melbourne before returning to his home at Merbein. He was a fitter 11a and an original member of the Squadron, serving at Holme on Spalding Moor and the Middle East. Roy Raybone attended his funeral as an old friend. We have written to the families expressing our condolences on behalf of the Flight.

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PASSING OF A SQUADRON PRESIDENT

As reader's will have read in the Victorian News, Gordon Orchard has passed on. Gordon was a notable Flight Commander of 458 in the Middle East before moving on to promotion. His contemporaries will remember him with keen affection. In the post war years he became the second Squadron President in 1954, at Brisbane, in succession to Lew Johnston. He retained the office until Adelaide in 1956. He was a printer in business. We did not see much of Orch after his marriage but have retained him in our kindest memories.

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SANDGROPPERS SAY from Ted Jewell.

In the West we always boast about our beautiful weather, but at the moment it is far from that, outside we have a wild and windy day with heavy rain.

During July Bernie McLoughlin made a visit to Perth for a few days: Lock Simpson suggested that as many as possible get together for lunch at the A F A , Bull Creek, and then after look through the Air Force Museum. Lock Simpson picked up Bernie from his hotel and brought him along. We had a good roll up for so short a notice: over a few drinks and luncheon we all had a great day with a few tales being told. After lunch some went to the Museum to see W A Flight's display and the new cabinet to house the Flight's banner. Members present were: Bill and Joan Clues, Ted Jewell and Ronnie Matthews (my lady friend), Lock Simpson, Bernie McLoughlin, Len Stewart, Doug. Anderson, Ben and Val. Cormack, Jim and Lucy Palmer, Bill and Flip Kelliher, Stan and Betty Hopewell.

A Sunday Lunch.

On the 5th July, W A Flight was invited along to Phil and Shirley Hicks' home for Sunday lunch, the Ladies bringing along a hot dish. We always have a good time on these days--usually eat too much. I have lost the list of who were there, but altogether we had 20 people for the day. We always have a good showing of associate members at all functions.

Jack Cobb.

I had a long conversation on the 'phone with Jack Cobb the other day. But Jack hasn't been in the best of health, with all his replacements, including four hip operations. He has now turned 84 years; doesn't get around much these days; is interested in the new Air Force Association units being built here in Mandurah.

Best wishes to all--Ted Jewell.

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THE U.K. FLIGHT REPORT. From Norm. Duke.

It is gratifying to report that each succeeding year sees an increase in membership (currently 38) in spite of the annual sad loss of old members and their wives. Thankfully, the jungle telegraph is still operational even if we are not! Due to the wide scattering of members throughout the UK the main chance of getting together is at our annual reunion--I am glad to say increasingly popular and well supported.

However, due to the 'scattering' factor, and to the deaths of former officers, the activities of the Flight have been decided during the last few years by a committee of one. The most important problem to solve in the years ahead is the selection of 'new blood'. I don't imagine this problem is confined to the U K ? Our main point of contact is the 458 Newsletter. Where would we be without it? It keeps us all in touch, and has been instrumental on many occasions in reuniting old comrades.

The Hon/Sec has developed into an information centre, not only for 458ers but also for nephews and families of WW2 serving airmen who are researching family history of parents and uncles now deceased. A very worthwhile function.--see my letter below from Bryan Self of Saltash in Cornwall.

We hope our memorials at Holme-on-Spalding Moor will continue to provide a focus for members and friends of 458 visiting York. Thanks to Frank Robertson they can now combine nostalgia with a pint or a dram at the Cross Keys. Brooklands continues to attract 'Friends of the Wimpey' from all over the world. As with 458 we must try to keep that memory green. With our very best wishes for a successful conference. Norman Duke.

From Norman Duke (cont).

A few days ago I took a very unexpected 'phone call from Bryan Self of 17 Albert Road, Saltash, PL12 4EB, Cornwall. It appears he was visiting a pub in Saltash (everything seems to happen in pubs) when he heard someone in the bar mention '458'. The mystery man was our old friend Hal Lee, who lives in Launceston. (ED. Not the one in Tasmania!)

Bryan pricked up his ears as he knew his late Father-in-Law, J T Ware had served with 458 groundcrew from Holme and on through the Med. He talked with Hal who suggested he call me. Natalie Ware, his widowed Mother-in-Law also lives in Saltash at 38 Hodge Close, and would be delighted to hear from anyone who knew her husband on the Squadron.

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CROWEATERS CHIT CHAT from Ted Creighton.

Fallen Comrades. VALE Arn.Scholar and Doc.Angove. Arn Scholar, after struggling along for a number of years at the War Vets Home, died on May 21. As many Flight Oldies as could manage the trip attended his funeral at Centennial Park. S A Flight owed much to Arn for the long and hard work he contributed in early days. Our thanks, Arn--we salute you!

Doctor Roger Angove died suddenly on July 18. Doc was popular, held in high esteem and had a wide range of interests. This was emphasised by the huge cross-section of mourners from all walks of life who crowded his local church for the funeral service. It was an impressive occasion. 458 was represented by old reliables Peter Thom and Kevin Tait and with Ted and Freda Creighton. Squadron condolences including a card from the President were conveyed to Margaret. Sadly, our gatherings no longer will have a Doctor in the House.

Ruth Senn. Ruth is in the middle of a stiff trot. As reported in the February News, 458er Mel Senn died November 22. In the midst of having to reorganise her life Ruth is presently trying to cope with a broken kneecap. Fortunately, courtesy of a back-seat ride, an extra chair at the table and a lot of help from "Mr Fix-it" Kevin Tait (I don't know what we would do without him) this did not stop her from attending the Annual Luncheon.

Grange Gets another Medal. Three blokes combined to orchestrate another successful mid-year luncheon. Rick Michell turned around slow bookings with his flyer, Bert Oliver made it possible for us to enjoy some of his excellent table wines and Peter Thom's liaison efforts covered weeks of hard work. All this resulted in Bert Ravenscroft welcoming 39 members and friends. A notable face was Ian Showell with son Haigh, while, auguring well for the future, Ned Kelly's grandson Nathan Price and Angela were along for the first time. It was good to see Pat Carey among us again. Apologies received included Jim Perry's--he is still struggling to come to terms with the loss last year of his wife, Joy. Also our senior members Bill and Madge Taylor wisely decided not to brave the chilly winter weather. They both had a lot to cope with some weeks back when Bill decided to experience a bit of downtime. Col.Hutchinson rounded off the afternoon with the skirl of the bagpipes. Our thanks go to our old faithfuls for their continued support each year.

Our Next Important Date. SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15th is our pre Christmas Get together and AGM. Similar arrangements as previously. Barclay Room, Aviation Institute, Adelaide Airport. Bring your own tucker but buy drinks from the bar. We used to say from 12 noon;but it would be nice to have everyone in and settled by 12.30. This would make for better seating arrangements than the musical chairs we played last year.

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THE CORNSTALK COMMUNICATION from Jock McGowen

* With a sad heart we advice the passing on the 12th August of our old friend and Secretary, Cy Irwin. Cy had not been well for some time; he was a Navigator in Clive Wyman's crew. Cy joined 458 at Foggia late in 1944 and went on to 38 Squadron early in 1945. Cy had a family funeral and 458 was represented by Frank and Thelma Ward and Eric and Dorothy Munkman. Our thoughts are with Elaine at this sad time.

Cornstalk Communication cont.

- * We also report the passing of Pat McCullough from Dubbo, NSW. Pat was 2nd Pilot in John Carey's crew. Again our thoughts are with the family at this sad time.
- * No doubt the news of the passing of the following will be covered by their local news. We send NSW sincere thoughts to the families of - "Orch" Orchard, Roger Rodwell, 'Doc' Angove and Arn Scholar.
- A very sad list no doubt, but time marches on.
- * Some happier news now, our congratulations go to: - Tom Moore, Wal Archbold, Merv Hargreaves and Ken Crago, they have all received a commendation from The Air Force Association for 50 years of continuous membership of the Association. Not a bad effort is it, back 50 years ago not many of us thought about the Air Force Association, good on you, again our congratulations.
- * By courtesy of Col Fereday we have received a letter from Frank Robertson, for those who do not know of Frank, he is 458 Squadron, along with one or two others, Commanding Officer at Holme on Spalding Moor. Frank looks after all the graves in the cemetery of "The Church on the Hill" as well as making sure that our memorial at the gates of the old aerodrome is in good shape. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Frank and his helpers, and it seems from his letter that others appreciate his efforts, what with daytime lunches with Black Label and Champers flowing freely, we are happy Frank to see that you are still active and enjoying life; keep going old friend.
- * The NSW Flight had another delightful Lunch at Ryde TAFE College. We had some 27 Squadron members and partners present. It was great to see Reg Hansell back after a recent bout of sickness, keep going Reg.
- * Along with a couple of my mates, I did the tour of Sydney Airport, very interesting with a delightful 3 course lunch included - the good part was a 2/3 hour climb over the Lockheed Super Constellation, great to feel the presence of Gigantic Radial engines, even though they were not Hercules. Total cost including lunch \$95 - if you are interested ring (02) 9928 8400, remember the tour is a full day and worth every penny. I don't get a commission.
- * Next item on the agenda will be Caloundra, look forward to seeing you there, the daily Squadron History will be there thanks to the efforts of Rupert Pearce and his son, they did the printing. I just stuck it together, well over 1000 pages, a great effort from Rupert and his lad, the only comment that can be made is that this history only deals with operations and all the Aircrew get a mention but the ground crew are not mentioned unless they happened to be killed, and there were a few.
- * Peter and Rita Alexander and granddaughter Karen have paid a recent visit to ancestral Scotland. Just a week to see Edinburgh, Stirling, Bannockburn, ancestral Kintyre. Karen and grandfather climbed the hill of Dunadd to see the old coronation stone of Dalriada. Peter says he has recovered from the climb. Rita stayed in England for a while and Karen is still there.

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FRANK ROBERTSON - 4TH RIGHT, at the CROSS KEYS, HOLME MOOR



ALL COMES TO THOSE WHO WAIT

The National office of the Royal Australian Air Force Association in Sydney feels the possible truth of that old saying.

For something like 5 years it has been battling with bureaucracies. Firstly, the establishment of a retirement village at Turrumurra for ex-Air Force people and other veterans. Given warm and continuing encouragement from the Department of Veterans Affairs, it nevertheless had to spend about 3 years battling the Department of Administrative Services for land at a reasonable price (the land was professionally valued 3 times with valuations extending from \$5 million to \$9 million (believe it or not). After that another 2 years struggling with a Municipal Council (the law of defamation stops us from further description of that Council) that was settled. Then arguments with National Parks etc, over the possible fate of yellow bellied burrowing frogs, and red capped toadlets, which nobody ever saw, and over a weedlike shrub called Darwinia, till the project was approved subject to a 110 conditions (believe that also, or not). Then where to acquire multi-million \$ finance.

Now, it does seem that after 5 years the problems are likely to be solved. There has even been talk of making it all easy!

Secondly, there is the proposed memorial for Bomber Command to celebrate the sacrifice and achievements of Australians in RAF Bomber Command - in which over 3,000 young Australians died. Debate with Canberra over the site, say 2 years. Seeking acceptable designs, say 2 years. Result, a deadlock between the Bomber Command Squadrons, who wanted a Memorial which meant something, and representatives of the War Memorial who wanted, apparently, contemporary sculpture, e.g. a couple of pieces of metal swinging in the air. Now it seems we could get a design that we can accept, and we are promised some financial support from the government.

And thirdly! As readers will remember, our 458 Squadron Crest adopted and used in the Desert, was not then registered. After the war we applied to have it registered. After petitions, we were told that the Chester Herald would accept our design, but the peacetime RAAF would not. About twenty years later we tried again. This time the serving Air Force agreed. But the Chester Herald said No. Quite recently we understand the RAAF has taken away from the Chester Herald the right to decide. So, it looks as though we can try again.

So, all comes to those who wait??

Look forward to the next gripping instalment!

Future queries coming up include will GST be payable on annual subscriptions? What anomalies will arise in the availability of the Gold Card? And finally what will we have to pay to go into a Nursing Home?

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