

CIRCULAR

458 SQUADRON NEWS



The Editor

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SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE.....

Squadron Council meets in Sydney.

458's Central body, the 458 Squadron Council, met in Sydney on Sunday October 23rd. The Squadron President, Gordon Orchard, who had come up from Geelong, presided. Councillors representing the Flights were there as well as the Squadron officers.

Council heard reports of progress from the Flights in each of the mainland States as well as from the United Kingdom. The Squadron Secretary reported on the latest concerning the Squadron History. He said the writing of the first draft was complete but he had been having difficulty in getting the typing done for the first draft. This should be overcome soon. Council then proceeded to consider other items of its agenda.

458 more than just a Social body.

Council had a proposal from the South Australian Flight before it that 458 should support Legacy as a means of doing the work the Squadron was too small in numbers to do itself for "Next of Kin".

The Secretary pointed out that this raised the whole question of Squadron policy. In some States it had been preferred hitherto to keep 458 purely as an informal and wholly Social body. He thought Legacy was a good thing. 458 should make sure it was doing all it could and should do itself for its members when sick or in trouble, first however. Councillors thought that this in itself would constitute a call on 458's resources and energies. After some discussion Council decided to recommend to the Flights, as a matter of Squadron policy, that 458 should be operated as something more than just a social body and that care should be taken to look after Squadron members when sick, by visiting them, etc. If any Flight Committee felt its resources and energies permitted it to do more than this, then Council commended Legacy to them as a suitable cause to aid.

Squadron History Title Competition result.

There were more than 50 entries in the Squadron History Title Competition, received from all the Australian mainland States except Queensland. Members will remember that entries were called for in recent issues of the "News". Conditions were - Winner to receive a free copy of the History when published - copyright in the winning title to rest with the Squadron Council - winning or any suggested title not necessarily used. Squadron Council received a report from its History Committee and then voted to choose the winning title. This was

"WE FIND AND DESTROY"

submitted by Dick Healey (N.S.W.)

The title chosen is a free rendering of the Squadron's Latin motto "Invenimus et Delemus"

Congratulations to Dick Healey. Thanks to the members who competed.

All-States Reunion, Adelaide, 1956.

Bill Taylor, S.A. President, through the S.A. Councillor, Cy. Irwin, reported on arrangements for next Anzac All-States Reunion in Adelaide. This will be held in the week end before Anzac Day. The week end will include the Reunion, a Golf Day, a meeting of Squadron Conference, etc. The S.A. Committee hope as many interstate members will come as possible and would like to know who is coming as soon as possible.

Squadron Council(cont.)Uniform Squadron Banners.

At the request of the Western Australian Flight, Council clarified the position concerning which countries names should appear on the 458 Squadron Banner, and decided that the Banners should be uniform. The names which should appear are:--United Kingdom, Algeria, Corsica, Malta, Sardinia, Sicily, Palestine, Tunisia, Egypt, Gibraltar, Italy.

Q-FLIGHT NEWS.

from

Jim Holliday.AUGUST REUNION.

A total of 43 members, Associate members and friends attended the Reunion at the A.T.C. Mess on 13th. August. We anticipated an attendance of about 70. If you will recall, a nasty form of URTI swept Brisbane about this time. Apologies because of illness were received from 14 members. (URTI -Upper Respiratory Tract Infection).

Roll CallMembers.

Bernie Hughes, Erle Hetherington, Bert Garland, Charlie Warren, Eric (Ned) Kelly, Ray Taylor, Don Brandon, Clive Wyman, Eric Lloyd, Keith Campbell, Paul Hinslay, Rupe Holmes, Cliff Mannion, Jack Rosenberg, Tony Stone, Fred Kleckham, Gordon Postle, Jack Hobbs, Len MacDonnell, Ron Russell, Jim Holliday.

Associate Members.

Gordon Hillier, Eric Snowdon, Danny O'Shea, Maurie Dingle, Norm. Lindley, Bob Yeowart, Reg. Cuttiford, Mo. Guthrie, Bernie O'Connor.

We were pleased indeed to have Jack Hobbs, Fred Kleckham, and Harold Holmes with us. If memory serves me faithfully, this is the first time Fred, who lives 1,000 miles away in North Queensland, has been able to make it. We do trust, Fred, that your wife is now enjoying the best of health.

GENERAL MEETING.

The officers elected for the ensuing 12 months are:-

Patron	Eric Lloyd (M.L.A.!)
President	Bert Garland,
Secretary/Treasurer	Jim Holliday,
Asst. Secretary	Len MacDonnell,
Committee:	Keith Campbell, Chas. Warren, Erle Hetherington,
Tony Stone, Ron Russell, Clive Wyman, Gordon Postle.	Associates Rep: Lionel List.

The financial statement for 1954/55 shewed a credit balance of £41/11/11d.

RAFFLE for MODEL AIRPLANE.

The raffle for the model airplane, kindly made and donated by Terry Mullins, was drawn at the August Reunion and the lucky winner was Eric Lloyd.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL.

A Christmas Social is to be held at the A.T.C. Mess, on Saturday 3rd. December. A Dance Band will be in attendance until 1 a.m. Supper provided. Beer-as well as wines, spirits and soft drinks for the Ladies. Admission: Single 12/6d; Double: 25/-. We've planned to make a loss on this.

FLIGHT MELBOURNE CUP SWEEP.

We ran a very modest Cup Sweep. Insufficient books were printed to cover every member. Apologies to those who failed to receive one. Approximately, 40 books of 20 tickets were sold with prizes £10, 25, and £2½, a nice profit of £20 was made. By the way, Bernie Hughes drew three horses. Results of the Sweep appear on page 6.

ODD SNIPPETS

Frank Crowley is back once more with the Immigration Dept., Cairns;
Bill Hull has been transferred from Rockhampton to Cairns. Still with Lever Bros.
Theo Ravenscroft has changed his job of refrigeration engineer at Longreach for the Shearing Industry and moved to Aramac. Hopes to get married soon to local candidate for Centaur Queen Contest: Theo wants to know if 458 has a blazer;
Ken Cahill is so flat out with work at his Landsborough Garage that his wife has taken over the job of correspondent;
Massa Foote sends all his best regards;
Frank Wilks of Toowoomba also sends regards. Says he must be getting old as he always seems tired. Hopes to make the next Reunion;
Tim McQuaid says he appreciates the "News" to learn what's happening; Sends regards to Fred Kleckham and wants Chas. Warren's address;
"Kell" Kellam after being "Mine Host" at Southport and Rockhampton is now resident in Brisbane. Attends all functions enthusiastically;
Tony Stone is now back in Brisbane: still with Vacuum Oil;
Len MacDonnell has had a slipped disc and has also been recently very ill with fluid on the lungs. He attended our last Committee meeting and is coming along fine.

Q-FLIGHT NEWS. (cont.)PEN PICTURE OF THE QUEENSLAND PRESIDENT.

Bert (Judy) Garland was a foundation member of 458 Squadron at Holme-on-Spalding Moor where he was a popular Skipper. He is now with Air Traffic Control at Archerfield Aerodrome, Brisbane. He is a keen worker for the Returned Soldiers League.. Bert represented Q Flight at the Melbourne All-States Reunion. He is a keen fisherman. Also an excellent Chairman.

FROM THE CROWEATERS

by

Mel. Priest.

We have had several social functions, and it falls to me to give these brief notes as Brian Woodhead is not with us in South Australia. This is a bit of a blow, as we had come to rely on Brian's capable services as Secretary---a post he has held for about 8 or 9 years. His firm has transferred him to Melbourne, but the latest news is that this may not be permanent, so that we are looking forward to having him back in the fold. Bad luck, Melbourne !

Our new Secretary is John Ringwood, whilst I have been co-opted as 'Social Secretary'----seemingly for the purpose of writing these notes ! Bruce "Flash" Thomas is our new Treasurer. The Committee are keeping their heads together as is evidenced by our recent shows, and we have well in mind the functions of next Anzac Day when we do the "Honours".

On June 24th, there was a most successful picture night at Syd. Bartram's business premises. There were Syd's colour films of various Squadron functions and Bruce Thomas followed with colour films and a description of his recent 'Round-the-World' Tour. Attendance about 50, being members and their wives and friends. Good grub and a grog too !

Then, on September 8th., we did our annual battle with members of the 2nd/43rd. Battalion Club at their Club Rooms. We play a variety of team games---our team was the stronger but the laurels finally rested with our Hosts after a very closely contested series. However, I think both teams broke even on the Bear Stakes.

Most recently, on October 23rd., we held a combined golf day and family picnic at the National Park, Belair. Golfing honours went to Johnny Bax, but we suspect he availed himself of local knowledge of the Course and of local rules. For instance, I did not read the card until I had finished and only then found out that one could tee up from a bad lie on the fairway. When I add that it was quite easy to lose a ball on the fairway (let us not dwell here on the rough !), then you readers will see what an unnecessary handicap most of us added to our travail. But don't go away with the impression that it was anything but very enjoyable---and we golfers brought back to the party a sizeable thirst. Everything there was ticking along under Bill and Madge Taylor's (customary) thoughtful and capable direction. After we had gorged ourselves on grills and other good fare, we had the kiddies' races---any trouble in staging which is always fully compensated by their happy smiles when they queue up for their prizes. I feel I should also mention Johnny Bax's fine effort in leading the "Cross Country" race---it was worth watching. And so in the late afternoon, after auctioning everything surplus and making sure the keg was absolutely empty, we wended our homeward ways. As to the total of souls present, I am at a loss because of the numbers of children everywhere----and the fecundity of the members of 458 and their friends never ceases to amaze me. I will content myself with listing the names that readers will remember:-

Bill Taylor	Colin Hanlon	Eric Cox	John Ringwood
Tom Phillis	Harry Bartran	Bruce Thomas	Melville Senn
Nick Bertram	John Bax	Syd Bartram	Lofty Trewartha
Ron Badger	Ken Russell	Michael Allender	
Neil Ligertwood (a staunch ally)	and	Mel Priest.	

I would like to mention that I saw Padre Fred McKay in Alice Springs a few weeks ago when I was up there. In the brief time available we had a yarn on older days and younger faces---though Fred looks no older. It's a mighty fine conception this Church the Australian Inland Mission is building as a memorial to John Flynn, and is a worthy addition to the many attractions in Alice Springs. To those who can journey thus far, let me add that the recommended tourist season is June to September.

I finish---covered with confusion at having written at such length---with a Social Note. Congratulations to Ian And Fay Showell on the recent arrival of a daughter.

ALL-STATES REUNION: April 20-25th., 1956. at ADELAIDE . Plan now to be there !

THE SANDGROPPERS.

from

Butch Power.

The news from the West has been held over to include the happenings at the bi-annual meeting which was held on 6th. October, 1955, during Show Week.

We had an Evening during August. It was a Social if not a Financial success. Only 29 people braved the elements (it was a very wet night) and the attendance was further curtailed by an epidemic of measles, mumps and "what have you" in the suburbs. Despite these setbacks everybody had a good time including several chaps who came 'Stag', and although it was a financial flop, it enabled members and their wives to get together which after all is the main thing. A further Evening is planned for some time in early December, and as the weather will have cleared by then the attendance should improve.

AIR FORCE WEEK.

At the end of Air Force Week in September, a wreath was laid by the President of the local Flight, Jack Riseley, on behalf of the Squadron. The Sunset Service was very impressive.

The GENERAL MEETING.

Held during Show Week but not well attended, as only 14 turned up. But we were pleased to welcome Al. Wheat from Geraldton, Henry Etherton from Wonthella (outside Geraldton) and Jack Mitchell from Burekup (in the South West). Incidentally, Jack made the trip with his wife and young son especially for the Meeting and returned immediately afterwards to Burekup to keep an appointment with his cows--stout fella, Jack!

UNVEILING OF STATE WAR MEMORIAL.

On Sunday, 6th. November 1955, the 1939-45 portion of the State War Memorial will be unveiled by His Excellency the Governor Sir Charles Gairdner. It will be a General Parade and march past for all the ex-service units and "gongs" will be worn. All W.A. members will be circularised and should make every effort to be present.

MEMBERSHIP.

As regards membership, well you know we have had a drive over here and now we have 43 financial members, plus three who will become financial when they get round to it. That accounts for 46 members out of a possible 80. Some of the 34 who are not financial have said they are not interested and others have ignored all correspondence. So the local Flight is not going to waste any time or money on circulars for the tardy 34. Naturally they will always be very welcome at our "Do's" but from now on it's strictly up to them.

THE PRESIDENT DEPARTS.

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of our stalwart President, Jack Riseley. Jack has taken a position with News Ltd., in Adelaide and will transfer his allegiance to the S.A. Flight. So, you Croweaters, take good care of our 18 stone wonder. Our loss will be your gain. To Jack we say "Good luck, all the best and thanks for a job well done!"

THE VICTORIAN FLIGHT.

by

Stan Tarczynski.VICTORIAN RENDEZ-VOUS.

The night of Thursday 22nd. September at Air Force House, Melbourne saw the Rendez-vous of the Victorian Flight Annual Meeting, but with a difference, in that visitors and ladies were in attendance too. On this occasion, a most versatile 4 piece Band heightened the proceedings, which was much appreciated by the Dancers---and the drinkers. Naturally, with the hospitality of 458, the Band became brighter and more versatile as the evening drew out:---particularly "Marlon Brando". The attendance was below average, 51 being present and we have to thank several members for bringing their friends, as we counted only nineteen of our blokes. Shake it up, Victoria, this isn't good enough. Members who were present were:

J. Jenkins	D. Johnston	"Yank" Martin	G. Orchard
Arthur Green	Val Richards	F. Wilson	Harry Ashworth
T. Weir	R. McKinna	Ian Alison	S. Tarczynski
Bruce Dean	Ernie Laming	Norm Cugley	Lisle Wurr
B. Egan	G. Francis.		

Before supper which was provided by the Ladies, Gordon Orchard gave a brief but witty outline of the Squadron's History, for the benefit of the visitors. The election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year followed. Much to the surprise of most of us, Gordon Orchard-President; and Bill Carr-Hon. Secretary, both declined to stand for re-election. However, by way of explanation, Gordon and Bill both declined because of pressure of business; and Gordon explained the handicap of the distance in travelling from his home at Geelong to Committee meetings in Melbourne. We record here our very sincere thanks to these two outstanding characters, for their efforts

THE VICTORIAN FLIGHT (cont.)

and energy put into the welfare of 458. But to Bill Carr especially we say thanks. He was instrumental in rejuvenating the Flight in Victoria after a visit from Peter Alexander some six or seven years ago. He can now reflect with pride on the many memorable meetings organised by him during the period.

The quickest election on record resulted in:-

President	Bruce Dean
Vice Presidents	Frank Wilson and Bill Carr
Hon. Secretary	Arthur Green
Hon. Treasurer	John Jenkins
Committee----	the same as last year with the addition of "Yank"

Martin.

PERSONAL PARS.

Gordon Orchard --Our congratulations to him and Mrs. Orchard--a daughter, Penelope Ann. Bill Stapleton is currently in charge of the new Heinz Factory at Dandenong; John Jenkins has been on and off the sick list for some time, and is still restricted to a diet; but he looked alright at our recent "Do";

Eric Jewell is back home again after another visit to Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. Cheers, Eric, and hope you will be with us soon again.

Keith Clymo; We extend our sincerest sympathy on the recent loss of his Father at Ballarat.

Frank (Shorty) Wilson is leaving A.N.A. and taking up an important post with the Department of Civil Aviation;

T. Weir was looking his happiest at the recent Annual Meeting because his Mother-in-law has returned to England;

Brian Woodhead; the S.A. Secretary has been transferred temporarily to Melbourne but we seem to have missed out on contacting him for the last Reunion;

Norm. Walker called in to see Tarz. at the "Age", and managed to sip several Scotch. Since his illness several years ago he has lost about 3 stone. He was passing through to Adelaide on a business trip, where he is marketing his patented Self-Injecting Hypodermic Syringe.

RAIN-MAKING FOR THE C.S.I.R.O.This Issue's Featured Article.

Most readers of the Daily papers will have read of the interesting experiments which have been conducted in recent years in Australia by way of trying to make it rain. The idea of course has been to find out if we can persuade clouds to give out rain at the right time and place to augment our Water resources, increase our Irrigation possibilities and relieve our droughts.

Most of us know the form of the experimentation---flying an aircraft over the cloud and dropping Silver Iodide on it. Not too many of us have realised that it is a 458 Squadron Pilot who is now flying the Anson which carries out the experiments.

Jack Aitken is now C.S.I.R.O.'s Pilot. Jack was a 458 Squadron Skipper from Bone to Gibraltar and will be well remembered by anyone who was with 458 in that period. He came to the recent Sydney Reunion and the News took the occasion to ask him to talk about his work.

Wagga is the H.Q. for the Rain-making work, being near the Snowy Mountains, and Jack goes up there for two-weekly tours of duty from his home in Sydney, where he lives with his English wife and their four children. On the scientific side, Jack told us

"It's now certain that rain can be induced by "seeding" Cumulus clouds. A suitably generated smoke of Silver Iodide particles, each measuring less than 1/100,000th of an inch in diameter, is introduced into the cloud. These have the property of inducing super-cooled water droplets to freeze at higher temperatures (-6C.) than they would of their own volition.

"A cloud consisting entirely of water droplets is usually stable until some part of the cloud freezes, then once the freeze starts a rapid growth of the frozen droplets starts. They fall to lower and warmer levels, melt and emerge from the cloud base as rain.

"However, the question still remains whether seeding with Silver Iodide is an economic proposition. This depends on a variety of factors, including the frequency of occurrence of suitable clouds and the question of whether they can be so seeded that the resulting rain falls in a useful area.

"The present seeding operations over the Snowy Mountains are primarily designed to allow an assessment in the reasonably near future of the economic potentialities in this particular case.

"After all this, Peter," said Jack, "You'd better let me know when the

458 Sends it Down (cont.) "Squadron is having an outing, so that I can restrain operations in that area for that day."

Jack concluded by asking to be remembered to Eric Jewell, Geo: Connors and John Ringwood.

GUESSING COMPETITION RESULTS: New South Wales and Queensland.

	<u>N.S.W.</u>	<u>Queensland.</u>
<u>1st. PRIZE</u>	R. Savage, Mt. Colah. E I26	S. Foote, Rex St. Ipswich. I275
<u>2nd. PRIZE</u>	Betty Cameron, Armidale A I3	B. Hughes, Emu Vale, Queensland I373
<u>3rd. PRIZE</u>	Bert Reynolds, Como E3I7	B. Hughes, Emu Vale, Queensland I37

Our thanks to the Competitors and congratulations to the Winners.

"ANY QUESTIONS ?"--458 Squadron's A.B.C. Broadcast.

458 Squadron in N.S.W. combined a Social Evening for members and their wives ---a very successful function with some dancing, on the 3rd. Floor of the Air Force Club ---with the broadcast of Frank Legge's "Any Questions?" Brains Trust Programme. The Programme was later broadcast over the A.B.C. Interstate Network on August 24th. Questions were asked by Eric Munkman, Peter Alexander, Allan Walker, Dulcie Coombes, Jock McGowen, Jack Baker, Alan Piggott Freddie Strom, and Dorothy Munkman.

BACHELOR'S FAREWELL.

A number of his friends entertained Frank Ward at a Dinner and Evening Party a few nights before his recent marriage. The Dinner was held at the Wentworth Hotel. Squadron members in attendance were, apart from Frank, Cyril Irwin, Frank Hickey, Sam Barlow, Peter Alexander, Joe Fenwick. Frank Hickey proposed the Chief Guest's Health at Dinner, before the party adjourned to a reserved corner of the Lounge. It continued for several hours. Frank has 458's very best wishes. The Good Wishes of the remainder of his crew were telegraphed from Brisbane by Clive Wyman and Don Brandon.

458 SQUADRON AND ITS MEMBERS.

by THE EDITOR.

Squadron Council has recently decided to recommend to the Flights that 458 be run as something more than a purely Social organisation. That implies, no doubt, that the Flight Committees should keep their ears open for the needs of any member who may be sick or in difficulties, and do what circumstances permit to help. Obviously, 458's numbers and therefore energies and resources are limited. Equally obviously, all the work cannot be left to the Flight Officers and Committees---- the members themselves must do their part.

The formal direction from the top-that 458 is (for want of a more fitting word) a charitable as well as a social body may not have been given before. However, it should not be thought that this work has been neglected hitherto in its entirety. Perhaps we have hidden our light too closely under a bushel. In N.S.W.--to instance only the State in which the Editor happens to live and therefore the only one in which he feels really in a position to know the facts----there are, at least, several members who, having sought the Committee's aid or advice, are in a position to say that they were well looked after. Two cases of major aid were handled with War Service Homes, one with Social Service; advice in connection with Pensions in several others (the aid of the Air Force Association is acknowledged here). 458 in N.S.W. is in fact registered as a Charity.

Sick members have been visited in Hospital and at home (no question of charity but a pleasure). That is not to say that we would not have liked to do more had our numbers and the individual circumstances of members permitted. But it has been a reasonable job.

Social gatherings are and must remain the main cement of our post-war organisation---there is nothing wrong with that---and we will also do what it is in us to do for those of our members who need our aid and friendship. Let it also be remembered that the individual member who, without being a committeeman or officer, helps another 458 men is himself representing the spirit of 458 Squadron.

