

CIRCULAR



THE EDITOR.

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COLONEL MCKENZIE ELECTED SQUADRON PRESIDENT.

The 458 Squadron Conference held at Lennons Broadbeach Hotel on the Queensland Gold Coast over the Anzac period elected Bruce McKenzie as its new Squadron President, in succession to Queensland member Charlie Warren.

Bruce McKenzie, who served with the South African Air Force was 458 Squadron's Commanding Officer at Protville and Bone in North Africa in 1944. He was notably popular and was a determined and aggressive fighting leader. After the war he, with his wife, moved north to the East African country of Kenya and became a farmer there, with a Friesian cattle Stud farm at Nakuru. This was most successful and following his activity in the affairs of the Kenya Agricultural Society, Bruce was nominated as a member of the Colony's Legislative Council and became Minister of Agriculture.

With the advent of independence for East Africa and Kenya in particular he has continued to work for Kenya as a cabinet minister (now the only white minister in the cabinet) in President Jomo Kenyatta's republican cabinet. He is again Minister for Agriculture and has been travelling extensively with the Minister for Finance on international negotiations in aid of the development of the Republic of Kenya. He has kept in continuing touch with 458 Squadron in Australia and elsewhere.

Squadron Secretary Bob Bruce told Conference that the new Squadron President hoped to visit Australia in the coming year. It was commented that Colonel Mac's appointment could also mean that 458 in Britain could have a visit from a Squadron President in office.

Members of 458 throughout Australia, on hearing the news of Bruce McKenzie's election have expressed great pleasure.

458 ALL-STATES REUNION IN QUEENSLAND A GREAT SUCCESS.

Members and wives made the journey to Broadbeach from the Southern States of Victoria and New South Wales, as well as from country districts of Queensland. This was the 12th All-States Reunion and the first to be held outside one of the capital cities. Most of those attending were accommodated at Lennons Broadbeach Hotel, a large five-storey hotel with catering in the luxury class and which caters for the Gold Coast tourist trade and specialises in conventions. It has its own swimming pool (in which at this time of the year we do not think any 458er plunged) and is close by the beach. This beach (from which at least one 458 went into the surf--the Editor, once) is part of the magnificent Gold Coast sands which stretch for miles and on which magnificent surf beats endlessly--though perhaps not the best part.

Dinner-Dance.

Members arrived by air, car, and in one case by tourist coach, in time for the first function of the Reunion, the Dinner-Dance at Lennons on the Friday evening, April 23rd.

President Charlie Warren presided over several large tables of 458ers and their wives in a dining room filled with energetic and cheerful teenagers from nearby Coolangatta and also with delegates attending the Federal Executive meeting of the Federated Clerks Union. There was

All-States Reunion (cont.)

a band and singers and a good dinner and the welcoming company of old friends and the Squadron party enjoyed itself.

Golf.

The Anzac Cup, presented by Sam Barlow a dozen years before, was played for again on Saturday morning and won in fine weather and in fine style by "Ned" Kelly, on handicap with Doug Millard from Humula again the runner-up.

The Squadron Conference.

"Johnno" Johnston, ex-C.O. and the first Squadron President, gave the opening address to Conference which met in the Lennons Conference room early in the Saturday afternoon. After the official opening, Squadron President Charlie Warren took the Conference through its agenda. Conference went into finance and reviewed the position in the Flights in some detail. It decided to encourage the presentation of the 458 Plaque to suitable clubs and Air Force organisations. It discussed the usage of 458 Associate lapel badges (which were authorised by a Conference some years ago): a decision was left to Squadron Council as to whether it might be issued to wives of members.

Where next? And who with?

Next All-States Reunion was tentatively assigned to Victoria (subject to negotiations with the Victorian Flight). Delegates expressed a hope that Victoria might follow the precedent set when this Reunion was held out of Brisbane, at Broadbeach, and that the Victorian Reunion would be outside Melbourne—perhaps at Geelong or Ballarat.

Officers elected for the coming year were:

Squadron President	Bruce McKenzie,
Squadron Vice Presidents	Davis Firth, Peter Alexander,
Squadron Treasurer	Cyril Irwin,
Squadron Secretary	Bob Bruce.
Squadron Hon. Auditor	Bert Thompson.

Anzac Eve Barbecue.

Johnno and his lady, Molly, were principle organisers of a barbecue in the grounds of the Southport Club. Molly Johnston had earlier marked Queensland's welcome to interstate members by arranging for fresh Queensland fruit to be placed in their hotel rooms when they arrived.

The barbecue went as it may be supposed such an occasion would among a large 'family' such as the 458 gathering. Steaks were cooked and eaten --Ned Kelly drank champagne from the Anzac Trophy he had won in the morning --champagne sent up by last year's winner, Lock Simpson of Perth. Ned, of course, flew with Lock Simpson and on this being realised swabs were called for. However, protest dismissed and champagne duly drunk! Senior 458er Jack Carter sang with skill and sentiment; the keg was finished. Most of the party went on by invitation of Gordon Postle to his Surfers Paradise bungalow before adjourning for the night.

March in Surfers Paradise.

Anzac Marchers assembled outside the Surf Lifesavers Club in nearby Surfers Paradise and 458, with Lew Johnston leading, itself was given the honour of heading the march round to the Memorial Hall for the Anzac Commemoration Service. This year was the 50th Anniversary of the Anzac Landings and the service was accordingly made the more solemn.

After the Service another tradition was followed in the form of a general reunion, with much beer, in the local R.S.L. Club.

The All-States Reunion.

458 moved on to its own Reunion, again at Lennons Conference Room. Here the ladies joined the men for lunch and afterwards the men, on their own, listened to a 'Men only' entertainer, and also listened to the singing of 458 songs Lagos Lagoon and We are the boys of 458 by some of our Holme on Spalding Moor characters. A card game in which Doug Millard and Harry Dorge were performers went on for some time after the Reunion itself was over.

Talk and a few more beers followed in the hotel rooms of Lennons—living members for the rest of the evening.

Over (and into) the Water.

On Monday morning 458 ers assembled on the waterfront at Broadwater and embarked on two sizeable fishing boats; one, the Guinea Gold belonging to and skippered by 458er Jack Baxter and the Swanee. They then steered north for an hour through the island dotted coastal waters to South Stradbroke Island where they went ashore. The Island is quite an unspoiled bush

All-States Reunion (cont.)

scene---natural eucalyptus and scrub, with parrots in large numbers flying overhead. 458 went ashore for a barbecue lunch and that part of the beer which had survived the boat trip. It was another happy 'family' occasion.

The Stewart Cup footrace (for a rather approximate 100 yards) was run off and won by Q.Flight member Massa (Selwyn) Foote, to whom Queensland President Charlie Warren duly awarded the Cup (which he is to defend in Victoria next year). On a Dart board and darts designed by Squadron Treasurer Cyril Irwin with great resource, the Squadron company competed 'round the clock' for the "Dick the Tick" Darts Trophy, originally presented by Godon Postle. Here a brilliant closing run won the Trophy for Q.Flight Secretary Jim Holliday and to this popular winner Squadron Vice President Dave Firth handed the trophy.

Missing Maisie and Aquatic Jim.

One of the boats--Guinea Gold-- departed on the return trip to Broadwater and the enticements of the Grand Hotel near the Jetty there. The other remained for half an hour while its passengers played hide and seek with Maisie Barlow and Denise Bull who were missing. After some fruitless search, they came strolling round the beach; they had been, they said, to practice their yoga. It was then necessary to re-assemble the husbands concerned who were still searching.

As for the Guinea Gold, it made good, and jolly, time back to Broadwater where sailor Jim Holliday undertook to tie her up. Alas, he left the rope and threw himself. Squadron Secretary Bob Bruce, with magnificent presence of mind, secured an excellent photograph, for the Squadron Album, of Jim as he rose to the surface of the sea from that splendid but involuntary swim. After a quick change Jim joined the company in the Grand Bar for the "quite a few" drinks everyone enjoyed to celebrate the success of the 12th. All-States Reunion.

Among those seen at the various functions were the following:

C. Warren	S. Foote	M. Gibson	G. Postle	Bob Cock	E. Lloyd	K. Campbell
L. MacDonnell	C. Wyman	D. Brandon	D. Millard	L. Barlow	S. R. Bruce	C. Irwin
P. Alexander	J. Whittem	D. Firth	J. Carter	H. Dorge	J. Holliday	J. Lewis
F. Wilks	K. Cahill	R. Burgess	W. Chapman	L. Johnston	J. Baxter	C. Richardson
B. McLoughlin	E. Kelly	F. Strom	N. Spurling			

NEW SOUTH NOTES.

from

Cy. Irwin, 17, Vincent St., Canterbury, N.S.W.Annual Elections.

Following the Flight's Annual Meeting in March, a change of office bearers is reported. Stuart Ricketts is our new President (vice Bob Bruce) and Kemp Beach is the new Treasurer (vice Don Bitmead). Cy Irwin was re-elected Secretary. As well, we have a committee of 15.

Through the "News", thanks to Bob and Don for their past duties. They are both still lending their weight to Flight activities as committee members.

Anzac Day.

Though Sunday presented difficulties, our Anzac Day march and reunion were successful. The programme was:--wreath-laying on the Cenotaph on Anzac Eve; march on Anzac Day followed by Reunion and lunch at our usual venue, the Great Southern Hotel. Approximately 40 participated.

Al. and Henry.

We were pleased to have a visit from Al. Wheat, over from Geraldton recently. As a Ford dealer he was attending a Ford convention during Henry Ford's visit. Sam Barlow put on an evening at his home to meet Al and of course Bob Drinnan's crewmembers in Sydney were glad to see Al. looking fit.

Bubbles drives Over the Nullarbor.

Also, another W.A. Flight member, Butch Power has lately been paying a visit to Sydney on holidays and duty, accompanied by his family. He drove the car over from the West. His old friends met him and his family at an evening at Bob Bruce's home--Mt. Wilga. Here Butch met such Holme and Shallufa friends for the first time since those days as Col Campbell, Stuart Ricketts, Col Corten and George Unitt. An 'unofficial' drink was had with Butch at the Air Force Club some days later. Butch who is a hospital administrator in Perth, spent some time looking at hospitals in N.S.W., including Newcastle.

Air Force Association Assembly.

At the forthcoming A.F.A. Assembly in

New South Notes (cont.)

June, our Squadron will be represented by Stuart Ricketts, Cyril Irwin, and, as alternates, Graeme Coombes and Dick Healey.

Dick Healey re-elected.

Our congratulations to Dick Healey on retaining his seat of Wakehurst in the N.S.W. Legislative Assembly in the recent General Election. Dick is a member of the Liberal Party, now in power in our State, after a period of 24 years in opposition. We wish him every success.

Coming Events.

I expect our next Committee meeting to set dates for this year's President's Cup, for golf and for our country Reunion. The Annual Picnic will be held at Warwick Farm Racecourse on Sunday 4th July. Further advice to follow.

Finally, as one of the N.S.W. Flight members who made the trip to Queensland for the Q. Flight All-States Reunion, I express thanks on behalf of all N.S.W. participants for an excellent reunion.

VICTORIAN VIEWS.

from F. Wilson, 78, Carnarvon Rd., Strathmore, Vic.

Children's Christmas Party, 1964.

For many members of the Victorian Flight the Christmas festivities of 1964 started with the Children's Christmas Party which was held on the 6th December at the home of Woozle and Pat Wurr which adjoins the Tooradin State School where Woozle is Headmaster.

The weather was kind to the very large family of mums, dads, sons, daughters, girl and boy friends and grandchildren. Father Christmas arrived punctually at 2.0'clock with presents for all the children. Then ice cream, lollies and soft drinks were handed out and Norm and Nancy Cugley organised the children's sporting events. The Dad's scratch race round the school ground caused much amusement. Everyone is looking forward to next Christmas. Many thanks to Woozle and Pat for their hospitality and hard work. Thanks also to the 35 car loads of members for their attendance.

Annual Meeting.

The Annual meeting was held during the Anzac Day Reunion. The following were elected:

Victorian President Gordon Cuthbertson,
 Sen. V. Pres Harry Ashworth,
 Jnr. V. Pres Harold Martin
 Sec/Treas. Frank Wilson

Committee: N. Cugley, B. McKinna, B. Carr, E. Laming, J. Timms, I. Alison

L. Wurr, D. Johnston.

The March.

Sunday April 25th was a glorious sunny day when the Flight participated in the 50th Anniversary of Anzac Day. The R.A.A.F. was the last to move off and for the first time in 20 years 458. The street sweepers followed us. Gordon Cuthbertson was O.C. the Flight in the absence of Ern Laming who was D.W.O. of the Air Training Corps cadets. The following answered the roll call:
 S. Tarczynski R. McKinna L. Wurr B. Smith Bert Smith L. Taylor N. Cugley D. Johnston
 T. Kennedy L. Simpson W. Carr J. Wishart J. Fleming G. Matthews H. Jenkins H. Ashworth
 F. Wilson G. Cuthbertson R. Rabone H. Martin R. Russell J. Ellis J. Timms I. Alison
 P. Hedgcock R. Eggers M. Singe S. Cartledge W. Dinnis H. Young B. Wheatley G. Orchard.

After the march, 26 members attended the reunion at the business premises of Harry Ashworth. Once again Harry and Ian Alison had everything well organised and the hungry horde was well fed and supplied with amber fluid.

The President's Night.

The President's Night Cabaret Dance was held at the luxurious Club rooms of the Melbourne Bowling Club on Friday 7th May. 17 members, with their wives and friends totaled 88 in all. They were kept in a dancing mood by a fine band; the catering also was excellent. Gordon Cuthbertson, who had travelled 96 miles to attend, gave a Presidential Speech of welcome. He gave the dates of formation of the Squadron and the Association and briefly explained our wartime role in the Middle East. He also outlined our plans for keeping the Squadron spirit alive.

After a presentation to Peg Cuthbertson for hospitality in the past, it was on with the dance, until a.m. The President's Night and the Ladies Night, both of which are cabaret dances, have proved great social successes and seem firmly established.

PASSING OF THREE 458ers.

ERIC (PAPPY) McDONALD.

Many of the 458ers who spent their war years with the Squadron will hear with deep regret of the passing on of Pappy McDonald who was a Fitter with the Squadron. Many of us were indebted to him, just to recall one episode, for the electricity supplies for our tents at Protville and Bone which we drew from a generator he maintained. Living in Melbourne after the war, he was left a widower some years ago. He died after an illness.

LLOYD (DUKE) TAME.

Lloyd, who flew as a wireless operator with Merv. Hargraves' crew at Foggia and Gibraltar, lived in the Victorian country after the war. We understand he was a hydrologist with the Rivers Authority and had headquarters at Wangaratta. He was recently killed at the early age of 42 in a lamentable shooting affray with a fellow employee. Our deep sympathy to his widow and family.

ALAN (MACA) MacMASTER.

Maca, well described as one of 458's originals, flew as one of George Riddoch's gunners and after the war worked on telephone installation work with the G.P.O. in Sydney. He gave loyal support to 458 and in the difficult post-war years was, with his Post Office and wartime mate, Fred Ayres, the man who got 458 its beer for its reunions. He was a man who enjoyed life.

Maca, who married a few years ago, developed what was diagnosed as mild heart trouble about a year ago. He was told that with care (which he took) he could well live for 30 years; but this was not to be and he died of a heart attack during May. A large number of 458ers attended his funeral. Our sympathies to Muriel, his widow, and her children. Maca was 51.

Q.FLIGHT NEWS.

from

Jim Holliday, 43 Stella St.
Holland Park, Q.

Now that the All-States Reunion at Lennons Broadbeach is a glorious thing of the past, we of Q.Flight in retrospect feel very satisfied with its success. We met a lot of 458ers we hadn't seen for quite a long time, our interstate members were satisfactorily numerous and because most of the functions were held within the hotel we didn't have to worry about the hazards associated with drinking and driving. A further pleasing feature was the whole-hearted participation of wives in the functions. This alone we feel will help considerably towards (a) allowing us to attend male-only functions without having to go down on bended knee and (b) a greater participation at social functions.

Acknowledgements.

We desire to acknowledge our debt to those who were responsible for the smooth organisation. First and foremost to Len Macdonnell who was not only author of the programme but its promulgator. Running Len a tie for second place only a nose away were Molly and Lew Johnston whose know-how of where to go and what to do on the Coast were invaluable.

Queensland Fruit.

Molly Johnston's friendly gesture of placing a basket of juicy, sunny, Queensland fruits in the room of each visitor to Broadbeach was greatly appreciated. Lew Johnston's untiring physical efforts carrying forms, tables and grog contributed immeasurably to the smooth handling of each function.

We admit that the dinner dance on the Friday was a little noisy and that matches were necessary to provide illumination to eat the eatables, but still the couple of hundred or so teenagers that surrounded us, bronzed and fit, more than compensated.

That Boat trip.

We all feel that the high-light of the week end was the boat-trip to Shangri-la. This was by courtesy of Jack Baxter in his beautifully appointed 55 foot prawning trawler, the Guinea Gold, and his very great friend Swannee George in his trawler. There was some occasional rain but as we have not seen rain in Queensland for some six or seven months, the few drops that fell were really a festive occasion for us. The Sprint championship was won by Massa (fleet of) Foote who was yards in front from the very start. Yours truly was surprised to win the darts competition, never having been an addict. With Digger (Eric) Kelly winning the golf, this was a clean sweep for Queensland and ensures that at least three Queenslanders will be present to defend their titles at the next

