

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1989

This time we give you a Newsletter almost exclusively about the events of 11th and 12th November in Melbourne. Those of you who indicated that you would like to be there but were prevented by health, other commitments and even the airline dispute will, I think, particularly enjoy the reports which follow, and those who were fortunate enough to be part of it all can re-live the great times you enjoyed.

The first report is from LESTER TRUEX:

A DAY TO REMEMBER

Whoever arranged for ex-Central Bureau members and their spouses to visit the Defence Signals Directorate deserves a medal.

(It was Vice President DENNIS MOORE who first wondered if it would be possible to arrange a CB visit to DSD and then was unable to get to Melbourne for a happy reason detailed later, and it was Secretary GORDON GIBSON who did all the liaising and arranging with DSD. So our special thanks to them.)

For three wonderful hours on Remembrance Day of 1989, 55 of the people so qualified had an opportunity to view, in great detail, many elements of their involvement in helping to win World War II in the Pacific, and how similar work is carried on in the present day.

It was an opportunity which most thought they would never have: the chance to show their spouses just what they had done during the war, and to feel very proud of such involvement.

From the moment we passed through the gates and approached the security office, we were all treated as "special", and as members of the family. DSD executives, all of whom willingly donated their time on a non-working day, assisted us at every turn and extended the utmost courtesy to all.

Once inside the ultra-modern, high-tech building, it was very obvious that a number of people had expended a great deal of effort to make sure that our group learned as much as possible about the total effort, to the extent that security would permit.

From WW II archives, DSD had selected a wide variety of exhibits which would demonstrate the materials with which we worked during the 1942-45 period, and the methods used to achieve our objectives.

Among those items displayed were captured German and Japanese cipher devices, enemy code books, procedures and other data formerly highly classified. Of considerable interest was one old IBM machine which had been used by Central Bureau during World War II, and which had only recently been retired from service.

All of the documents displayed were originals, and one of the men present spotted a document which he himself had written under operational conditions back in 1943.

Also of great interest to those attending were lists of Central Bureau personnel from the various nations and services involved, organisational charts, and documents outlining duties and procedures for the various departments of Central Bureau and related wireless units.

It was fascinating to watch the eager faces observing - some for the very first time, and some recapturing moments from long ago - papers and materials which related so intimately to their activities from 1942 thru 1945, and to hear the animated remarks being exchanged.

After we had completed examination of the above-mentioned exhibits, the group was addressed by Mr. Tim James, Director of DSD, who warmly welcomed all of those present, introduced his executive staff, and promised that they would all be as helpful as possible in making our visit both interesting and informative. Tim praised the work done by Central Bureau during the 1942-45 period, quoting General Douglas MacArthur and others, concerning the great importance of the organisation's contribution to winning the war in the Pacific.

The President of CBICA, Jim Williams, thanked Mr. James and his staff for their most generous hospitality, on behalf of all members.

The group was then split into two bodies, and after tea and biscuits, the two were sent in different directions to gain a fuller appreciation of DSD's current operation.

Each group was, in turn, guided on a tour of many DSD facilities, including:

- a. An example of a modern radio monitoring position in operation. This consisted of a computer with screen and keyboard, and an individual printer. It also contained circuit switching facilities, to permit the delivery of output in a speedy manner.
- b. The engineering section, where all of the organisation's complex equipment is maintained and/or modified as required.
- c. The communication centre, where both incoming and outgoing traffic can be rapidly processed and routed to appropriate addresses.
- d. A practical demonstration, both audio and visual, of the differing commercial radio signals which are available for message transmission. The range extended from 20 wpm International Morse signals and 120 wpm WW II teletype transmissions to 9,400 cps mechanical transmissions as well as facsimile.
- e. A brief look at one of the world's most powerful super computers, without which certain of the organisation's tasks would be virtually impossible to undertake.

Upon completion of the tour by both groups, Tim James offered to answer any further questions, and our most grateful group of visitors departed feeling considerable nostalgia for those WW II days.

[Thank you, Lester, especially from those]
[of us who wish we could have been there.]

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Our President, JIM WILLIAMS, reports on the WREATH LAYING CEREMONY in the afternoon of Remembrance Day:

This was truly a time of remembrance at Melbourne's most impressive Shrine of Remembrance, and I was delighted at the number of CB folk who were able to attend.

It was my privilege to place the wreath from our Association members amongst other tributes placed there during the day. After a minute's silence, I recited the Ode of Remembrance LEST WE FORGET.

[Thank you, Jim.]

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And now from Secretary GORDON GIBSON:

SATURDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER, FROM 5 P.M.

A Civic Reception at the Caulfield Council Chambers on the SATURDAY EVENING was definitely not on the original programme for our Melbourne Visit, but when the inimitable and irrepressible Geoff Patience becomes involved in anything, those who know him have learned to expect the unexpected.

The surroundings were spacious and comfortable, to say the least. The company, including as it did a number of Melbournians "tracked down" by Geoff at the last minute, most of whom we had not seen for forty and odd years, was highly congenial, and needless to say, conversation flowed as freely as did the drinks. And what about those delicious little hot meat pies and sausage rolls with which ^{we} were plied constantly. I would hate to admit how many I consumed.

There was a welcoming speech by the present Mayor, introduced by former Mayor Geoff, and Mike Casey responded on our behalf. This was followed by a right royal, or should I say mayoral spread, with a variety of mouth-watering hot and cold dishes, topped off by coffee and cake. So lavish had the catering been that it was necessary to organise an impromptu raffle (or was it a guessing competition?) for the untouched dishes, proceeds to the Association's funds, which in view of their depleted state, must have brought a smile to the face of Treasurer Norma Keeling.

Behind every great man, they say, there is a wonderful woman, and while Geoff was organising things out front, wife Jean was going a human dynamo act behind the scenes with amazing coolness and efficiency.

Thanks a million from us all, Jean and Geoff! The entertainment and hospitality you provided were greatly appreciated. It will be a hard act to follow but we'll be doing our best to reciprocate in Sydney next year.

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ALL IN ALL, REMEMBRANCE DAY IN MELBOURNE IN 1989 BECAME A DAY TO REMEMBER.

And there was more to come - the big one, the reunion. GORDON reports again:

SUNDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER - BARBECUE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE GARDENS

Sunday, and a fine, mild and (sometimes) sunny Melbourne spring day combined with lush green lawns, bright flower beds and stately trees of the Victorian Parliament House, to give us the perfect setting for the historic, first ever Combined Reunion of R.A.A.F. Wireless Units and Central Bureau Intelligence Corps Associations. And what a roll-up!

Those present were:

Bernard & Dorothy ANDERSON, Geoff & Beth BALLARD, John & Ann BANK, Ian & Lorraine BUCKINGHAM, Ted BROWN, David BERRY, Philip BECK, Connie CARPENTER & Meg Cole; Syd & Norma CAREY, Michael & Joyce CASEY, Geoff CHARLESWORTH, Irene (TURNER) Chesshire, Madeline (BELL) Chidgey, Frances (REEVES) Cureton, Ted CORRELL & Joyce Stewart, Bill & ~~Laneetta~~ CLARKE, Laurie DALE, John & Ludmilla DAVIES, Les EDWARDS, Rupert & Remy FISHER, Quentin FOSTER, Keith FALCONER and daughter Val, Alan & Louise FLANNERY, Dave, Elizabeth & Frances GEYER, Gordon GIBSON, Pat GILL & wife Pat, Ailsa (HURLEY) Hale, Harry & Gwen HICKFORD, Sandy & Coral (Osborne) HINDS, Kevin HOGAN, Sid HULSE, Max & Nancy Lou HURLEY, Norma (SCARFE) Keeling, Stan & Joy KING, Harry & Myra KROGER, John LAIRD, Keith LAVERS & wife, David & Mabel LEE, Ron & Maureen LEE, Gordon & Patricia LEWIS, Joy LINNANE, Win Lindstett, Bette (PATERSON) Lording, Lach & Noni (GRANT) McNaught, Howard & Dawn McKENZIE, Mick MANESTAR, G. MANN, Steve MASON, Marj (SCHOFIELD) Marshall, Betty (BRYMER) Murray, Captain Eric & Margaret NAVE, Sylvia (FERGUSON) Paris, Diana (MATTHEWS) & Gerald Parker, Geoff & Jean PATIENCE, Frank PATRICK, Keith PAYNE, Colin & Norma POLLOCK,

Geoff RANKIN, Keith REDENBACK, Jack & Marjorie REEVE, Yvonne REID, Aub & Gwen ROBERTS, Wally & Mavis ROPER, Bert RUSHEN, Joyce (ROBERTS) Sandars, Alan & Doris SCHOU, Eric SHAW, Doug SMITH, Ron TABLEY, Jack & Esme TOUZEL, Ken & Sue TREZISE, Lester & Kay TRUEX, Brian WALSH, Roy & Joan WARD, Jim & Margaret WARMINGTON, Frank & Lorna WHELAN, Heather WILLIAMS, Jim WILLIAMS & Sheila Gregory, Gordon & Marcia WILSON.

I have done my best to get names and spellings correct; please forgive any errors and omissions. Perhaps, at the next reunion in Sydney, we may ask everyone to sign a visitors' book at the same time as they receive their name tags.

My own memories (and I guess this would be fairly typical) are somewhat of a blur; not because of what you think, but the sheer number of old familiar faces I saw and with whom I exchanged a few (far too brief) reminiscences before hailing or alternatively being claimed by someone else whose appearance stirred many happy and often humorous recollections. Have you noticed how we now tend to remember the good things that happened and forget the bad? Great! On top of this was the meeting up for the first time with new faces, those of the members of that "other" organisation! We sometimes forget that ^{we} were all part of one large (and important) organisation whether we were in the W.U.'s, C.B. or A.W.S.G. More propaganda later!.

It should be on record that the elegant venue for our Reunion came by courtesy of former M.L.C. Hon. Roy Ward, who also proved that parliamentarians don't just sit around and talk. Apron clad, he was "on the run" all afternoon, organising and leading by example. A vote of thanks is also due to Ian Buckingham who tended those luscious inch thick New York cut steaks, which fairly melted in the mouth and were washed down by the Parliament House vintage whites and reds. There were some remarks about M.P.'s living on the fat of the land but nobody minded joining them for a day!

President of the W.U. Association, Keith "Zero" Falconer (looking nearly as "smooth" now as he was when I knew him at Darwin in 1944) said all the right things in a neat welcoming speech, and C.B. President Jim Williams responded with equal aplomb. Two highlights were the announcement by "Zero" of the impending publication of a book about C.B.'s wartime achievements by Jack Bleakley (W.U. Association Treasurer), and the motion moved by Jim to the effect that "this combined reunion be made an annual event to be held in a different city each year and that the 1990 venue be Sydney". This motion was carried by enthusiastic acclamation and your Executive Committee will commence planning immediately and would appreciate any ideas or suggestions from members.

It was great to see two "sick-listers" from the date of the last Newsletter looking fit and well again and enjoying life - Joy Linnane and Sandy Hinds. Several times during the socialising the cry went up, "Where are the Winns?" or "Why isn't Marion Manson here?" Unfortunately Marion & Stan were laid low by a particularly nasty wog, and they were certainly missed.

Many others were unable to attend because of feeling poorly. Be assured that you were remembered at this our special reunion and we wished you were with us.

Dennis & Peg Moore were unable to attend because of a very important date with their brand new first grandchild, a boy. Noni & Lach McNaught also had a day-old grandson to meet - in Melbourne. Congratulations, Nannas & Poppas! And the conversation at the BBQ was not all wartime reminiscences - Lach McNaught was overheard having an interesting conversation with Howard McKenzie who plays the bagpipes and had actually played them at Culloden, site of that famous battle.

The idea of a combined yearly reunion is obviously a very popular move, and we look forward eagerly to the next one - in Sydney 1990.

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I know you have enjoyed reading those reports. On a personal note, Stan and I would like to thank those at the Reunion who signed and sent that gigantic Get Well card, which I'm sure helped the recovery process, plus those who phoned on their return to Sydney to tell us of their wonderful weekend, and especially Lester, Jim & Gordon/Madeline for the foregoing, and Madeline for the photographs.

Now, down to Business. Our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is to be held on the 12th February, to be followed by a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, as per Notices of Meetings enclosed. Please come if you can. Our AGM's are usually attended by the Executive Committee members only, plus one or two other 'faithfuls'. If you can't come, we would be pleased to receive your nominations for the Executive Committee.

You will note that our Special General Meeting will discuss consideration of an increase in our annual fee. We think you will all be happy to pay more than \$6 per annum to be part of CBICA and although we mention \$7 in the Notice of Meeting, I think the Meeting may decide that we need more than \$7! You will be advised of the decision of the Meeting in due time.

There is room for some PERSONAL PARAS after all.

A letter, dated March, from Doug PYLE at Bolwarra Heights, postcode 2320, says there is no-one from CB in his area - he thinks that CB must be the most dispersed unit of the Military Forces! He and Bob Burnside were the NCO's in charge of the Astor Private Hotel billets in the early days in Brisbane where they had their introduction to "hush hush" activities!

Allan & Meg OSBORNE and Lisa had two weeks' holiday in July - Bangkok, Phuket and Singapore - very enjoyable. Allan & Meg had intended being at the Melbourne Reunion but were prevented by the illness of Meg's mother who has since died, and we extend our sympathy in this loss.

Geoff BALLARD advises of a book recently published in the U.K. which could be of particular interest to our members who served in Greece, Crete and Syria. Author: Hugh Skillen. Book: "Spies of the Airwaves". Please let us know if you would like more information about this.

Frank HUGHES has had some recent trouble with high blood pressure. Take it easy, Frank, and enjoy your new life in beautiful Bowral.

Good news just to hand from Bob BEVAN. He has just been in Greenslopes for a check up, and all is well except for one small 'spot' which is causing no bother, and he does not have to report back for some months for another check up. He and Fay are about to take a two weeks' loafing holiday.

Ray BRADLEY wrote of the late Bill COATES of whom he had "the highest opinion", and he also advised of the death of Bruce PURVIS in April, remembered as "a fine fellow, great athlete and a great companion".

Harking back to the Melbourne Events, I would like to applaud those who travelled long distances - from the country areas of Victoria and from interstate - to spend just a few hours with their former colleagues. I think this says something of the enjoyment and satisfaction we had in our work and companionship in our various and sometimes isolated areas of C.B.'s activities. For instance, Frances CURETON left home at 7 a.m., from Derrinallum, drove to Camperdown, bus/train via Geelong to Melbourne, then back home by the same route, arriving home at 10 p.m. Frances had a 'truly wonderful day' and was ofcourse especially glad to meet with some of the AWAS cipher team again.

Come 1990, we hope that again distance will not deter any of you, and that we will have the pleasure of your company in SYDNEY.

Brian BOMBELL, to whom we owe a continuing debt of gratitude for his willingness to provide for the printing of our Newsletters, and Sheila have just returned from four weeks in Canada, visiting their son near Edmonton, where the cold clear air was just what the doctor would have ordered if he had thought of it. Brian even did some tobogganning - well, that is what he said! Good to know that he and Sheila had such an enjoyable and healthful time.

By the time you receive this, Christmas will be over and January 1990 will be well under way. We hope you all had a pleasant time with family and friends in December and that you are looking forward to 1990.

Once again, I must finish on a very sad note. While I have been typing this, MAC MARONEY telephoned to say that his wife BETTY died last night (8th December) after a long and trying battle with cancer. To Mac and his family, we send our heartfelt sympathy. When I phoned Mac last week to enquire after Betty, he said he was OK himself after "eight heart attacks and two 'tin' legs, and during all that, Bet looked after me". A true helpmeet.

We have not included in this Newsletter the names of all those who sent regrets at being unable to get to Melbourne, as we wish to include as many photographs as possible. There are many of you, and I am sure you will not mind not getting a mention by name on this occasion!

Best wishes to you all for this coming year.

Marion Winn
Publicity Officer.

OUTSIDE D.S.D.



Joy Linnane Gordon Wilson Harry Kroger



Coral Hinds
Max Hurley
Nancy Lou Hurley

Noni McNaught, who are both on your Exec. Committee.

Diana Parker & Betty Murray



Geoff Patience, Mike Casey, Jean Patience, Joyce Casey



Lach McNaught & Aub Roberts & Joyce Sandars

Marj Marshall, Irene Chesshire, Coral Hinds, Ailsa Hale.

Frances Cureton, Betty Lording.



Syd Carey, Marcia & Gordon Wilson, Laurie Dale (our first Tasmanian Member)

[Is Marcia laughing at the head gear?]

Secret document, or
Map of Melbourne?



Geoff & Beth Ballard, Sandy Hinds,
Gordon Gibson, Dave Geyer

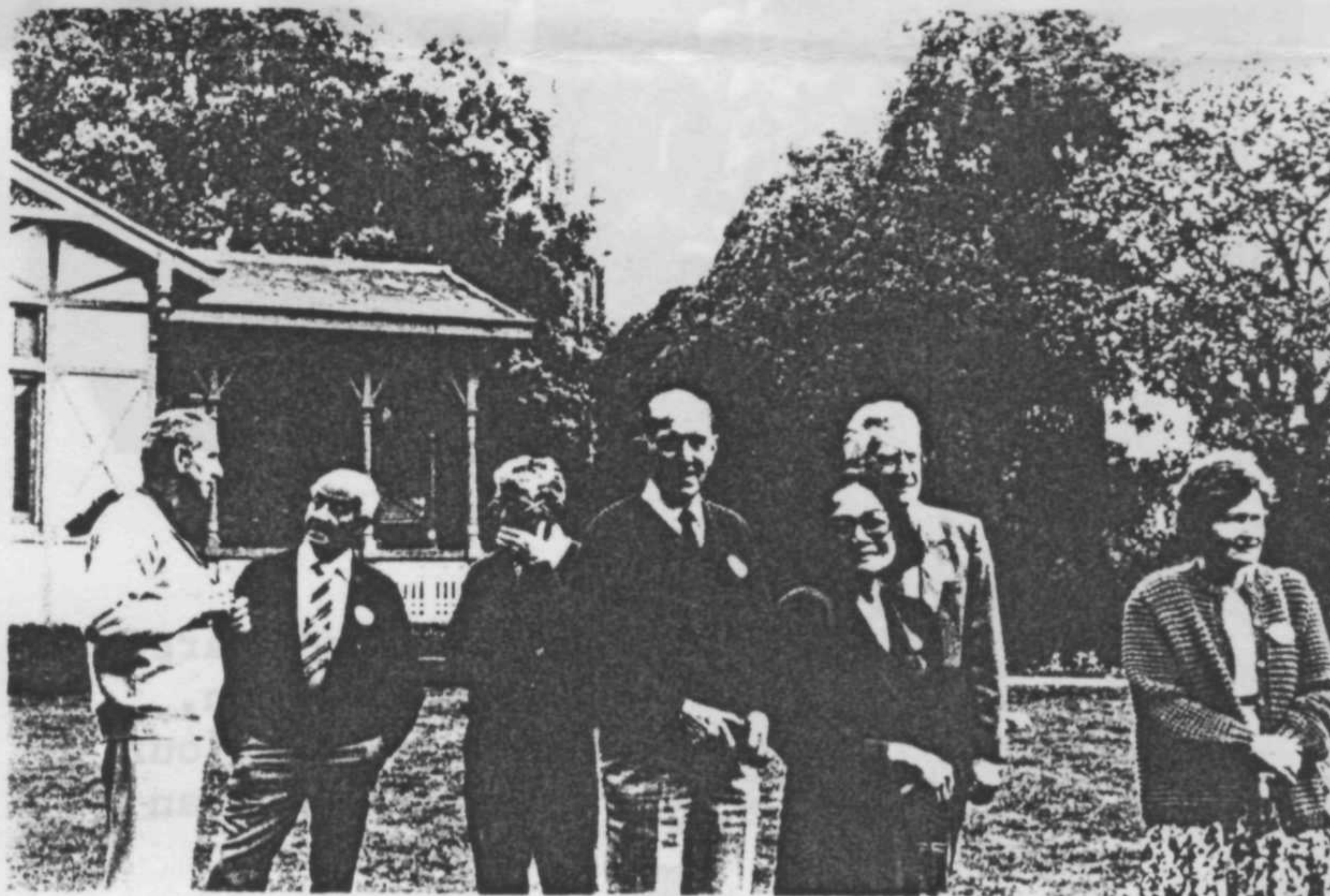
Mike Casey, John Laird, Roy Ward



Ian Buckingham, aided by Lorraine,
serving the sausages



Treasurer Norma - always cheery. Is she also
this time being cheeky?



A great setting for a group of great people,
including Rupe & Remy Fisher
in the centre



Sylvia Paris, Max Hurley, Heather Williams