
FOLLOW FAIRBRIDGE THE FOUNDER



NOVEMBER 2011

THE OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS' ASSOCIATION – MOLONG

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Derek Moriarty - 46 Holborn Street, Berkeley 2506
 Ph: (02) 4271 1417
 Email: sharky51@bigpond.com

Vice President:

Gwen Cole - 2 Eloc Place, Orange 2800
 Ph (02) 6362 8496
 Email: gcole5@bigpond.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Laurie Field - 34 Merle Street, Bass Hill 2197
 Ph: (02) 9645 2389

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peter Bennett - 3 Wolaroi Crescent, Revesby 2212
 Ph: (02) 9771 3056
 Email: peter.bennett8@bigpon.com.au

John Harris – 12 Henrys Rd, Forrester's Beach 2260
 Ph: (02) 4385 7544
 Email: john.deral@bigpond.com

Sandra Moriarty - 46 Holborn Street, Berkeley 2506
 Ph: (02) 4271 1417
 Email: sharky51@bigpond.com

Barney Piercy - 23 Colson Crescent, Werrington
 County 2747 Ph: (02) 9833 7181
 Email: bernard.piercy@optusnet.com.au

David Hill – 107 Clovelly Rd, Randwick 2031
 Ph: (02) 9399 9902
 Email: davidhill04@optusnet.au

Eva Warhurst – 67c Chelmsford Rd, South
 Wentworthville 2145
 Ph: (02) 9631 2027
 Email: evawarhurst@hotmail.com

Janet Barby – 40 Coombes Place, Orange 2800
 Ph: (02) 6360 4343
 Email: janbarby@bigpond.com

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

New South Wales

Dennis Silver - 25 Redwood Street, Coffs Harbour
 2450
 Ph: (02) 6651 6278
 Email: dsilver@westnet.com.au

Victoria

Position Vacant

Queensland

Position Vacant

South Australia

Brian Kirkby – 109/1-25 Captain Robertson Ave,
 Golden Grove 5125
 Ph: 0412501 137
 Email: Kirkby@Senet.com.au

Western Australia

Mike Walker - 159 Carmel Road, Carmel 6076
 Ph (08) 9293 5008
 Email: walk.even20@gmail.com

New Zealand

Jane Oakes - 66 Snell Drive, Fairfield, Hamilton, New
 Zealand Ph (0011) 64 7 855 2453
 Email: bigandsibs@xtra.co.nz

United Kingdom

Ray Tate – 178 Bell Lane, Kesgrave, Ipswich, Suffolk
 1P57 1NB England

PHOTOSTAND COMMITTEE

Jim & Beryl Reid - 3 Bundarra Place, Orange 2800
 Ph: (02) 6363 1267
 Email: berylreid1950@hotmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Margaret Piercy - 23 Colson Crescent, Werrington
 County 2747 Ph: (02) 9833 7181
 Email: bernard.piercy@optusnet.com.au

ROVING REPORTER

Paul McMullan - 9 Merville Street, Concord West 2138
 Ph (02) 9743 6331
 Email: pmpaulmcmullan@gmail.com

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well it is hard to believe the Reunion is just around the corner once again, will be great to catch up with everyone. In this edition you will find all the information on the weekend and the booking slip for the Reunion Dinner is at the end of the newsletter. Also don't forget to book your accommodation early so you don't miss out. "Visits to Fairbridge" over the Reunion weekend – as Fairbridge visits are by appointment only (as gates to Fairbridge are kept locked at all times) a group visit is being arranged by our President Derek Moriarty, if anyone is interested in a visit to Fairbridge during the Reunion weekend please contact Derek on Ph: (02) 4271 1417. This arrangement has been requested by the Fairbridge caretaker.

We have received word from the Molong Historical Society that the renovations to the Museum will be completed early 2012 which will be in time for our Reunion weekend. If anyone wishes to visit the Museum their opening hours are 2pm-5pm Sundays. Also an invitation to join the Society has been extended to anyone interested. They can be contacted by writing to the Molong Historical Society PO Box 119 Molong NSW 2866 for details.

I also wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and a Healthy 2012.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After months of planning, with the assistance of the Child Migrants Trust, (CMT) Melbourne, and courtesy of the British Government's Family Restoration Fund, we arrived at Sydney Airport around 5-00pm on Saturday, August 30th, completely psyched up for five weeks in Ireland and the UK, to be followed by a week on the Greek Island of Poros on the return journey to Sydney.

After checking in early, you can imagine our shock horror when we were bailed up at immigration and told "You are not going anywhere".

As it happened, Sandra's Passport had apparently been cancelled back in 2005. This happened after her previous passport had coffee spilt on it and she was advised to apply for a new one. She was also told if it does not arrive in thirty days call us. This she did and was told they would "chase it up". About four or five days later it arrived in the mail, with the same expiry

date, and we heard nothing more until August 30. 2011!!!

Not only were we turned back, which resulted in a very expensive, stressful couple of days actually obtaining a "New" Passport, re-scheduling all our flights and accommodation, not to mention going home then back up again on Monday night to try again, we were also handed a Government document stating that "Traveling on an expired or cancelled passport can carry a penalty of up to \$110,000-00 fine and/or up to ten years jail ". Touch wood we have not heard anything further.

In addition we had to forfeit two nights accommodation in Dubai and one night in Dublin, already paid for with no refund. I figure all up we are about a thousand dollars out of pocket through what I believe was a Government "stuff up" for not notifying us the passport that did not arrive initially, had in fact been cancelled.

The moral of this story is go online to the DFAT website and check if your passport is "current" before booking overseas travel.

Now looking at things from a positive perspective, surely nothing else could go wrong, or could it?

After some twenty five hours flying, with only a two hour break in Dubai, we arrived at Heathrow where we had to change for the flight to Dublin. Guess what? The plane ex Heathrow left two and a half hours late, long story, and if that was not enough, when we arrived in Dublin, Sandra's luggage did not arrive with us.

After the usual finding assistance, filling out forms and being assured the luggage would eventually be delivered, either to our Hotel or by courier truck to Tralee, our ongoing destination, we grabbed the first cab that came along and some forty minutes later arrived at the hotel, too 'buggered' and angry to go anywhere, which again was no fun as we had a flight booked from Dublin to Kerry airport at 7-15am.

I considered we would never make it so we decided to catch the train around midday, which, as it turned out was brilliant, about four hours across the countryside in without a doubt the cleanest and most comfortable train we've ever been on.

As we drew closer to Tralee all sorts of thoughts crossed my mind, many of which I must admit were negative. As I said earlier I had this terrible fear of rejection. However my worries disappeared before the train had even stopped as I saw my cousin Freddy

and his lovely wife Abbie on the platform. We recognised them easily as they had sent us photos.

Oh, by the way, Sandra's luggage arrived via courier the day after we arrived in Tralee!

For those of us who have had the joy of finally meeting family for the first time I do not need to describe the feeling, while for those who sadly, still have not, I cannot adequately describe it either. The one thing I can say though, for me anyway, "It's one helluva good feeling".

The next two weeks were absolutely magic as we met family all around Tralee, including Freddy and Abbie's five sons and two daughters, plus six grandchildren, there were two more first cousins, although we did not meet their children, then another cousin and his family in County Cork.

Undoubtedly one of the most emotional moments for me came when we met Freddy's mother, who is ninety years of age. While "father time" may have caught up with her frail body, her mind is as sharp as a tack, her vision is good and she can hear better than Sandra and I! And she was as excited at meeting us as we were with her.

Everywhere we went and everyone we met, we could not have wished for more. We spent a lot of time walking and talking about not only our families but also about the history of Ireland, including the troubles with the British, The Civil War and so on. There is so much history to Ireland and while my school days are way behind me I have a very strong desire to read and learn more of it.

And so after two of the best weeks of my life the time came to say goodbye. Just before we left to catch the train back to Dublin, Garrett, one of Freddy's sons, handed me a bag, saying it's just something to read on your long journey home. I thought I won't open it just now, maybe wait till I'm on the next plane.

So after a very sad and teary farewell, along with a promise to come back, I settled in for the four hour ride, and while I know big boys don't cry, I did for at least the first hour.

Then my curiosity got the better of me so I opened the bag to find a book about the people of Tralee, sort of a heap of short biographies, and a "Bon Voyage" type card, on which every member of the family had written something. Well that's when the flood gates really opened. To this day I think if I had opened it before I

boarded the train, I would not have got on, certainly not that day anyway.

And so we moved onto the next stage of our journey, some time in London before heading down to Kent to meet another cousin Shaun, his lovely wife Shirley, who he actually met while holidaying in Australia ten years ago, their son Daniel, aged eighteen months, also Shaun's father Victor and his brother Daniel, who both live close by.

We spent three lovely days in Kent, including a visit to Court Lodge, (previously John Howard Mitchell House), which many of us stayed at for short periods of time prior to leaving for Australia. What a beautiful mansion it was "back then" and still is today.

We were also delighted to visit with Peter and Julia Fitcher (nee Buswell) who live just a couple of kilometers away from my cousin Shaun. Spent several hours chatting before going out for lunch to a fabulous restaurant where the real English "Fish and Chips" was unbelievable. As it always is when Old Fairbridgians get together, it was hard to leave, there seemed so much to talk about. Thank you for your hospitality Julia, would like to return the favour next time you're over here.

From Kent we traveled to Stokenchurch, High Wycombe, where my Sister Pauline lives, in addition to several cousins, nieces and nephews, all on my mother's side of the family and all of whom we had met in 2004 when we traveled courtesy of The Australian Government's Travel Fund.

Following a welcome party for us at the home of my cousin Andrew, at which again the whole family gathered and made us feel completely at ease, we celebrated with the enthusiasm I thought, was generally reserved for Aussies wrong again.

As my sister was having renovations done to her house so we stayed with another cousin Pete and his good wife Pam, who, incidentally, have a son David, who lives in Sydney and has done for several years.

After a few days in the village we set off to Woburn Sands to visit my father's grave, then onto Lowestoft, in Norfolk, which is where Paul was placed in his first orphanage, separated from me at this time but reunited about three years later, we think.

After booking into a B&B, I decided to give our old mate Ray Tate a ring. Would loved to have visited Ray but unfortunately, time did not permit. However we had a chat for around half an hour and, as we do,

reminisced about the good and the bad times at Fairbridge.

Stayed in a B & B before going to the library to see if we could gather any info re Paul's time there. Did not manage to find anything although the staff were very nice and did in fact ring Ipswich, which is the head office for that area. At the end of our enquiries we were given details of who to contact when we get back to Australia but I think I will put it in the hands of CMT.

Traveled onto Hunstanton, also in Norfolk, to the Orphanage I was in, and where Paul was brought before we came to Australia.

To my dismay, the place has been sold and is being converted into flats, so once again we were unable to get any information as to who put us in there, why, etc. Again I guess we'll have to see if CMT can help.

Had planned to visit Margaret Humphries in Nottingham, however when I rang to make an appointment I was informed she was away and would not be back in the offices until early September, by which time we were long gone.

So across country we traveled, stopping overnight in Sheffield, where our lady friend in the GPS managed to get us hopelessly lost, but we survived, before heading for Liverpool to visit with some of Sandra's family, including a cousin she had not seen for almost sixty years and who I had not previously met, also another cousin Derek and lovely wife Mavis, with whom we stayed for four days, and very importantly for Sandra we were able to visit her brother Roger and spend some quality time with him.

We had met with Roger and his wife Janet in 2004. Unfortunately Janet passed away not long after that so seeing Sandra again was hopefully beneficial as he had been going through a bad time since.

From here it was back to Stokenchurch for another four days, during which two highlights that stood out for both of us was visiting Windsor Castle and also Waddesdon Manor and The Rothschild Collection near Aylsebury, Buckinghamshire. Can't even begin to describe these two attractions. Unreal to say the least.

Time goes very quickly when you are having fun and so it was for us. The time had come to leave The UK.

September 5th we flew ex Heathrow to Athens but once again the Gremlins struck another blow with our flight delayed for two and a half hours.

Now this would normally probably not be a huge problem, however it meant that by the time we got out from the airport in Athens, caught a bus directly to the Port of Piraeus, the last ferry to Poros had left.

No drama we booked our seats for the first ferry in the morning and also booked into a Hotel close to the wharf.

Up early to make sure we don't miss the ferry, boarded and comfortably seated on top deck, I decided to go downstairs and get a map from the enquiry desk. You guessed it gentleman could not understand my English so I wrote Poros down on paper. Uh oh, you are on wrong ferry, hurry and get off, we sail in five minutes.

Made it just, Official takes me to ticket office, have to get new tickets, walk "seemingly miles to different wharf, started panicking would miss ferry, dragging all our luggage, made it with minutes to spare but Sandra having what she feared could be heart attack. Scary stuff this travelling! Staff assisted her on board and into a seat, was asleep before we left wharf!! One hour across the water and we arrived on the Island of Poros to spend a week relaxing in David's villa, for which we are most grateful. Among the things we did, quite apart from drink a bit, but it was close to 40 degrees every day so there was a valid reason. We hired a "Quad Bike" for twenty four hours, great way to get around, although I would have preferred a two wheeler. Riding on wrong side of road also took some getting used to.

Probably going back to the mainland for the day and walking right up to the top of Acropolis and all it's surrounding historical structures, (In forty degree heat I might add) in addition to riding around the city in the "Little Red Train" and finally shopping for bargains in The Athens Flea Market.

Won't go into details about the pick-pocket on the Metro suffice to say I was warned on more than one occasion. You learn by experience.

Stepping out the back door and walking some thirty or forty metres to the water was very convenient although we only swam once. However we loved every beach, and there are so many of them, all have their own beach umbrellas, sun lounges and bars, where you can buy food as well as drinks.

Last night on the Island we dined out with David's friend George, who had been most helpful right throughout the week.

September 12th it was back to Athens Airport for the flight to Dubai, to link up with Emirates for the last leg ie. Dubai to Sydney. This required an overnight stay (Free of charge) as Emirates do not fly direct from Sydney to Athens or return.

However, the gremlins in Athens decided they wanted their share of the action. Having arrived at Athens Airport about four hours early we did some shopping, some eating and some "panicking", when after checking in, going through Immigration and moving down to the boarding gate lounge, I noticed I could not find a wallet type vinyl folder with some important documents in it, which should have been in my back pack.

After thinking back on our movements we recalled having it out to get our flight details and passports out of it so I assumed I must have put it down somewhere and not picked it up Dumb!

What was even dumber was thinking if I went back I would probably find it and as we had some two and a half hours to spare that's what I figured I would do.

As you would expect I was unsuccessful and to make matters worse I suddenly realised they were calling Mr Moriarty flight required immediately at gate 23. I was only just joining the queue of about one hundred people at Immigration check point and suddenly fear really set in. They must have called me at least five or six times. Anyway to cut the story short I made it, after running about a kilometre through the airport, with thongs on and two pairs of glasses in my hands etc.

Now I don't know what a heart attack is like but if I wasn't having one when I made it to the gate in the nick of time, then I was having the next thing to one.

I was in such a state I walked, or staggered, straight past our seats and almost to the back of the plane before Sandra called me back, and called me some other things also.

Anyway we arrived at Dubai, and then on the way through their Immigration they have this fancy "Eye" camera that they check your eyes, while they scan your passport.

Hard to believe I know but guess whose eyes did not want to co-operate? Ten minutes go by then they make me go "round the other side" to a different camera still don't think it was right but they finally let me through. Yeah!

Courtesy bus to Millenium Hotel, magnificent meal, 24hr room service and all you could eat for breakfast. All part of the "free" deal.

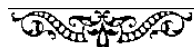
And so we are airborne around ten thirty for the thirteen hour trip to Sydney, and back to normality, whatever that is, or so I thought.

Nothing much changes in Sydney, they told us our baggage collection was at carousel 1 but it came out at carousel 6. They also told us to pick up our duty free after going through Immigration. Sandra said I don't think so. Guess who had to go back through, accompanied by my own personal security guy, just to pick up Sandra's "Grog and Cosmetics" Blimey!!

Other than that we had a fantastic trip and can't wait to go again, especially knowing all the pitfalls now.

Trust and hope that everyone who takes up the offer made available under The FRF, enjoys their journey and can come back and share it with us.

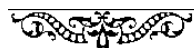
Derek Moriarty
President



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

I will take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and happy New Year. Look forward to seeing as many of you that can make it at the Reunion.

Laurie Field
Secretary



FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:-

All OF's and Associate Members received a Statement of Financial Standing with the May 2011 Newsletter and there was a good response. In the meantime if you would like to pay your subscriptions further ahead, you can and they would be welcome.

Annual subscriptions are \$8-00 per year (including spouse) and covers the year from 1st July to 30th June each year.

You may forward your remittance to me as follows:-

Laurie Field

Treasurer

**Old Fairbridgians' Association – Molong.
34 Merle Street, BASS HILL 2197**

Laurie Field

Treasurer

74TH REUNION WEEKEND 2011

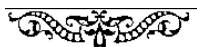
Notice of Meeting – 74th Annual General Meeting 2011

Notice is hereby given that the 74th Annual General Meeting of the Old Fairbridgians' Association – Molong, will be held at the Orange Ex-Services' Club Ltd, 231-243 Anson Street, Orange NSW in the Moresby Room on Sunday 11th March 2011 commencing at 10.30am.

The business of the meeting will be:

- To confirm the minutes of the 72nd Annual General Meeting;
- To receive and confirm the Annual Financial Report;
- To appoint an Honorary Auditor for the ensuing year;
- To elect officers of the Association for the ensuing two years and
- To handle any other business matters allowable under the Constitution for an Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Executive Committee



74TH Reunion Weekend 10th – 11th March 2011

Saturday 10th March

Day:

Free time to shop in Orange or catch up with friends and do your own thing. A drive to Molong to have a look at the Remembrance Drive with all the trees in full leaf. Whilst in Molong a visit to the Molong Historical Museum on the corner of Gidley and Riddell Streets would be worthwhile to check out the renovations recently undertaken and the new Fairbridge Room. Enjoy your day.

Evening:

- 7.00pm for 7.30pm – 74th Reunion Dinner in the Kakoda Room, Orange Ex-Services' Club Ltd, 231-243 Anson Street, Orange NSW,

- Cost \$45-00 per head,
- Drinks available at the bar for normal prices from 7.00pm,
- Lucky door prizes,
- Raffle to be conducted during the evening.

If you are attending the Reunion Dinner you will need to make a booking through Treasurer Laurie Field. Please complete the booking slip at the end of the newsletter and send with your remittance in the way of a cheque or Money Order to:

Laurie Field

Treasurer

**Old Fairbridgians Association - Molong
34 Merle Street,
BASS HILL NSW 2197**

**PLEASE NOTE - ALL BOOKINGS CLOSE
ON FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2012**

ALL TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Sunday 11th March

10.00am

Arrive at the Moresby Room, Orange Ex-Services' Club Ltd, Anson Street, Orange NSW.

Those wishing to pay Annual Subscriptions may do so and all attendees to sign OFA Attendance Book.

10.30am

74th Annual General Meeting of the Old Fairbridgians' Association- Molong. See notice of Meeting appearing in this Newsletter.

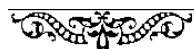
12.30pm -1-00pm

At the completion of the meeting please feel free to purchase your own lunch in the Club at the All Seasons Coffee Lounge or the Diggers Brasserie before departing for your trip home.

Note; All wishing to attend the Reunion and wanting accommodation whilst there, will need to make your own accommodation arrangements. Orange is a very popular place for functions and particularly so on weekends, **so make sure you book well in advance.** The Templers Mill Motel, Byng Street, Orange NSW (owned by and adjacent to the Orange Ex-Services' Club Ltd. Ph (02) 6362 5611) are prepared to assist you with accommodation if you get in early.

Laurie Field

Treasurer



The Welcome Wall Darling Harbour

This is a one off grant that the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, has made available to us to have names placed on the Welcome Wall at the Maritime Museum and is to be administered by the Maritime Museum on our behalf.

This has been done to honour those Child Migrant NSW Old Fairbridgians who served in the Australian Armed Forces. Namely the 2nd World War, Korean and Vietnam Wars and the Regular Army.

The list of names as well as the appropriate forms, of those who are eligible is available by contacting Eva Warhurst by writing to 67c Chelmsford Road, Sth Wentworthville NSW 2145 or phone (02) 9631 2027.

Firstly both an application form and a consent form must be filled in by those who served in the Armed Forces (or next of kin) and submitted no later than 20th January 2012 to have their names included on the Wall. The unveiling will take place sometime in May 2012. The exact date has not yet been determined by the Maritime Museum.

Any Old Fairbridgian wishing to honour our Fellow Old Fairbridgian Servicemen and Women who are no longer with us are very welcome to come along to the unveiling

If there is anyone who does **not want** their name included on the Wall, please advise me prior to January 2012.

Please be advised that any members who live in another State, and who have already placed their names on the Welcome Wall in their State will not be eligible to apply or be reimbursed for any costs previously outlaid.

If you know of any Child Migrant Members who served in the Armed Forces and may not be aware of this offer please contact me on (02)9631 2027 so we can honour these men and women.

Regards Eva Warhurst
Committee



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ERIC FOWLER – TAMWORTH NSW - MAY 2011.

I came out to Australia in April 1955 on the P and O liner "Arcadia" and I still remember many adventures

on the ship – the monkeys on the Rock of Gibraltar and coming through the Suez Canal.

I was at Fairbridge until 1960 when I was placed in my first job as a clerk with an Insurance Company in the city of Sydney. I eventually studied horticulture for four years and married my wife in 1972 and we had two sons, Mark and Jeremy.

Mark is a lawyer and Jeremy has a franchise with Grove Juice. We have three grandchildren, all girls, and I am now retired and live in Tamworth where we have lived for 34 years.

The documentary of Fairbridge on the ABC was very interesting to see. I actually was one of the lucky ones as mentioned in a Newspaper article in the Northern Daily newspaper in Tamworth.

Mr Woods was good to me and as I look back to those days at Fairbridge, I realise that I would not have achieved, in England, what I have achieved here.

I am glad we have the Old Fairbridgians' Association as we can relate to and with each other. I am also happy to have been a friend of the Late Graham Salisbury and to share outings like Gerroa NSW with the "Boss"
Eric Fowler.

ELLY GUNN (ASSOCIATE MEMBER) – MOLONG NSW – MAY 2011.

I really should make the effort and attend a meeting in the future and I must say how much I enjoyed reading the May 2011 Newsletter.

The stories are compelling, even our Roving Reporter had an interesting and I feel truthful story to tell.

My mother Mrs Hart was a Brown Cottage Mother and she loved the boys as if they were her own.

Best wishes

Elly Gunn.

WENDY ALGIE (NEE HARRIS) – WHITIANGA NEW ZEALAND – JULY 2011

Hi to all the Committee and thank you for the Newsletters – always interesting.

I've just applied to the Child Migrants Trust for assistance to go back to England. Between surgeries, I visited my uncle in England in 2007 and saw my father for a couple of hours. Although I am unwell again (or still) I thought I'd give the visit another shot next year.

Mum passed away recently, my only relative, it makes me feel quite isolated, a feeling I'm sure most of us experience.

I hope many Fairbridgians can benefit from this financial offer but wonder from those who have taken the opportunity, if they suffer from opening old wounds.

I have to confess the meeting with my father was a brief and "edgy" one and wonder if I am doing the right thing. My uncle was a wonderful man and I look forward to hopefully seeing him again one day.
Hoping this finds you well Laurie,
With regards Wendy.

THOMAS CROTTY – NORTH WALES UK – JULY 2011

(We finally located Thomas through Ray Scotti, The Rotary Club of Molong and Liverpool in the UK and here is what he has to say):-

Dear Laurie – Just a line to say I received your letters and find enclosed \$20-00 (cash) for membership and the Newsletters. I arrived in Molong in early 1952 and was there until 1958. My Cottage Mother's name was Mrs Newberry with her husband and son Bill.

I had a good life at Fairbridge Farm School. I went to Molong Central School at the end of 1952 to the end of 1955. I came back to the UK in early 1962. I went back to OZ (Australia) in 2004 for a 17 day holiday and stayed in Sydney. I tried to find out about Fairbridge or people I knew at the Farm, but was not successful.

I have just received David Hill's book "The Forgotten Children" and will be reading it over the next few weeks.

Yours sincerely
Thomas Crotty.

ANNA CIPARS (NEE KRAJEWSKA) – EMAIL 7.8 2011

Hi, just wanted you to know that I really enjoyed all the info in the May 2011 newsletter. Some of the reminiscences from other OF's really stirred up some nostalgia for those years I spent there with my two sisters Tina and Marysia. We often speak of our time in the early sixties there at Fairbridge and felt that all in all, although we didn't like it at the time it did us good. Toughened us up. Keep up the good work. Anna Cipars (nee Krajewska).

JOHN AND DERAL HARRIS – FORRESTERS BEACH NSW – AUGUST 2011

After 9 delightful years in Bilgola Plateau we are moving to the NSW Central Coast. Our new home is nearly midway between our daughter Fionas home 400 metres South and son Stuarts home 500 metres North. We face NNE overlooking the ocean plus south to The Skillion at Terrigal and Cape Three Points. From our front door it is 100 metres to the Beach. The sad news is that it does not have a bar.....yet!

Address: 12 Henrys Road, Forresters Beach, NSW, 2260
Phone: 4385 7544

All the best
Deral and John

DENNIS PIERCY – STRATHPINE QLD – OCTOBER 2011

I have received a letter from Doug and Jane Hinton who are trying to find Fairbridge people who assisted at a motor vehicle accident that occurred around 22 February 1956, just east of Fairbridge Farm. Jane Hinton's father was driving the panel van at the time when it left the road and rolled down a slope towards the Molong River.

Apparently the coroners report referenced that assistance was provided at the accident by people from Fairbridge Farm. Doug and Jane are drafting a story on the Life and times of Edward Lloyd Harris (Janes father) and wish to include any recollections anyone may have. If you can help you can contact them on mob: 0408 272 241 or email: doug_and_jane@internode.on.net

I will bring the letter to the Reunion Dinner next year for people to read, this may help some to remember.

Regards Dennis



WORD FROM THE PHOTO GURU'S – Jim & Beryl Reid

Hi Everyone, Just letting you know that Jim is hopefully having his hip replacement on 31st October, so by the time you get your newsletter he should be a new man.

We are looking forward to seeing Jim's sister Mary and brother in law David when they are out visiting us from England later on this year.

Changes are happening at the Molong Museum with the photo display and Fairbridge memorabilia, so will be nice to have a bigger room for the displays.

As you know our youngest granddaughter Charlotte has a very rare genetic disease Trichothiodystrophy (she is allergic to UV light) and we are trying to raise \$15,000 to send her and her mum to the USA to get treatment and tests done that are not available in Australia. Jim and I are asking if anyone is able to help with a donation it would be gratefully accepted. We will send receipts for tax deduction purposes.

There are only 109 people (that we know of) in the world with this condition.

If you would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us. Details are inside front page.

Hoping you all have a good, happy, healthy Christmas and a good 2012. See you all in March.

Jim and Beryl Reid



**SLATER & GORDON LAWYERS VS
FAIRBRIDGE & OTHERS –
CLASS ACTION**

The above matter has been listed for procedural hearing on 10am 23rd & 24th November 2011 with the 25th set aside if required, at the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Phillip Street Sydney.

All Old Fairbridgians are welcome to attend these hearings.



AREA REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

New Zealand – Jane Oakes

Greetings to you all from New Zealand

World Cup Fever is alive and well in NZ as I write. Hopefully we will be the third country behind Australia and South Africa to win the trophy for the second time. All Kiwi's are confident of the correct outcome.

2011 is a special year for Donald & Jeoffery Wood, David & Bob Wilson, Derek & Paul Moriarty and Keith & Jane Field, who all arrived in Australia 30th September 1951, 60 years ago. (Derek our party photo WAS taken on the front steps of Knockholt) Thank you Derek for the phone call, but I had not forgotten.

I was fortunate enough to spend some time in June with Marina McMahon who came over to see her sister Elizabeth, who had a second operation on her hip. It was great to see you again Marina. Liz has now recovered, and on attaining the ripe of age of 65 years, has now retired. Well done Liz.

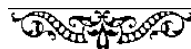
It was heartening to see that the British Government has finally recognised the great work carried out by Margaret Humphries over the last 25 years by awarding her the C.B.E. in this years Honours List. It should be noted, that Australia had already awarded her the Order of Australia, one of only a few Britons ever to have been so honoured. If you read her book "Empty Cradles" you will see the following quote:

"To all the child migrants and their families, particularly those who have suffered in silence for so long, with my respect and admiration". I extend my congratulations and best wishes to her and her family. She speaks of a film Oranges and Sunshine. Can anyone help me to get a copy of this film please? Having met and spoken to Margaret, she was able to advise me on the procurement of my personal documents from 1951 prior to leaving for Australia to my departure in 1958 to New Zealand.

I didn't travel to Australia this year, as I accompanied Alan to his 50th reunion of joining the RNZAF in 1961. It was held in Blenheim, at the top of the South Island where the Woodbourne Airforce Base is situated. It was great to meet some of his old mates and their wives. We had a great trip, the weather was beautiful, the wines were great, (140 vineyards in Marlborough. We didn't see them all!!) the food was perfect and the company brilliant

I am looking forward to seeing my friends and family in 2012 when I next cross the ditch, so until then I wish you all the best for the coming festive season.

Jane Oakes (nee Field)



West Australia – Mike Walker

It is 37degrees as I write, hottest day of the year to date. Don't like it already. We have had a good spring so far, the best for several years. The rain has been gratefully received and there has been quite a lot of it, more like a proper season. As a result everything is looking greener.

Not a lot of news this year so I can add a bit of mine. Youngest son Luke is back from a leisurely 9 months in Greece and has adjusted quickly to working life though finding it a bit tough. He is going to try uni again and has enrolled to do Occupational Therapy next year.

His older brother is getting married in December. First of our three boys to make the commitment. Paul is well organised as his fiancée -- they are both lawyers - and all arrangements have run smoothly.

Eldest son Evan is the front man for a car tyre franchise which also has a hire-by-the-hour mechanical workshop providing a new challenge for him.

My wife Glenys is into the last school year term for 2011 and it may be her swansong to teaching. She is then on long service leave for 6 months before deciding her next move and probably leaving the 4-year olds behind. I am still on a list of casuals working as needed with people with intellectual disabilities. I do 3-4 shifts weekly at 6 hours each and find that is sufficient for now. We are renovating a bathroom -- and that provides us with plenty of "interesting jobs" -- for want of a better name.

We had a recent visit from a former boss of mine in the late 60's when I worked in Orange. He and his wife were visiting Perth for a few days before they made the pilgrimage to Margaret River and the joys of local wine. We had a lovely lunch at our place and chatted about this and that for several hours.

Glenys and I are set to attend the 2012 OFA Reunion and already have the flight and accommodation sorted. Next May we hope to make the trip to the UK courtesy of the Family Restoration Fund so it will be a busy year.

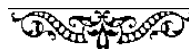
EVE BRYASON is about to celebrate her 85th birthday with 40 friends cheering her on. She is still kept busy with china painting and doing mosaic patterns among other things.

BRIAN SCOTT has had good crops of vegetables from his garden but still has more tasks to do around the place than there are hours in the day to do them.

ALAN SCOTTI, LES ROBINSON and COLIN HARRIS could not be contacted though I believe the latter was off to the UK to meet up with brother JOHN to visit relatives.

So have a great festive season and we look forward to seeing as many as possible at the Reunion.

Regards Mike Walker



VALE

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of:

**MANNING Derek Keith in Blayney NSW –
2nd February 2011**

MILLICHAMP John in Kairi QLD – 28th July 2011

**HENDERSON John – Fairbridge Foundation
Secretary
8th September 2011**

**Our sincere condolences are afforded to all
relatives and friends**

A COTTAGE MOTHERS STORY

Part 3 (final part) Contributed by Daphney Appleby

Sometimes when visitors came to the farm, the staff were invited to meet them formally in the Principal's house. I much preferred it when Mr and Mrs Woods brought them to our cottage and we could meet them as people, and they enjoyed meeting the girls on their home ground. They joined in if there was a party on or we had an impromptu one. My daughter played the piano for dancing and singing, and everyone enjoyed the visits. One of the visitors was Mrs Fairbridge, she was so interesting and was herself very interested to

talk with the girls. She said that from their experience in Western Australia they thought the number of children to each cottage should be no less than ten and certainly no more than twelve. The children should be mothered, supervised and ordered and fifteen was, she felt, too many for one person to mother successfully.

In discussion with Mr Woods one day, he asked how I thought the children were adapting and we decided that they were adapting to the climate but they were not getting used to people outside the Farm. This was mainly due to the fact that they attended only the Fairbridge Public School and the Church services were held in the Dining Hall. So that there was really no opportunity for mixing with those outside. Apparently Mr Woods thought about this a lot more, as, not long afterwards; arrangements were made for the girls and boys of secondary level to go to Molong Central School and Orange High School.

The Molong children were as ignorant of conditions at Fairbridge as were Fairbridge children of the conditions at Molong. The first ones to go in were very apprehensive for some time until they learnt that Fairbridge children were just as well dressed and shod as the Molong children and were probably more regularly bathed. Some soon became good friends with their town class mates. However there was one friend from town who still thought that the Farm must be a terrible place to live, so I asked Mr Woods if she could be invited to stay in our cottage for a weekend. This was arranged; and during that weekend she rode horses, played hockey, attended a social on Saturday night, church on Sunday and stayed till Monday morning when she returned to school with the Fairbridge children. When she saw her mother after school, she said, "Gee, I wish I lived at Fairbridge!" Another recommendation for the Fairbridge system was the case of one girl whose parents had come out as migrants and were living in Sydney. The parents became settled in the city and asked for their daughter to join them in the city. This was the normal procedure with children of one or two parent migrants. So the girl traveled from Molong to Sydney, but within a few days she arrived back at Fairbridge. An unusual case of 'running back to school'!

Mrs Woods was a wonderful person, and acted as the mother of the whole village. She was in charge of the Girl Guides, the clothing store and training the trainee girls. She entertained visitors and collected 'windfalls' when the nearby orchardists let her know there was fruit available. These she bottled for the dining hall. She also taught the girls boot mending one night a week (not a favourite lesson with the girls). As well as

all these things Mrs Woods looked after her own family and household. I have known her to leave her family and sit up all night in the train to Sydney when a call came from the Repatriation Hospital that Mickey (who had been wounded in the Korean War) was not expected to live more than a few hours. These visits to be with Mickey happened several times, until he finally succumbed to his wounds and died. The Cottage Mother in whose cottage he had been for about ten years shed tears when told of his death. Mrs Woods was always treated with the greatest love and respect by everyone at the Farm and played a very important part in its success.

At one stage we were told that another party of children were leaving England, and that some of the new girls would be coming into my cottage. This meant that I would be losing half my girls as they would be put in with half the new girls. I resented this but could see the necessity for the move as the new girls and a new Cottage Mother would need some help to settle in and get organized.

Coming from severely rationed England, the new arrivals were amazed at the quantity and variety of the food; it took them some time to realize that they were allowed more than a thin scraping of jam on their bread and butter; and could hardly contain their wonder at 'all that dripping'. Bread and dripping was a great favourite for a long time. Fruit was also a source of delight and I still remember L. when Sister brought up some lemons for the cottage, exclaiming in an excited voice, "I know what they are! I saw some once; don't tell me, I'll remember in a minute ... they're *lemons*!" L. was eleven years old at the time.

Some children were harder to deal with than others, and one with whom it took a long time to come to terms was J. She had arrived in Molong Cottage while I was away for about nine months. Several new arrivals had taken the place of those girls who had reached seventeen years and had left to go to work. I had returned to Fairbridge during the Christmas holidays, when the weather was hot and dry. J. had been discharged from the local hospital the day I arrived after suffering from erysipelas; instructions were that she would not be allowed to go swimming that season, and care must be taken that she did not catch cold.

I had never seen such a thin child except in pictures of starving children in Asian countries. The first Saturday afternoon when the girls were changing into swimsuits to go swimming in the dam on the property, I explained to J. that the doctor had said that she could not go swimming until the next year when she would

be stronger. She promptly went into a rage and screamed and sobbed; lest she should try to slip out without my noticing, I told her to go and sit in my bathroom, which was at the other end of the cottage. This was the first intimidation I had of the life she had led in England, where she had been in a children's home for two or three years. She begged me not to shut the door, although it was daylight with strong sunlight streaming into the cottage. She promised she would stay in the bathroom, so I left the door open. After the rest of the girls left, I took her on my knee and said what a silly little girl she was to have cried all that time and made herself very hot because she had not gone swimming. I suggested she washed her face in cold water, had a rest and then I would read her a story. This I did, and peace was gained for that afternoon.

The next six or eight months were a series of daily battles with J. with which I had to cope as well as all the details connected with supervising the manners and well being of fourteen other girls and caring for my son and charming daughter. The girls had promised me that they would not hit J., no matter how annoying she might be; if they felt she deserved punishing they could tell me and I would punish her. This worked well; the usual punishment was early bath, followed by as much bread and milk as she wanted, then bed. She ate the bread and milk in the small kitchen in the cottage, and those girls helping to cook tea or set the table would look at J's bowl and say, "Ooh, bread and milk; are we having that for tea too?" J. would reply with great self satisfaction, "No, I'm the only one having it." This always sent me hurrying out of the kitchen to laugh in private.

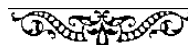
All the girls had jobs to do, either keeping the cottage clean or helping around the Village according to their ability. I considered J. was too fragile to do any work, and none of the girls complained about this. J. began to grow stronger and one morning, to my astonishment, said, "It's not fair, you don't let *me* do anything." I promptly set her sweeping up the dirt into the dustpan which the girls had just swept from the dormitory floor. At first, when she came out of hospital, I used to have to change her pyjamas and sheets before I went to bed as she perspired so copiously everything was soaking. As she grew stronger the perspiration stopped.

One day, on returning from Orange where I had spent my day off, I was met by one of the girls who said, "Oh, Mrs Camplin, we can't do anything with J; she won't have her bath or do anything we ask her to". I went into the bathroom with the particularly pleasant girl who had been detailed to help with the younger

ones, to find J. sitting on the bathroom floor. She said, "I'm not going to get undressed", so my helper and I undressed her; then "I'm not going to get into the bath", so we lifted her up and popped her in. This was the whole pattern of her behaviour, which was met by the combined efforts of D. and me to bathe her.

When it came to putting on her pyjamas, I gave up and said, "Right, you can go to bed without them". About ten minutes later we sat down to tea; my chair faced the dormitory and I could see through the dressing room to it. J's bed was next to the door. After a few minutes she put her head around the door and said, "Mrs Camplin, may I put my pyjamas on please?" Permission was granted and after she apologized, she was allowed to come to the table and have her tea; she was too thin for me to keep her short of food, although she would miss out on any treat I might have brought back from my days shopping, such as bananas or biscuits. I was always amused by her attitude at such times: she would say, "I could have some too, if I'd been good". Eventually her health improved and she grew into a robust girl. The last time I saw her she was fifteen years old. I had paid a visit to Fairbridge and was having lunch in the dining hall when I noticed the attractive girl looking at me and smiling; but it was some time before I realized it was J.

I have certainly appreciated the opportunity I have had to recount some of my memories of Fairbridge. In my work there, I always tried to get as far away as possible from the institutional concept and make it a home for the children. I like to think I achieved that aim; and if I did I am very grateful, because Fairbridge gave me a great deal of happiness although some sadness as well.



BOOKING SLIP

74TH REUNION WEEKEND – ORANGE NSW – 10th and 11th MARCH 2012

Please return this booking slip with your cheque/money order etc. made payable to:-

"Old Fairbridgians' Association – Molong"

Mailed to :-

Mr Laurie Field, Treasurer
OFA-Molong, 34 Merle Street,
BASS HILL 2197

	HOW MANY	COST EACH	TOTAL
Saturday 10 th March REUNION DINNER	<input type="text"/>	\$45.00	= \$ _____

Your tickets will be forwarded to you by return mail.

Name (Please print): _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Date: _____

Telephone: _____

DO NOT FORGET TO ATTACH YOUR REMITTANCE
ALL BOOKINGS CLOSE ON FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2012

OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS' ASSOCIATION – MOLONG
BALANCE SHEET SHOWING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – 1ST JULY 2010 TO 30TH JUNE 2011.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Balance of account as at 1st July 2010 \$4,420-56

-INCOME

*Annual Subscriptions and Joining Fees	\$1,638-34	
*Remembrance Drive, Molong – Purchase of trees etc.	642-84	
*Bank interest received	0-42	
*Interest received on Term Deposit	104-76	\$2,386-36

\$6,806-92

-EXPENDITURE

*Donations to:-		
Molong Historical Society Inc.	\$100-00	
Lions Club of Blacktown City Inc.	100-00	
*Newsletter costs	1,054-24	
*Honorarium – Daniel Moran – Hon Auditor	50-00	
*Orange Ex-Services Club Ltd – Hire of room for AGM 2011	210-00	
*Remembrance Drive, Molong – payment for trees, plaques etc	502-79	
*Molong Town Beautification Committee – Donation towards costs – Molong Remembrance Drive	300-00	
*Running Expenses – Postage (other than Newsletters), Stationery, STD telephone calls, Photocopying, etc.	540-27	
*Bank Account Service Fees	112-50	

\$2,969-80

Balance of Account 2111 0090 6920 as at 30th June 2011 \$3,837-12

TERM DEPOSIT

Account No. (062232) 50049016 – CBA Regents Park NSW Interest earned for the year –
\$104-76 and transferred to General Account. Re-invested on 8th March 2011 for six months
@ 2.700% and due to mature on 8th September 2011. \$5,000-00

OFA PHOTO COMMITTEE

Balance of Account as at 1 st July 2010		\$536-97
Interest received	0-29	\$0-54
Balance of Orange Mutual Credit Union Ltd Account No. 17766 as at 30 th June 2011.		\$537-51
Total Funds		\$9,374-63

L A FIELD
Secretary/Treasurer
30th June 2011.

I certify having audited the accounts and other records of the Old Fairbridgians' Association – Molong and have found them to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the said Association.

Daniel MORAN. Hon Auditor

