
FOLLOW FAIRBRIDGE THE FOUNDER



MAY 2012

THE OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS' ASSOCIATION – MOLONG

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I hope all those who attended the reunion weekend had a great time I can say that I thoroughly enjoyed the company. We started at the Museum in Molong to see the renos of the Fairbridge Display. Although not yet complete the room was very impressive and has a modern approach to the display. Well worth a visit.

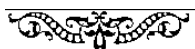
The dinner I believe was a great success. All the people I spoke to on the night were having a great time catching up as well as talking about old times. We also had a lot of positive feed back on the night, which is pleasing.

On the Sunday we had a good attendance at the AGM although it would be nice if more of you could attend. You will see the Executive Committee that was voted in on the second page of the newsletter.

Also I have included the 'Old Fairbridgians' Association – Molong web address at the bottom of the second page of this newsletter and will be in all subsequent newsletters.

Once again can I ask you to drop us a line occasionally and let us know how you are travelling. Even if it is only a few lines we would love to hear from you.

Ed



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi once again to all OF's. Associate Members and friends.

I trust everyone who attended the 74th Reunion and AGM weekend enjoyed themselves as much as I did. I know a number of our members visited the Fairbridge Exhibition at the Molong Historical Museum on the Saturday, including a light lunch, with many then going out to the Farm School for a brief look around.

As we have indicated over the years, your Committee welcomes feed back on any or all areas of our activities, be it good or bad. Positive comments, while giving us much satisfaction, does not mean we will not strive to do even better in future. Negative comments guide us in the areas where we need to, and will plan to, achieve better. All comments can be either submitted for the Newsletter or in writing addressed to, Hon. Secretary/Treasurer Laurie Field, 34 Merle St Bass Hill.2197, at any time.

As I write this the only comments, negative, I might add, that I heard, were that the microphone should have been ready for the advertised 7-30pm start time, and that the meals were very late coming out also. Both of these issues have been managed appropriately by Secretary Laurie. Again, on behalf of everyone at the Reunion, sincere thanks to both Laurie and Margaret for their untiring efforts in making this the success it was.

The AGM on Sunday morning, with 40 people signing the Attendance Register, although a count of heads showed around 55, was perhaps one of the largest we have had for some time, with a larger than usual amount of general business.

However that is what AGM's are about and it was, from my point of view, great to see so much interest from so many of our members.

It would be remiss of me not to congratulate our incoming Committee members for the next two year term, and in so doing, to again thank the previous committee.

Thank you also for your vote of confidence in re-electing me as President.

I was fortunate enough to be in Canberra the first week in January and took time out to visit the National Museum of Australia where an Exhibition titled "INSIDE", Life in Children's Homes and Institutions was open. This Exhibition was promised by former PM Kevin Rudd during the Apology to the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants on 16th November 2009.

I was later invited to join a panel of speakers at a Forum in The Visions Theatre. These included

three other people who grew up in institutions, and also Dr Joanna Penglase, co founder of Clan and author of Orphans of The Living, and Dr Adele Chynoweth, so I was in very good company, and once I got over the nerves, thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The Exhibition finished on 26th February, and while it is intended to travel around Australia that idea may have been abandoned. Keep an eye on our website for future developments.

To any of our members not enjoying the best of health, our thoughts are with you and your families. Unfortunately, due to the years rapidly creeping up on most of us and the ever increasing aches and pains, I guess we could do worse than adopt the philosophy of our dear friend and fellow Old Fairbridgian, Margaret Stuart-Watt, who says; quote "I am always looking for more adventures and travel and remaining tough and active". Love it Margaret and loved your little book!

To all OF's travelling per the Family Restoration Fund, may your trip back be all you could possibly wish for, with special best wishes to Amanda and Frank North, (Queensland- The good looking one), and our wonderful Newsletter Editor Margaret and husband Barney Piercy, both couples leaving late April.

I know you guys will fill the November Newsletter with stories of your trip. Enjoy! Come home safe!

Derek Moriarty
President



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

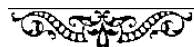
We had a good roll up at the Reunion Dinner in Orange NSW on 10th March 2012 with 95 Persons in attendance. Around 55 attended the Annual General Meeting on the Sunday also at the Ex-Services Club. The bi-annual election for office bearers was held with very few changes made. Derek Moriarty retained his position of President; Mary O'Brien was made the area representative for Queensland, in the formerly

vacant position. After the meeting was over it was discovered that our long serving senior member of the Committee, Peter Bennett had been overlooked in being nominated for his position on the Executive Committee.

At our next Executive Committee meeting Peter will be asked to stand on the Committee for future meetings with the appointment to be clarified at the next Annual General Meeting.

NB It was approved at the meeting of 15TH April 2012.

Laurie Field
Secretary



FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

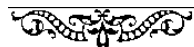
All OF's and Associate Members received a Statement of Financial Standing with this Newsletter. In the meantime if you would like to pay your subscriptions further ahead, you can and they would be welcome.

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



The Welcome Wall Darling Harbour 27th May 2012

The unveiling will take place on Sunday 27th May 2012, 11am at the National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour.

I would like to extend an invitation to any present day Old Fairbridgians who would like to come along on the day to help honour and remember these former members of our Fairbridge Family.

Those who wish may like to catch the ferry from Circular Quay and disembark at the Pyrmont Bay Wharf right in front of the Welcome Wall. The nearest off street parking is located at Star City Casino on Pirrama Road and at Harbourside Secure Parking on Murray Street. Parking tickets can be validated for Harbourside Secure Parking at the ticket desk in the Museum for \$12.00 all day.

I have arranged to have the Fairbridge Banner displayed at the meeting place for those Family and Friends who will be attending.

There is limited seating and it is anticipated that more than 1,000 people will be attending. The seating provided will be given to the elderly and disabled in the first instance. Those who wish can bring their own fold up chairs on the day.

The Museum will be open to visitors on the day with free entry. Bring a hat, sunscreen, water and an umbrella at this is an outdoor event. Don't forget your camera!

The location/position of names that are registered will be displayed on Panel 65, Column 2, Line 4 Upwards.

Food facilities:

YOTS Café

Boardwalk at Australian National Maritime Museum,

2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour NSW 2000

2 Course meal \$40.00 per head

3 Course meal \$50.00 per head

Please phone for bookings:

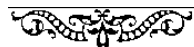
YOTS Café – (02) 9211 5144.

Coffee Cart opens from 8am

Sausage Sizzle is available at Pyrmont Bay Plaza from 9am.

In the event of heavy rain the unveiling will be cancelled. Please phone (02) 9298 3777 on the day if there is heavy rain.

Eva Warhurst
Committee



OLDFAIRBRIDGIANS.ORG – WEBSITE

Update by Brian Kirkby - March 2012

Hi everyone, as you know our very own website, has now been up and running for almost a year now.

This website is dedicated solely for all the former children who attended the Farm School at Molong NSW between 1938 and 1974. It was set up by the OFA committee, following a generous donation from David Hill.

This website contains a Home Page, Events, Vale, Executive, Robs Spot and Gallery. In recent weeks the Vale section has been comprehensively upgraded to include the names of all the known deceased Old Fairbridgians from 1945 to the present date. Information on their arrival date at Molong together with any other information gleaned from relatives, other OFs and members of the general public has been included. Thanks to Eva Warhurst who has provided information on deceased Service personnel. There are some interesting notations in this category, some of them telling very sad stories about the lives, lived by some OFs, and some stories that reflect triumph over adversity. Please go to it, and contribute to it where you can.

It is important that you do this, as it will form a historical record for all our dear friends who have departed us.

In the gallery section some photos have been captioned but others still remain untitled. My apologies for this but it is proving difficult to identify some of them, please email me on kirkby@senet.com.au if you can help.

Cheers for now on behalf of the Committee
Brian Kirkby - Co Webmaster.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gwen Cole nee Miller - April 2012

I hope all who were able to attend the reunion enjoyed it as much as did. I wish I could have said hello to all at the tables, time just flew fast.

Although I was unable to go to the Molong museum, I believe the renovations are excellent, some people that were able to attend thought it looked very good even though it is not yet finished.

The ladies from Molong and Orange worked very hard to do as much as possible in the museum so we were able to see what they have on display, the money came from a grant given to Molong by the sustainable collection of arts for the Museum. One of the ladies has some tie with Fairbridgians, many older members would remember June "Milne" nee "Burt," her daughter Sue is a member of Heritage committee at Molong.

I wish you all good health and happiness for 2012, don't forget if anyone is passing through Orange to give me a call, there are a few O.F.s living here, we may be able to meet for lunch.

Kind Regards
Gwen Cole
Vice President

BRINGING THE COWS IN BY BRIAN KIRKBY

All is quiet and still in the dormitory of Canon bar Cottage, the time is 3.30 am in the morning, the year 1959. The place, Fairbridge Farm Molong.

15 young lads have their heads buried in the pillows, dreaming of girls, their mothers, who they may never see again, and mountains of scrummy food. All is quiet. Suddenly the peaceful night air is shattered by the violent ringing of an alarm clock, curses abound from the sleepers, as 2 trainees namely Brian and Norman barely 17 yrs old arise and hurriedly dress, their exit from the

cottage in the pitch black is dramatic, no quick cup of coffee or tea to enter in the morning, for these 2 young lads. They both have a task to perform, bringing the cows in.

Norman and Brian make there way through the still village, guided only by the faint light of the stars, past Nuffield Hall and the village bell, a turn right near Orange cottage and up the track to the laundry. They make a detour here, scaling a fence and head directly towards a range of low hills, dimly visible in the distance. The two are apprehensive and nervous, for the alarm clock had not been set properly, and they are late!! They both know the repercussions of bringing the cows in late. Pain.

They find the cows in the Ace of Clubs paddock after a trek of 30 minutes, the cows lying down, willingly oblige the urging of the boys to stand and get on the move. Their destination is towards the distant dairy which by now has its lights shining.

But wait the bloody bull Randy is in amongst them, oh hell. Not to fear, Randy is far too content with his harem to cause trouble. The procession of cows all in line eventually makes its way through the gate leading up to the bales of the dairy. Other trainees are already there, setting up the gear, ready for milking. The banter among the trainees is full of fun, for they all know one another and despite the early hours, their spirits are high.

A dark figure of a man short and stocky, emerges from the shadows of the night and props himself adjacent to the cream room door, he is observing all that is taking place. This man is a cruel man, a sadist and he has no respect for the beauty of youth. His name is Begley, Ted Begley, the Dairy Manager.

The trainees do not notice his arrival; such is Begley's skill in stealth. Suddenly a cow kicks over a bucket of milk, the cow has had to be hand milked, due to the Mastitis condition of the udder, and the cow is in pain. The hapless trainee attempts to recover the situation quickly, for he knows the consequences of such an event, but to no avail. The figure by the cream room

door launches himself into the youth with fists and boots. The trainee seeks refuge beneath the cow itself after receiving several painful blows. Begley has had his fun.

Eventually peace returns to the team and milking is completed. The horse Bess is harnessed and the milk is loaded for delivery to the village, the time is 7.30am. The trainees make their way down the hill, to the village for breakfast, they are all laughing and cracking jokes, such is the comradeship of these fine young men. Nothing, nothing, will dampen their spirits.

As a serious footnote to this true tale, is a question.

If the administration was aware of this brutality by Begley, why wasn't anything done about it. ?? It went on for years.

BK The Phantom.



Ha! Ha! Ha!

FAMILY TREE OF VINCENT VAN GOGH

His dizzy aunt	Verti Gogh
The brother who ate prunes	Gotta Gogh
The brother who worked at a convenience store	Stop N Gogh
The grandfather from Yugoslavia	U Gogh
His magician uncle	Where-diddy Gogh
His Mexican cousin	A Mee Gogh
The Mexican cousin's American half-brother	Gring Gogh
The nephew who drove a stage coach	Wells-far Gogh
The ballroom dancing aunt	Tang Gogh
The bird lover uncle	Flamin Gogh
An aunt who taught positive thinking	Way-to-Gogh
The little bouncy nephew	Poe Gogh
A sister who loved disco	Go Gogh
The brother with low back pain	Lum Bay Gogh

And his niece who travels the
country in an RV Winnie Bay Gogh
I saw you smiling . . there ya Gogh

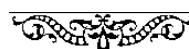
and another:

Wife by text to husband at work .

"Windows at home frozen - what should I do?"

Husband - "spray some de-icer or pour hot water on them"

Wife a few minutes later - "Done that - now computer won't work at all!"



WORD FROM THE PHOTO GURU'S

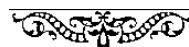
– Jim & Beryl Reid

Thank you to all our Fairbridge Friends who sent donations to help our granddaughter Charlotte go to America. They leave on the 26th April. Hoping we get some good reports from doctors etc while over there.

And thanks to all who sent messages of sympathy when I lost my dad on the 10th March. He is sadly missed but we know he is now resting peacefully.

We have been given quite a few photos and are currently scanning them all. We are going out to Molong soon to check out the new Fairbridge room and see where these can be displayed.

Jim and Beryl Reid



AREA REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

New Zealand – Jane Oakes

Greetings from New Zealand. Firstly I'd like to welcome the new committee and wish them all the best for their coming term of office.

I went to Australia to see my brother Malcolm who was very ill at the time. Thank you Laurie

and Tony for collecting me from the airport. I enjoyed the family gathering on my arrival. It was great to see everyone.

A big thank you to my good friends Sandra and Derek, who welcomed me into their home and took me numerous times to visit Malcolm. (Derek, have you got your roof fixed yet?)

Another highlight for me was being invited to David and Carol Wilson's home for lunch. David has a massive collection of country music, which I thoroughly enjoyed listening to. Thank you both for a fantastic afternoon.

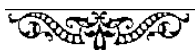
It was great to see my other brother Keith who was staying with Malcolm and looking after his needs. Unfortunately Malcolm was hospitalized, so I took the opportunity to visit my all time friends Rusty and Dianne Dean and family, and other friends in Windsor.

All in all my trip was not a happy experience. Due to a reaction to my blood pressure medication, my feet and ankles (frankles) were excessively swollen for the entire trip. I had to see the doctor on two occasions as he changed my medication, and I had to have my blood pressure taken daily at the medical centre. Thanks Di for taking me.

Since my return, Malcolm has returned home and has just celebrated his 70th birthday. Wonderful news!

Wishing you all health and happiness until the next letter.

Jane Oakes (nee Field)



West Australia – Mike Walker

Our biennial trip to Orange is always a delight and this year was no exception. Well done to you, Laurie, Derek and all those who made it a great success.

We did our usual flight to Canberra and saw a couple of exhibitions before driving up through such lush countryside, a delight after the dryness

of WA. We only had a minor detour via Young to avoid a flooded road. We visited my brother Jim and saw a few friends, even having lunch with a former boss and his wife who had visited us last year. I missed the visit to the farm due to a mix up of my own but we had arranged to visit on the Sunday with another OF who was to contact the caretaker by 1pm to say a few people were coming. We got there but no arrangements had been made so we missed out. There were quite a few Brown Cottage boys there with RAY TATE as guest of honour, LEN MAGEE, FRANK and BRIAN NORTH, me and a couple of others whose names escape me. I was also able to see my godmother Lillian Leal and her husband Neville who were hoping to drive up to Condobolin to see their son if the flooded rivers allowed. After the reunion we went on to the Wellington Caves and had a guide to ourselves for a most informative tour. Next stop Dubbo and the wonderful Western Plains Zoo. We drove our car through stopping at various spots to admire the animals. The hippos and the tiger were two very impressive groups we particularly enjoyed. Then back to Canberra and away home.

BRIAN SCOTT. I always enjoy chatting to him and the time disappears very swiftly. He keeps in touch with brother Eddie who he says plays a lot of Bowls. Brian and Cynthia are content to work around their place and he enjoys a good glass or two of red.

EVE BRYASON says she is in her 86th year but still enjoys mosaic and china painting. Recently she had a letter from MAVIS NOLDER. She has had a few phone chats to LES ROBINSON but has not seen him in a while.

ALAN SCOTTI said he spoke with his brother Ray recently who had a fall while tree lopping and landed on his back but despite being shaken up appears to be OK. Alan is still riding his bike and tries to hit 100 kilometers a couple of times a week. He should be pretty fit as he also does weights and gardening for his daughters and mother in law.

COLIN HARRIS and GAIL said they had a great time at the reunion and visiting with brother JOHN and DERAL. They visited a Leagues club

and caught up with JULIE HARROP her husband David their daughter Michelle and granddaughter Cloe (correct spelling I am told) JOHN HARROP has had a defibrillator fitted to help regulate his heartbeat. Perhaps he has been listening to the old Buddy Holly song too much!! After 3 days in Sydney Colin and Gail and John and Deral went by rail to Gosford and visited JOEY SABIN and lady friend Ellie and admired their living place and had a delicious meal at the Woy Woy leagues club. Now back in WA they had a visit from brother John's son David and wife Jodie who hired a camper vehicle to tour through Kalgoorlie, Esperance and Margaret River before returning east. (That is a trip I intend to do!) That is all for now. We too are off for the Family Restoration Fund trip and will be in the UK for about 6 weeks. My relatives are in Bath, North Wales and Scarborough in Yorkshire so a good spread of the country. My wife could not resist the chance of a few days in France so C'est la vie mes ami.

Bye for now
Regards Mike Walker



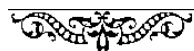
Roving Reporter - Paul McMullan

It was a very enjoyable re-union and it was great to catch up with some people I haven't seen for some time. Good to see the Woollongong crowd North's, Wilsons etc. It was also good to see others from up north like the Piercy's and Tony Stepney. Tony tells me Shirley and Robbie Hillman are close to coming to a re-union, lets hope they do there's a lot of people who would love to see them.

Keith Burns who hasn't been to a re-union yet but has assured me he will be coming to the next one has a photo circa 1963 with all the Brown cottage kids Phillip Cadwallen, Len Magee, the Taylors, myself and Robert McMullan etc. all in Scout uniform in front of Brown cottage with one of our most caring cottage mothers Mrs Hart, its amazing how small we were. It's true some cottage mothers were hard even cruel but it's also true others were equally kind and caring.

I will be touring around a bit more now so be warned I may be coming to a town close to you! Till next time.

Regards Paul RR



VALE

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

ORD William (Tubby) in Wollongong NSW on 30th October 2011

BOUCHER Arthur in Molong NSW on 23rd November 2011

HALL James Anthony (Tony) in Wagga Wagga NSW on 26th December 2011

PARKER David on 15th June 1975 and PARKER Robert Burns Elder on 31st October 2005 as advised by brother Daniel PARKER recently.

SELLARS Robert in Orange NSW on 17th February 2012

Our sincere condolences are afforded to all relatives and friends