
FOLLOW FAIRBRIDGE THE FOUNDER



NOVEMBER 2012

THE OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS' ASSOCIATION – MOLONG

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

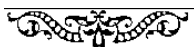
This edition brings you a great report on the 'Welcome Wall' ceremony, thanks to Eva Warhurst's persistence and perseverance – well done Eva (Ed)

Derek has reported on a meeting with Margaret Humphries from the Child Migrant Trust about the Family Restoration Fund as well as providing a detailed report on the Find and Connect service established by the Government.

Some of you may be interested in information on the Alliance for Forgotten Australians they provide a nationwide support and counseling service among other things. Their web address is: www.forgottenaustralians.org.au

I will wish you all a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and look forward to hearing from you in the New Year.

Don't forget to check out our website.
Ed



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi to all Old Fairbridgians and Families,
We are saddened by the loss of well known Old Fairbridgian Malcolm Rodney Field, much loved brother of our long serving Hon' Secretary/Treasurer Laurie, Keith, and Jane, and their families. Malcolm passed away on 30th September, 2012, following a long illness. Several OF's attended Malcolm's funeral in the Illawarra. Additionally, at our most recent Executive Committee meeting on 21st October, we commenced proceedings with a minutes silence, and as your President, I offered sincere condolences on behalf of all Old Fairbridgians.

Many of you would recall how when Malcolm retired from teaching in the UK and returned to live in Australia, he readily accepted the position of Secretary of our Association and gained great pleasure in that role until forced to resign due to his failing health.

He will be sadly missed, not only by his family, but also by his Fairbridge Family. RIP Malcolm.

FIND AND CONNECT

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, (FaHCSIA), has funded a national network of Find & Connect Support Services for Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. Support Services in each state will assist those people who were in care in Australia from the 1920's to 1989.

The service allows people to:

- Access personalised support and counselling, and where possible, to help you to obtain your personal records, (see article re Fairbridge Foundation Records), trace your history and understand why you were placed in care.
- Connect with other services and support networks that may be able to assist you at this time in your life.
- Reconnect with family if possible.

1800 16 11 09 (Free call)
Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5pm.

The function of the 1800 telephone number is to provide frontline support to care leavers or their representatives, to point care leavers in the right direction for finding their records or searching for family. It will also link care leavers with support and counselling within the Find & Connect network or with other agencies.

It is important to note that there are no personal records or private information published in this site.

For all the information or assistance on offer, go to: <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au>.

Here you will find links to all the major support groups, including CMT, Clan, The Alliance for Forgotten Australians, and so on.

FAMILY RESTORATION FUND

Along with Margaret and Barney Piercy I had the pleasure of meeting with Margaret Humphries and Ian Thwaites of the Child Migrants Trust on 4th August, at The Sebel Townhouse, Surry Hills.

The main topic of the meeting was to discuss the FRF, whether our people were happy with the application process and the assistance given by the Trust staff in Melbourne, but also to say that The Trust would certainly appreciate feedback from any of our members who had travelled back via the FRF.

Of a more important nature perhaps was that as the fund, in its current form, is due to expire around the middle of 2013, CMT is lobbying with all its powers to have the Fund continue, if not indefinitely, then certainly well beyond that timeframe.

For anyone planning on using the fund, Margaret's advice is do not hesitate to lodge your application, even if you are not planning on going in the immediate future. The exact date of travel is not important on your initial application. For further information, contact CMT Melbourne, tel.(03) 9815 2022, or email: cmtfrf@aol.com

FAIRBRIDGE PINJARRA

I have recently received a copy of an article in a Western Australia newspaper relating to Fairbridge

Pinjarra. As the article is freely available on a number of websites and additionally does not refer to Fairbridge, Molong, I feel it would serve no purpose to include it in our Newsletter. Having said that I believe we will hear more of it as there are some startling facts and figures previously unheard.

As 2012 draws to a close may I say to any OF's not enjoying good health, we wish you well. Please feel free to drop a line to Sec' Laurie or myself. Sometimes we may be able to get a fellow OF to call in and maybe cheer you up a little. From personal experience even a "Get Well" card can brighten someone's day so if you know of someone doing it tough, please let us know.

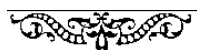
In closing, on behalf of your Executive Committee, I wish all OF's and families a very merry Xmas, and may 2013 be kind to you.

Derek Moriarty
President

FILES FROM FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL – MOLONG

Children's Files 1938-1973

To access your information/files, you can write to the Council Secretary, Fairbridge Foundation, 809 Trust Building, 155 King St, Sydney NSW 2000.



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

All I can say is how fast the time is passing, another year almost over and Christmas just around the corner.

One sad note that I have to report is the passing of my brother Malcolm on 30th September 2012 after a long illness with cancer. I was fortunate enough to see him in hospital the day before he died and I would like to thank our President and his wife Sandra, for staying with him during the last night of his life. My brother Keith and sister Jane were over from New Zealand for the funeral on 9th October 2012.

Malcolm spent a lot of time on the Executive Committee and was Secretary for a period during my absence due to illness some time back. We will miss him but at least he is now at peace.

I do not have any important matters to raise at this point in time except to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Laurie Field

Secretary

NOTICE OF MEETING – 75th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

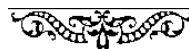
Notice is hereby given that the 75th Annual General Meeting of the Old Fairbridgians' Association – Molong, will be held at the Orange Ex-Services Club Ltd. Anson Street, Orange NSW in the Moresby Room on Sunday 10th March 2013 commencing at 10.00am for 10.30am.

The business of the meeting will be:-

- to confirm the minutes of the 74th Annual General Meeting;
- to receive and confirm the Annual Financial Report;
- to appoint an Honorary Auditor for the ensuing year;
- to confirm the appointment of Peter Bennett as a Committee Member; and
- to handle any other business matters allowable under the Constitution for an Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Executive Committee, Old Fairbridgians' Association – Molong.

Laurie Field
Secretary



TREASURERS REPORT

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS:-

All OF's and Associate Members received a Statement of Financial Standing with the May 2012 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 as follows:-

Laurie Field
Treasurer
Old Fairbridgians's Association – Molong.
34 Merle Street, BASS HILL 2197

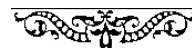
Laurie Field
Treasurer

“WELCOME WALL” – AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, SYDNEY, NSW.

On Sunday 27 May at 1100h we attended a ceremony in part to witness a dedication to those Old Fairbridgians who gave their lives during war time for this great country. The address by Neil Morrison of his own experiences at Fairbridge and in the army during WW11 was very moving and heard in dead silence by the large gathering. In all there were several thousand people of all nationalities present for the ceremony. One speaker quoted a fact unknown to most people that in Australia there are 260 different languages spoken.

Those present included Shirley Young wife of the late Jim, and her four daughters from Kangaroo Flat (Bendigo), Elsie Love from Onehunga New Zealand with her son Christopher from Turrumurra, Carl and Annette (now Ann) Millichamp from Queensland, Ray and Margaret Scotti from Gilgandra, Beryl Cox wife of the late Cyril and four daughters from Queensland, Robert and Denise Kirkby from Maleny, Queensland, Ted Gillies son Colin from Parkes, Reuben Gamsby's daughters (Mum Margaret is now in a nursing home), Eva's niece Donna Poulton who has been a great assistance to Eva with this project and John Kennedy of the Fairbridge Foundation. The lunch served by the museum would do the best of caterers proud with the variety and food and quality being rated excellent. The Sydney contingent was very light on numbers with Peter Bennett, Margaret Clarke (Watt), Daphne Appleby, Laurie and Terry Field, John and Deral Harris and Eva Warhurst (Reid). The committee would like to sincerely thank all those Old Fairbridgians and families that attended this memorable day. We also received the following apologies due to illness or distance, Sir Robert Woods, Robert and Eileen Durose, Margaret Jeffs, Joan Eshlin, Les Robinson (WA), Steven Blundell's (WA) daughter Sonia Cachia, Gordon Reid's family from Goulburn (Son broke 3 ribs) Dennis Silver and Chris Bowen MP.

On behalf of all Old Fairbridgians and their families we thank you Eva for your personal commitment as the motivator and coordinator of this wonderful tribute by adding all those Old Fairbridgians to the now well known “Welcome Wall”. These are the Old Fairbridgian men who gave their lives for their country. We do recommend when visiting Sydney you allow several hours to view all the exhibits at the museum and most importantly show your respects at the “Welcome Wall” for those Old Fairbridgians who are no longer with us.



THANKS FOR JOINING US AT THE WELCOME WALL

Hello Family and Friends of the OFA.

Well we have now added 66 names of our Old Fairbridgian Armed Services personnel onto the Welcome Wall at the National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, Sydney. It was a beautiful day with a carnival theme. Many thanks to those who came along in support and made it memorable, especially Neil Morrison who gave a wonderful speech on behalf of those Child Migrants including his whose names were unveiled.

I'm sure those who were unable to attend due to age, ill health or who now live in other states would be pleased that we had others there to represent and honour all our military personnel – LEST WE FORGET

Many thanks to those widows and their many children who traveled from Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales country towns and New Zealand.

Many thanks to Chris Bowen MP, for following up and reversing the Government Grant after it was denied by the Immigration Department. Also to John Kennedy Chairman Fairbridge Foundation and to Laurie Field, Dennis Silver and John Harris members of the Old Fairbridgians Association, who were of a great help to me in my research.

Also my thanks to all the staff at the Maritime Museum who mingled among the crowd and were all so helpful throughout the day, the new Director Jeff Sumption who attended his first unveiling (Jan who always willingly relayed my phone messages), Ashley Chin WW Manager, Veronica Kooyman Reporter, Jeffrey Melifont Editor Signals Magazine. Alana Thompson Events Co-ordinator and who were all only a phone call or email away for any assistance I needed to make the day such a great success.

I also would like to mention my own supporters on the day, my niece Donna Poulton who traveled from Newcastle to be at my side and my GP Dr Tun who strongly encouraged and supported me from the beginning and throughout all my ups and downs during my research.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the caterers who served up a lovely luncheon for the invited guests.

Special Notice:

I must apologise to those widows and their families of the Armed Servicemen and Women for the conduct of Linda Gidman who showed bad manners in approaching them with her own agenda – WRONG PLACE AND TIME LINDA! - You didn't do yourself any favours on the day with your actions.

Eva - Committee

OLDFAIRBRIDGIANS.ORG - WEBSITE.

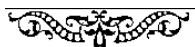
Update by Brian Kirkby - September 2012

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 Contact, Robs Spot, Gallery and more recently Fairbridge Tales. Rob Durose in Robs Spot has not contributed lately due to ill health, but he tells me that he is on the mend. Stories in the Fairbridge Tales section have been contributed to by Derek Moriarty, Michael Pass, Arthur Novis and myself. We need more stories, but please keep them funny and concise if possible.

In regard to the Vale section, more stories and details of deceased members have been added when they come to hand, usually it is members of the general public who have contributed, this I have found surprising. It has puzzled me why more of the Old Fairbridgians are not contributing to this section; it is after all to honour forever those that have passed on. Please assist here and even forward a photo of them. Please email me on kirkby@senet.com.au or send direct to Brian Kirkby 109/1-25 Capt. Robertson Ave, Golden Grove. SA 5125. Mobile 0412 501 137

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pat Cadwallen – Werrington NSW

Thanks for sending us the newsletter, it has been interesting reading some of the stories and finding out what has been happening in OF's lives. Phil and I have been married for forty-five years this September. We have three lovely daughters and four grandchildren who live close by, so we are fortunate in that we see them often and are involved in their lives.

I retired in April 2006 after many years as a Primary School teacher; Phil is still working. He is a sales manager with Pyrotek – Soundguard and is kept pretty busy.

We've had two trips to the UK. The first trip in 1992, when my sister Dorothy was still alive and then in 2004 through the Child Migrants' Trust when I was able to meet up with my eldest brother, Arthur and Joan, his wife. I hadn't seen him since we left the UK

in 1953 with my three brothers, David, Ron and Robert – so that was quite an amazing re-union!

Philip's family came as £10 Poms with 8 children and his parents. Philip came to Fairbridge with his 2 brothers, Billy and Owen and two little sisters Maureen and Karen. The younger ones left the Farm School after about 18 months, but Philip actually enjoyed his time there and stayed about 4 years. His family became my family and we became very close. Sadly, his parents have both passed away in recent years but both are fondly remembered with great love and lots of laughter and happy memories!

Today, my eldest granddaughter turned 17, so we have a family party tonight and she's off to 'laser skirmish' with her friends tomorrow. How time flies! Our youngest grandchild is just six months old – Emily Rose was born on October 30 last year and she is a gorgeous, little chubby bub! My fifteen year old grandson now towers over me and No. 3 is my seven year old granddaughter who is full of beans and always on the go.

Well, this is a little longer than I'd intended but thought it'd put you in the picture so to speak!

By the way – I'm Ron and Robert Sinclair's sister Pat in case you hadn't realized, so was at Fairbridge long time, from 6 to 17 – when I left for Bathurst Teacher's College. A lifetime ago! I've never really wanted too much connection with Fairbridge, I must admit but I'm sure we were all different in our ways of coping or remembering our time there. I think I was certainly one of the lucky ones – mostly had good Cottage Mothers and remember the Woods with great fondness and loved Harry Harrop who was always so good to the kids.

Anyway, before I get to 'book proportions' I'll close off! All the best to your and your family
Best wishes - Pat Cadwallen

Michael Pass - UK

To the question raised by Brian Kirkby - "Bringing the cows in".

Brian you write of 1959. Digressing slightly I gain the impression that milking had become mechanised by then, except for the odd sick cow. Back in 1951, 52 and 53. We milked the cows by hand, none of those glorious mechanical devices. We knew of them from visits to outside dairies or the Rotalactor.

But in answer to your question, the Administration knew what went on, I do not think they really cared; it came under the loose titling of "Discipline". I suffered several bootings from our Ted, as did every one else. But it increased in savagery after the Silo caught fire and was destroyed. So much of his horses fodder was ruining whilst we fought the fire. Terry Speight may recall getting thumped (1953) after running late one morning. He thought I was at fault, but it was another

boy who told him not to worry, the milk had been delivered. Terry repaid the thumps he got three fold and gave me quite a hiding.

So you see that Ted was booting and thumping boys for years before you encountered him. He had been at it for ages before I reached Fairbridge. I have a memory of one boy who dodged the boot, sadly to be caught and up-ended in the copper cooking the pig swill. We had started going into Molong to secondary school, he still reeked of the swill when we went on the bus, and there had not been time to shower before we left.

Thank you very much for the interesting tale.

Respectfully Michael

Queen's Jubilee.

Back in the dim recesses of my mind there lurks the memory of the visit of the Queen to Bathurst. I do not recall the actual date anymore, but I do recall getting up in the ungodly hours with several others and hurrying to the kitchen. There I sliced the bread whilst the others spread butter and filling into a huge pile of sandwiches. These we then wrapped in paper and packed into three baskets. A very early breakfast for all, then it was into the bus for the journey to Molong Station. It was quite a long journey on the train to reach Bathurst. Once there transport was arranged to take us to the Bathurst Showground. The marshals herded us along to a defined area and we settled down to wait. We sat and had lunch still in our designated area, wondering what the dickens was going on. Then about 1330hrs people started to stand and were becoming excited. Over a public address system we heard many speeches. (It didn't make much sense to us where we were, we could not easily understand what was being said.). About 1450hrs there was greater excitement. People standing leaning or pushing forward. It was quite frightening for some of the smaller children who thought they might be squashed. Then there was growing cheering, getting louder and closer. Suddenly it was all around us; looking ahead I saw an open topped car pass by (at about 20mph) a young lady waving. Poof and she was gone. That was the visit of the Queen to Bathurst. We duly made our way back to Bathurst Station, then the train trip back to Molong.

Another dim thought that lurks in the recesses of my mind.

Ted Wisell (I think that is right) the Headmaster of the School within the school used to teach, among other subjects English Literature with its on going emphasis on Shakespeare and his works. I do recall that either 1951 or 1952 he walked into the classroom and threw down a text book. He announced the play would be

staged in November. So we set to dissecting the book, working who would be whom, working on costumes etc. In the November we put on the play (Here I admit to Old Age I cannot recall which play it was. But it was probably *The Merchant of Venice*.) In a section of the play there was call for a sword duel. Imagine our joy on learning this. Thus on the night, two fiercely keen youngsters one armed with a samurai sword and the other a naval cutlass, with gusto they set to work, sparks flew. How no-one was injured has always remained a mystery to me. I had the speech "All the World's a Stage" dressed in a pair of shockingly pink baggy Lady's Bloomers. But all went well. Unbeknown to us on stage, there were guests in the audience, Journalists from Sydney and members of the Royal Shakespearian Company who were playing in Sydney, you could imagine our delight to be told we would be going to Sydney to see the professionals do the same play. What a treat that was. Also we got taken to Lunar Park, I remember this well, on one ride where you stick to the wall as it rotates, I was two people behind Johnny Ray, who was sick all over me. He apologised and gave me £5.00, then we went to see the play. The next day we went on the Manly Ferry and then to Taronga Park and then returned to Molong. Mr. Wisell had a copy of the critics review from the Sydney Morning Herald. The Critic had attended both performances and in his critique said he enjoyed our version of the play against the RSC, for sheer enjoyment.

Sadly, that was the last year that plays were held as the elder children started going into Molong to school. But that is another story. Real Live Australians.....

Molong Central School..... What a change in the education, far more impersonal. In the class we were just children. There were strange other children. Local children such as Greg Prideaux, George Cassimattis (his family owned the Cafe) Ann Monday, Beverley (the beautiful) Osborne, Coral and Janice Weekes. Just a few names I recall now, but they soon made us welcome. Indeed there was an interesting happening which Michael Waters, Norman Smethum, Gerald Oliver, Warren Wilkins may recall, the local children discovered our sandwiches. Big, thick full of strange fillings, they would offer to exchange what they had for outs. A good trade ensued. They loved Baked Bean sandwiches, Curried Egg sandwiches and Vegemite to name a few. I do recall there was none of the 'them or us', unlike the attitude afforded us by the pupils at De La Salle in Orange. There we were always the..... sorry it is a naughty set of words. I recall also that the Manual Training teacher was named Vivian Cranstone, which we thought strange for a man to have a girl's name. He was a very good teacher. Michael Pass

Gina (Daughter of Ray Scotti) – July 2012

Raymond Jack Scotti – My Dad

Dad has been asking me to write this informative letter for Fairbridge about our family for quite a few months, so finally here goes.

Let's start with us kids, there are six of us and between us all we have given dad eleven grandchildren.

Brant (52) is the eldest and married to Donna (51). Brant is retired from Mental Health and devotes his time between gardening and family. Donna is a teacher for TAFE NSW and travels all over the central west of NSW teaching nursing. They have Beau (25) who is a builder and talented muso and lives between Dubbo, Gilgandra and the central west depending on where his work is. Alexi (22) lives in Enmore, Sydney, works in the hospitality industry both as a manager and chef while studying at Macquarie University doing a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Human Resources. Lucy (21) is the Nursery Team Leader working with little treasures/monsters for the Premier Early Learning Centre in Gilgandra and loves helping sick and injured reptiles recover to be returned back to nature.

Next is Lex (51) who is most like dad in neatness, is married to Leisa (45) and they live at Walgett NSW where they own the Walgett Milk run, it distributes as far as Lightning Ridge. Leisa works at the local school and Lex also is the Manager for Walgett Tyre and Machinery and sells and services everything from spark plugs to tractors that are as big as houses. Noah (20) is their eldest, lives in Glebe Sydney and goes to University of Sydney to do a Bachelor of Arts and a double degree in partying. Jonah (17) is doing year 11 at St John's College Dubbo and is a mad fully sic skateboarder. Lydia (13) attends Gilgandra High School and plays netball and basketball for Gilgandra. Jonah and Lydia both reside with their grandmother Lillian whilst they are at school.

Youngest son Darren – the professor, (49) is a Contract Engineer and is currently working for Wilcannia Shire – (Central Darling Shire Council). He travels between Wilcannia and his home in Mudgee. Darren has two sons, Louis (23) who lives in Mudgee and works in the grape harvesting industry in winter and cotton picking in summer. Simon (21) lives in Lismore NSW and goes to Southern Cross University doing a Bachelor of Visual Arts degree and has a passion for drawing, which he is very talented.

Eldetst daughter and nicest and prettiest of them all is Gina (21) – that's me Ha-ha ... I work with a close team at the Gilgandra pharmacy. I don't drink, smoke or tell lies, I am married to Brendon (46) and we own a property of 700 acres 10km out of Gilgandra. Currently we have 50 head of cattle, 3 chooks, a duck,

rooster, 2 dogs and a budgie and hopefully lots of calves to come by Christmas. We have 3 children; Zaac (23) – our own 'gym junkie', is the National Operations Manager for Virgin Active (Gym) at Baulkham Hills. He also has just taken on the Manager's position for Parramatta Eels under 12's and 14's. Zaac's partner, Amanda, grew up on Caslte Hill, NSW, is a Personal Trainer working at Virgin Active and in a past life was a wiz in gymnastics. Jasper (12) is School Captain of St Josephs Gilgandra, plays football and is head jackaroo on the farm, our youngest Ruby (11) goes to St Josephs School Gilgandra and collects pets as you can tell and makes the loveliest handmade cards.

Next prettiest is middle daughter Michelle (36) who lives with her partner Matt (40) in Cheltenham, Sydney. Shell is a Client Service Manager and works for Fifteen Hundred Financial Strategies. In her spare time she runs marathons just for fun, work that out! Matt works for Nabinvest as the Investment Operations Manager and they share custody of Matt's daughter Tyler (10) who attends St Angela's Primary School, Castle Hill. Tyler's interests include netball, reading and music.

Baby of the family and most spoilt is the princess – Danielle(26). Danielle works for KU Services at West Lindfield, Sydney and has a Diploma in Child Services. She enjoys the nightlife of Sydney and all that the city offers. Danielle has a favourite saying 'just because your poor, doesn't mean you have to look poor' and boy does she live up to that. Danieele, Zaac, Amanda and friend Sam live together in Abbotsford.

Dad has been 'retired' from the Gilgandra Shire Council for about 15 years where he was Overseer. In saying that I think he works just as hard but with a few more holidays. Currently he is a 'jack of all trades' around town, doing any job that is asked of him from fixing a tap to cutting trees. Only a matter of months ago, he fell out of a tree (holding onto a chainsaw – as you do), which held him up for a little while. Thankfully he has made a full recovery. Margaret is a Registered Nurse and works in emergency at Dubbo Base Hospital and enjoys her work, which is great as she has worked there for 40 years. She looks out for her mum and dad and is as house proud as what dad is, and deserves a medal for living with dad ... ha ha. They travel to Sydney frequently to see Shell, Danni, Zaac, Alexi and Noah.

Dad and Margaret live next door to mum, Lillian who is now retired. She may be retired from the workforce but as I said earlier, Lex's 2 children stay with her during school terms, Jasper and Ruby go there some days after school, as well as looking after my cousin's baby one day a week. Mum continues to care and be

the rock for us all as she has always done and makes the best lamb's fry and bacon you could ever eat.

Dad continues to go to the Indy Car Races each year held in Surfers' Paradise, Queensland. Adelaide car races have been on the agenda for the past few years also. Last year Dad and Margaret travelled up to Darwin and across the top of Queensland for quite a few weeks and thoroughly enjoyed it.

This year their trip was to Perth to see dad's brother Alan (whom I'm sure you all remember), who he hasn't seen for 43 years. They traveled down south, along the Great Ocean Road, across the Nullarbor reaching Perth after a five day trip. By all accounts the reunion with Alan and his wife Lorraine went well with lots of catching up. Margaret said they both talked a lot, which doesn't sound unusual from dad's side anyway. Alan and Lorraine have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Dad and Alan made the pilgrimage to Fremantle Port whilst in Perth and stood each side of the statue of two children with suitcases that commemorates the British Child Migrants. Who would have thought what that day was going to mean to them 63 years later to stand there in the exact spot of their original landing in Australia.

I was christened in the Chapel at Fairbridge which I don't remember but I do remember when visiting there we were in a big room with lots of beds.

Also as a child, I still remember having to sweep the gutters at the front of our house – EVERYDAY, Mr Sheen the car – EVERYDAY, vacuum the house – EVERYDAY, just to mention a few jobs, and this doesn't include the boys' chores. You didn't let dad catch you sitting down when he got home from work or he would find you another job to do. When Brendon came for his first visit to our home, dad had him helping him to fix the washing machine. On subsequent visits after that there was always some job for Brendon to do, so he told me that I had better come and visit him ... there would be many more stories I could tell you but will leave them for another day.

I have heard dad saying: "I've never put Fairbridge to the back of my mind, it's a part of my life. The big boss at the farm school said I would make nothing out of my life, but I reckon I've turned out alright."

My view of this is that anybody that knows my dad would know that he is a generous person and would do anybody a good turn before a bad one. We love him dearly, even if he does drive us crazy sometimes (ok maybe many times) ... But ... 'I reckon he has turned out alright.'

Eternally Gina

Mel Fisher

It was great to be at the last reunion catching up with people I hadn't seen for ages. However, I did notice the existence of a new sub group consisting mainly of the Class Action Litigats (CAL) or is it the Hill Tribe? Don't get me wrong they have every right to exist and I wish them well in their endeavours.

Over enthusiasm of some CAL members, however, are allowing their 'propaganda for the cause' to creep into the OFA Newsletter. I was concerned last year to read claims about three bullying Sabin brothers. Anyone who knew the three could tell you what contrasting individual personalities they were. This generalization about their behaviour is not justified, especially now that one of them is deceased. I think the statement was made in extremely poor taste. Why should three members of the family be publicly named and vilified without the accuser being accountable just because they went to Fairbridge? Would it be done publicly to a family who lived down the street or better still, to one's own family member? I think not.

Again, in the May 2012 Newsletter was a made up story with a sting in its tail, a vicious personal attack on Ted Begley, a past dairy manager since deceased. I've been reading OFA Newsletters since 1982, but never before have I read this sort of stuff. Thanks to the freedom afforded by our editor, we can send in almost anything and it's published without censorship. Over the years this has worked well but the trend towards personal attacks on people unable to provide a defense is worrying. Such statements are in any event, subject to defamation laws.

I see name calling as completely unnecessary. It serves no useful purpose in that it doesn't advance anyone's cause; quite the contrary.

Perhaps we could appeal to any future contributors to this family-oriented Newsletter to use good sense in this matter and avoid making personal attacks on people having due consideration on the rights on every Fairbridgian or staff member as is the right of every Australian citizen, to be treated with respect.

Thank you for your time

Mel Fisher PhD

Ian Dean - Bligh Park NSW

The passing of Robert Sellars 17th February 2012.

I actually found out about Bob's death through the bush telegraph that is Kevin Askew. He related the story of how an employee of Orange Base Hospital had recognized Bob's name, and who was at Fairbridge also with his mum who happened to be Mrs Dunn the nursing sister in the mid sixties.

Bob and I grew up together in Mort Cottage in the early to mid sixties, crazy as it seems his death triggered a hell of a lot of memories of years gone by. The year was 1967 and I had just left Fairbridge to take up residency in Molong with an ex cottage mother. My first job was at Jones' Dry Cleaners in Molong. Bob had just been laid off from his job at Bakers Swamp near Wellington NSW. He was staying at Fairbridge till Jack Newberry could find him another job, anyway he contacted me and asked if I would like to go to the 'Big Smoke' ie. Sydney. My reply was, "What with shirt buttons", he said "it's all right mate I have a \$100 you can have some", I said no, but we came to a compromise and I sold him my mohair jumper for \$20, then we headed for the bright lights of Sydney.

When we arrived in Sydney I said to Bob lets go and see Johnny Connell, he lives in Lilyfield with his girlfriend Nan. I lived with Nan as we called her for about 2 years and Bob stayed 3 months then he headed out on his own.

In the late sixties Bob and I hooked up again, renting half a house in Ross Street, Glebe not far from the Forest Lodge Hotel, many a happy hour spent there Ha Ha!!

During this time my brother Linden Dean came to visit me, I then showed him around our 'little pad' as we called it, when he saw my room he said you live pretty frugally don't you. Well I did have a cupboard, a bed and lino on the floor and no lamp shade covering the light. 'Ahh Well.' When we opened the double doors to Bob's bedroom my brother looked at me and said "Wow the ultimate bachelor pad hey". He had shag pile carpet, a cocktail bar (full by the way) a you beaut metallic tape recorder – state of the art then. He also had a big double bed, a 21 inch television and the room painted in patriotic red white and blue colours.

My brother and I still talk about the comparisons of his room and mine, we still have a bit of a belly laugh.

In the early seventies Bob went to England with a mate David Attwood I think, Whilst there he visited his sister, whom I believe rejected him, that would have been a bit of a blow for him, he gave England the flick and came back to Australia. I heard Bob lived a bit of a reclusive life style from all accounts from people I have talked to.

I lost contact with Bob from 1975 as I went to England and spent 10 years there. I came back in 1985, I thought to myself it's nice to be back home again.

The next time I heard about Bob was in the year 2000 or maybe a few years after, he packed in his job, got rid of all his possessions, jumped on a bicycle dressed in shorts and a singlet and rode from Ultimo to Fairbridge. Now that's a long haul. My God what was he thinking at the time, I can't believe it.

As luck goes the caretaker at Fairbridge contacted Social Services from Orange and they looked after him up until his death.

I must say I am sorry I didn't contact him when I came back from England, I think when you are married you get caught up in your own life.

"GOOD MEMORIES OF YEARS GONE BY"

Bob you may have gone but you are not forgotten – Rest in Peace.

Your mate Deano

Robert Taylor - Alice Springs

After a voyage out from Cornwall England on the SS Orion I arrived at Fairbridge Farm School Molong 50 years ago this week. Robert J Sellars (RIP) was the only other Fairbridge boy in our party, but there were other boys in our group going to various other places in NSW, our escort was a Mr Graham J Abbott. The journey out via the Mediterranean, Malta, Athens, the Suez Canal and Ceylon was very exciting and opened my eyes to the wider world, cultures and people; I also learnt a basic form of swimming and had a general good time. While at Station Pier in the Port of Melbourne my uncle, aunt and cousins came on board to meet me for the first time, my uncle having come to Australia during World War II and married an Australian girl from the Cowra area just south of Molong. I vaguely remember docking in Sydney, the cold overnight train journey to Fairbridge and the shock of seeing the Australian rural landscape for the first time.

Upon my arrival at Fairbridge I was housed in Mort Cottage and I think the Cottage Mother was a Mrs Robertson. Mort Cottage was a bit of a shock to me as the orphanage in Cornwall was a grand three story house (Pentillie House, Mevagissey), Mort Cottage and all the Fairbridge cottages I saw were of a very institutional design and functional. I still remember the hard cyclone wire beds and how they were crammed close together, the worse thing I remember about the dormitory was the loud booming voice of the man (Deputy Principal?) waking us all up early in the morning. Breakfast in Nuffield Hall was also an eye opening experience, I was amazed at the steel plates, the cube of hard butter and honey and the noise of the all the children vigorously mixing the butter and honey together so it could be spread on large thick pieces of bread. Rugby training was foreign to me and not very enjoyable, but I did enjoy chopping wood for the cottage on the wood pile. The other bad experience I remember was lining up for the showers and only having a brief opportunity to wash in the freezing cold water. The open locker room with everyone trying to

change in a small area was not easy to get used to and the common area with its hard benches was functional for the small amount of time we spent there. The standard of learning at Molong Central School was probably the most stressful part of my first few weeks at Fairbridge, I must have been placed in a class way above my ability at the time. Apart from those stressful subjects like algebra, mathematics and English I enjoyed the school especially animal husbandry and gardening. My first trip to the town swimming pool was a bit scary initially, but a relief from the heat that I was not used to. I also enjoyed the outings to the cinema in Molong and the scout groups activities and camp. One of my few regrets was not really getting to know and appreciating the farming part of Fairbridge more. Before I had a chance to settle into life at Fairbridge my uncle & aunt must have made arrangements for me to come and live with them in Melbourne, so I left Fairbridge just prior to Christmas 1962.

Deciding to enter the Fairbridge scheme at 13 years of age and coming out to Australia had a positive and profound impact on my life and I appreciate all the good people who helped me to make it all possible. After finishing 3rd form at Maribyrnong High I completed a five year apprenticeship in Cabinet Making and travelled in Australia and overseas for a couple of years before making the life changing decision to come to Alice Springs in 1974. In Alice I met Ann a Sussex girl nursing at the local hospital, we built and made a home in Alice Springs and had four wonderful children together. Ann retired in 2000 and I retired in 2008 and we now spend our summers down south; visiting our daughter and grandchildren on Kangaroo Island on our way to and from Tasmania. I have recently been in touch with the Child Migrant Trust hopefully to fill in some gaps in my memory and records from my life in Cornwall between the time my mother died in 1956 when I was nine and my move to Melbourne.

Robert Taylor
Alice Springs
15/08/2012

Nyasa Holmes nee Woods – October 2012

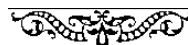
This incident happened in the days when we used to swim up at the Dam. I don't remember it all that well as I guess I was about 6 or 7 years of age. We were swimming in the fenced off area for the non swimmers and I think we went out of the area and I myself think it was Rosie Bates and I got out of our depth and very nearly drowned. I can remember floating under water with Rosie clinging to me and dragging me down. I am sure we were very close to actually losing

consciousness as I can remember the white tunnel (the near death experience). However one of the older boys came along and we grabbed hold of him and he rescued us. I think we nearly drowned him in our panic. I never really knew who that boy was. He would have to be in his mid to late 70's now as I am 70.

If you are out there I would like to express my thanks for saving our lives because if you hadn't come along we would surely have drowned. I don't remember what happened after and I don't even know if my mother was aware of the incident.

You are my hero!

Nyasa Holmes. nyasaholmes@activ8.net.au



Ha! Ha! Ha!

TWO OF THE YEAR'S BEST COMEBACK RESPONSES

Number 1:

If you ever testify in court, you might wish you could have been as sharp as this policeman. He was being cross-examined by a defense attorney during a felony trial. The lawyer was trying to undermine the police officer's credibility

Q: 'Officer --- did you see my client fleeing the scene?'

A: 'No sir. But I subsequently observed a person matching the description of the offender, running several blocks away.'

Q: 'Officer, who provided this description?'

A: 'The officer who responded to the scene.'

Q: 'A fellow officer provided the description of this so-called offender. Do you trust your fellow officers?'

A: 'Yes, sir. With my life.'

Q: 'With your life? Let me ask you this then officer. Do you have a room where you change your clothes in preparation for your daily duties?'

A: 'Yes sir, we do!'

Q: 'And do you have a locker in the room?'

A: 'Yes, sir, I do

Q: 'And do you have a lock on your locker?'

A: 'Yes, sir.'

Q: 'Now, why is it, officer, if you trust your fellow officers with your life, you find it necessary to lock your locker in a room you share with these same officers?'

A: 'You see, sir, we share the building with the court complex, and sometimes lawyers have been known to walk through that room.'

The courtroom EXPLODED with laughter, and a prompt recess was called. The officer on the stand has been nominated for this year's 'Best Comeback' line -- and we think he'll win.

Number 2:

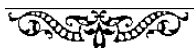
Now We Know Why He Was a General ----

In an recent interview, General Norman Schwarzkopf was asked if he thought there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harboured and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America.

His answer was classic Schwarzkopf.

The General said, "I believe that forgiving them is God's function... OUR job is to arrange the meeting."

You have got to love them both!



AREA REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

United Kingdom – Ray 'Roo' Tate

I wanted to read the following out at the AGM on Sunday 11 March 2012 – but didn't get the opportunity so will do so now:

G'day

Its great to be home at last with my 1st family – Fairbridge.

I tried to get financial assistance from the Child Migrant Trust UK to return here – to no avail.

Can I thank you all for financially assisting me to be here this weekend, but, may I make special thanks to my mate Mel 'Fish' Fisher – my party 1947 S.S. Ormonde (geez it sounds like a convict ship – its so long ago!). He has spent many hours and his own valuable time organizing this fund.

THANK YOU

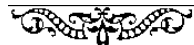
Finally I have a couple of Banks and Post Offices – lined up to rob, when I get back to the UK, to repay you all.

I will be writing to all of those who have contributed to the 'Spud Fund'.

PS – Thank you Executive Committee for doing such a splendid job – 'Keeping us all together.'

Ray 'Roo' Tate OF

Thanks for the postcard on Suffolk Ray – certainly looks a lovely place – Ed



West Australia – Mike Walker

Brian and Cynthia Scott: Brian is spending a great deal of time in his vegetable garden and tending his fruit trees. There are also some friendly chickens. While talking on the phone he had to shoo them out the back door after they had ventured in to try some dog food. He has had a problem with a shoulder which has prevented him doing the general maintenance on the tractor. But he keeps a positive attitude. His younger brother Eddie visited recently from Melbourne and they enjoyed each others company for a week.

Alan and Lorraine Scotti: They are preparing to become Grandparents early next year for the second time. Alan still rides his bike as often as possible and as far as he is game to keep fit. He too had a visit from his brother Ray. The brothers had not seen each other for 42 years so it was quite an occasion. Ray applied to the Family Restoration Fund and had the trip approved. Ray had a bit of vehicle trouble coming over the Nullarbor and had to have it freighted to Perth. The problem was examined in Perth and parts replaced only to have the same thing happen on the return trip.

Eve Bryason: Will be 87 by the time you read this. Being over 80 requires a driving licence test which she passed to her delight but reckons a year more driving will do. She already has a motorised gopher ready to take over the transport to the local shops duty. Meanwhile she continues to do her mosaics and has a friends table to finish off.

Colin and Gail Harris: Are living the quiet life. However their daughter has just had her third child and their fifth grandchild so that may change.

Les and Joy Robinson: Were well-cared for in their hostel Les said. He added that he and Joy have been together for 65 years and are thinking of making it permanent. He said they were lucky to be still together and he was happy with everything. He has a bet or two on the horses just to make things interesting.

Glenys and I have returned to our part-time work after our 6 weeks in the UK in June. I was delighted to have my share of the trip largely funded by the Family Restoration Fund administered by the Child Migrant Trust. We spent the first few days in London re-visiting our favourite spots (I originally met Glenys here in

1973) including Tower Bridge, British Museum and a tour of Hampton Court Palace. On a lighter note we took in "The Jersey Boys" show which was a vibrant look at the life of The Four Seasons pop group. Then we zipped over to Paris on the Eurostar. Naturally we saw the Eiffel Tower and the Palace of Versailles -- such opulence no wonder the peasants were revolting!! We enjoyed the art work at L'Orangerie, Musee D'Orsay and the stroll up the Champs Elysee etc. Glenys also was stunned by the shopping at Galeries Lafayette. A highlight for me was our trip to Bayeux to see the 70 metre 900 year-old Bayeux Tapestry. Stunning! I have a book of photos of it but they are pale images compared to the object itself. It really gives a realistic impression of movement. It is magnificent and worth the effort to see it and the historic events it depicts. I could go on and on..... We returned to London and headed to Bath to do the family re-connect. My 90 year-old uncle is now in care but is fussed over by his wife, daughter and son-in-law and has a great life. We were able to get out several times to favourite spots of his and wander with his wheelchair. It truly was a great opportunity to try and fill in some gaps. We also had a top lunch with a few fellow members of the Sunbeam Talbot car club. And I have the photos to prove it! The Olympic torch procession came by too so that was a bonus. Then we headed to North Wales to see my 80year-old uncle there. I had not met him before but we had a great time and connected well and I learned a few tales of his life with the family. Unfortunately it was only a short visit and he is a bit out of the way but we keep in touch. Glenys also visited her cousins in Chester. The Olympic Torch was coming soon after we left. Then we were off to Scarborough to see my sister. She was working a large part of it so our time was short but we went out a lot and visited her dad and walked on the sands and generally enjoyed the "Yorkshireness" of it all. The day before we left we finally made contact with the children of one of my grandfather's brothers. This was a delight and such a shame we could not have spent longer with them. Ironically one of them lived opposite the house where I was born and we had walked past it previously. Finally I was able to finalise the installation of a headstone on the grave of my mother and grandfather to replace a little numbered peg that stood there before. That was it and back to Oz

Bye for now
Regards Mike Walker

NSW – DENNIS SILVER

Fairbrige Memorial Park

Hi Folks, Advising that the Fairbrige Foundation Council have authorised Cabonne Shire Council to

replace the Memorial Park fence facing the Mitchell Highway with a powder coated steel fence. This should outlast most of us and enhance the appearance of the park.

Regards, Dennis - NSW Area Rep

Roving Reporter - Paul McMullan

Greetings

Here I am in Bali coincidentally at the same time as the Bali bombing ceremony. It goes without saying it was a solemn and moving occasion.

David Hill has just returned from a month of archaeological exploration in Greece not exactly raiders of the lost ark stuff, but they're looking at the ancient city of Troizen. It's a key area in uncovering evidence of the Persian Wars period. Ian Smiley Bayliff accompanied David as field photographer on the project.

Its a hugely fascinating subject matter, one I've had a little experience in myself, having been on a bronze age dig in the Sinai desert. If you ever watch Time Team with Tony Robinson you'll see what I mean.

Small world, on an outing to the Sydney Opera House recently I find myself sitting next to a Molong Central School girl, Sandra Foye nee Barnes, I hadn't seen Sandra for over 20yrs and it was her first visit to the Opera House. She's a close friend of O.F Cesca Prince who is the sister of Dr Ted Prince who lives in Florida USA, so we had a bit to chat about. The concert was Judith Durham of Seekers fame she's still going strong.

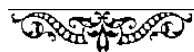
Also Ted wants to know if anyone has any knowledge of the whereabouts of the Sylvester brothers Peter and John, they were in Gowrie cottage in early sixties together and he's hoping to trace John.

Seems like things are recovering albeit very slowly in New Zealand after the earthquakes, Ron Sabin's daughter informs me Ron's away at the moment and release of the 2nd edition of his book has been put on hold for the time being.

Sharon Wyzenbeck has embarked on a trip to go to the North Pole or as close as possible as they can get to it. She certainly has explorers blood in her veins as she is often out sailing the high seas around the Pacific good luck with that one Sharon

Wasn't it a great Olympics that the Brits put on and the Paralympics. We may have left her shores many years ago but it still brings a sense of pride to see the old dart going well, even if they did humble us in the medal department.

That's all for now regards Paul RR



VALE

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

RAYNER Janice nee Garratt ON 4th March 2012 Napier NZ

FIELD Malcolm Rodney on 30th September 2012 in Thirroul NSW

Our sincere condolences are afforded to all relatives and friends



OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS' ASSOCIATION – MOLONG BALANCE SHEET SHOWING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE – 1ST JULY 2011 TO 30TH JUNE 2012.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Balance of account as at 1st July 2011 \$3,837-12

INCOME

Annual Subscriptions and Joining Fees	\$1,610-14	
Reimbursement of Newsletter costs	110-00	
74 th Reunion ticket sales and Raffle proceeds	4,813-00	
Reimbursement for photocopying	5-00	
Bank interest received	0-43	
Interest received on Term Deposit	135-37	\$6,673-94
		\$10,511-06

EXPENDITURE

Donations to:-

Molong Historical Society Inc.	\$100-00	
Lions Club of Blacktown City Inc.	100-00	
Newsletter costs -	873-61	
Honorarium – Daniel Moran – Hon Auditor	50-00	
74 th Reunion – cost of hire of rooms, meals, raffle prizes etc.	4,880-63	
Running Expenses – Postage (other than Newsletters),		
Stationery, STD telephone calls, Photocopying, etc.	502-99	
Bank Account Service Fees	97-15	
		\$6,604-38
Balance of Account 2111 0090 6920 as at 30 th June 2012		\$3,906-68

TERM DEPOSIT

Account No. (062232) 50049016 – CBA Regents Park NSW
 Interest earned for the year - \$135-37 and transferred to General Account.
 Re-invested on 8th March 2012 for six months @ 2.700% and due to mature on 8th September 2012. \$5,000-00

OFA PHOTO COMMITTEE

Balance of Account as at 1 st July 2011		\$537-51
Interest received	0-35	
Balance of Orange Mutual Credit Union Ltd Account No. 17766 as at 30 th June 2012.		0-35
		\$537-86

Total Funds \$9,444-54

L A FIELD
 Secretary/Treasurer
 30th June 2012.

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