
FOLLOW FAIRBRIDGE THE FOUNDER



May 2013

THE OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS' ASSOCIATION – MOLONG

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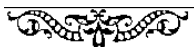
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Some of you may have already heard the latest and that is that Laurie Field has resigned his position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Old Fairbridgians Association – Molong. It would have been a difficult decision for Laurie to make. I am well aware of making such a decision is not easy when it has been such a long time in that role, but ones health is paramount. So I am sure I can speak for everyone in saying a huge thank you for all that you have done for the OFA, Laurie.

We have been advised that there is an article on Eva Warhurst OF in the June/July edition No. 99 of the Maritime Museum's publication of Signals. The article outlines Eva's recent organization of the addition of Military OF's to the Welcome Wall as well as the unveiling ceremony at the Maritime Museum. If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy of the article it is available on the Museums website www.anmm.gov.au.

I know that you may think it a bit early but I am giving all a reminder for those who will be attending the OFA 76th Reunion Dinner on the weekend of Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th March 2014 to book your accommodation as soon as possible. There are many events occurring in Orange around that time so accommodation may be at a premium.

Ed



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi once again to all Old Fairbridgians and Families.

It is with great sadness that I commence my report for 2012/13 with the news that at our Annual General Meeting held in Orange on 10th

March, 2013, long serving Secretary/Treasurer Laurie Field submitted his resignation in an emotional letter read to the meeting by Terry, not only his dear wife but also his co-pilot and number one supporter for the 48 years Laurie has served the OFA.

Laurie unfortunately has not enjoyed the best of health for some time and said that after long and careful consideration he felt the time had come to step down, adding of course that his role as Sec/Treasurer had been an interesting and enjoyable journey and such a big part of his life that undoubtedly it would take some time to adjust to the extra time he would now have to relax and enjoy his retirement.

As President I am sure I speak for all Old Fairbridgians in offering our sincerest thanks to both Laurie and Terry for their contribution to The Association over almost half a Century.

For those familiar with horse racing, like Black Caviar, also recently retired, Laurie's record will never be beaten!

In my opinion, no single individual has done more for the Old Fairbridgians Association. His shoes will be very hard to fill.

Past President for 37 years, Dennis Silver, proposed a motion accepting Laurie's resignation and also extending a huge "Thank You". See elsewhere in Newsletter for full copy of Dennis' motion.

While Laurie's successor will not be elected until the 2014 AGM, we are most fortunate that Brian Kirkby from South Australia has agreed to accept the position of acting Sec/Treasurer, with Sandra Moriarty volunteering as Assistant Treasurer.

Brian currently looks after the OFA website (www.oldfairbridgians.org), having done so from its beginning so will have his hands full. We are grateful for his support in this role and wish him well.

Might I at this point, offer a sincere vote of thanks to all Committee members for your support during 2012/13. I look forward to another great year, culminating with our reunion and AGM in March, 2014. (see elsewhere in Newsletter for full details).

Family Restoration Fund

As mentioned in the November 2012 Newsletter we are again reminding any member who wishes to access the fund to make your applications sooner rather than later as The Child Migrants

Fund, while still trying to get the British Government to extend the funding, at this point in time say "Do it now" in case the response is negative.

Again the Child Migrants Trust is also asking for feedback from anyone who has used the fund, so even a short report on your journey and/or family reunion would be most welcome.

Additionally, our wonderful Newsletter Editor Margaret Piercy would welcome stories for our Newsletter.

A great example is the report submitted by Old Fairbridgian Don Wood, who incidentally, came to Australia with yours truly on the SS New Australia in 1951, and who talks of his recent visit "back to Aus" along with wife Shirley and friends John and Pat from UK. His report is printed here in full and is much appreciated.

I have sent a copy to the Child Migrants Trust also.

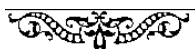
Eddie and Wendy Baker

Had the pleasure of accepting an invitation to a "sausage sizzle" at Eddie and Wendy's new house following the AGM in March. Unfortunately most people attending the AGM had made earlier arrangements and I apologise for not passing on Eddie's invitation earlier.

However those of us who attended were treated to a very pleasant couple of hours not just eating but also reminiscing, as you do.

Eddie has suggested they would be happy to hold a BBQ, possibly on the Friday evening of our 2014 Reunion weekend, just as we did some years back at our good friends John and Marion Wolvey.

Derek Moriarty
President



VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Hello Margaret and Barney,
Hope you are both well and had a nice Easter.
The night before the OFs had their AGM meeting, we had a very happy get together at the ex-service club, a lovely dinner, more than a few wines and beers, talks of old times, photo's of grandchildren, can you believe how time has flown? it really was a super night, it would be nice

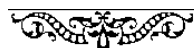
if someone traveling through towns and knows an OF lives in the area if we gave them a call just to see how they are.

At our get together the O.Fs there were Derek and Sandra Moriarty, Roy and Sharon Ryan, Isobel nee Reid and Vernon Thornberry, Julie Fitzgerald nee Gelson, Janet Barby nee Ellis, Michael Walker visiting his brother Jim, and myself, Geoffrey Wood and his lovely wife, and Don Wood and his wife Shirley, Don and Shirley were here visiting Geoff and his family along with friends he left behind when he went back to the U.K. Don and Shirley also traveled to Aussie land with friends John and Pat, it was nice to meet them also.

I wish to assure all OFs that the problem of the Fairbridge trees and name plaque's on the road side as we drive into Molong was addressed at the meeting, more news on that later.

Kindest regards to you all, hope to see you next year at the reunion.

Gwen Cole
Vice President



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Hi Everyone , As you may be aware, I was appointed at the AGM in March 2013 as the interim Secretary following the resignation of Laurie Field. The position will be vacated and re-elected at the AGM in March 2014. Sandra Moriarty has since kindly offered to take over the full responsibility for the Treasurer, thank you so much Sandra.

I feel the distance factor for me being in SA is not an issue, due to email and other electronic communication being so effective.

I will strive to uphold Laurie Field's high standards and will do my best for the OFA. Please don't forget to look at our website www.oldfairbridgians.org I would ask everyone to contribute to this website in one form or another Cheers Brian Kirkby

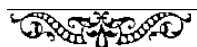
A note to everyone. Please address all future correspondence to:

Mr Brian Kirkby

Acting Secretary
Old Fairbridgians Association –
Molong
109/1-25 Capt. Robertson Ave.
Golden Grove. SA 5125.
Mobile 0412 501 137

The new Treasurer details are as outlined in the Treasurers report.

Brian Kirkby
 Acting Secretary



TREASURERS REPORT

Annual Subscriptions

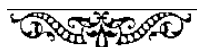
All OF's and Associate Members received a Statement of Financial Standing with this Newsletter. In the meantime if you would like to pay your subscriptions further ahead, you can and they would be welcome.

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:

Sandra Moriarty
Acting Treasurer
Old Fairbridgians Association –
Molong
46 Holborn Street
BERKELEY NSW 2506

Sandra Moriarty
 Acting Treasurer



WHERE ARE THEY?

I have had a phone call from a couple George and Greta Hodgson, they brought some children to Australia on the Iberia in April 1958. They left some children in West Australia and the rest were taken on to Fairbridge, Molong.

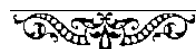
They would like know if we are in contact with any of them. I told Greta that I will try to get their

names into the next news letter, with a hope someone may know of their whereabouts. Their names are:

Name	Party
Edward Shirley	1943
Peter Wilcox	1950
Sandra Lewis	1950
Charles Lewis	1954

If anyone is in contact with these people could you please ask them if they would like to contact Mrs Greta Hodgson she would love to hear from them. Her address and phone number is 2/18 Strand Street, Forster 2428. Ph (02)6554 9610.

With Thanks & Best Wishes
 Peter Bennett
 Committee



Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral History Project

As the Prime Minister announced in his apology on 16 November 2009, the National Library has conducted an oral history project to record the lives and experiences of Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. Interviews were conducted across Australia, will be preserved in the National Library and made publicly available, subject to any access conditions imposed by interviewees.

Several Old Fairbridgians are included in this project and after having listened to their interviews President Derek recommends anyone interested to Google in the project title; Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral History Project. The results will take you to a library webpage that describes the project. This page will also provide other links to the project and the interviews.

Most of the interviews are around one hour long and by following the links they can be listened to online, or in some cases just a written transcript of the interview is available. Well worth checking out.

As has been mentioned in previous Newsletters, your committee would appreciate any alterations to contact details so that we can keep our

records up to date. In particular, as we move progressively into the world of digital technology, we ask that members with an email address please provide either acting Secretary Brian Kirkby, or Newsletter Editor Margaret Piercy with your details, also please bear in mind that it is your responsibility to advise us if your change your email address.

Both Brian's and Margaret's email addresses are included in this Newsletter so a short email to either of them is perhaps the easiest way to go.

Although for obvious reasons we list the email addresses of all committee members in every Newsletter, other members who may provide us with theirs may rest assured we will take all steps to provide the expected security of our members and nobody's email information will be given to anyone else without the written authorisation of an individual member.

The correct protocol, viz. the use of the Bcc, (blind carbon copy) when sending emails to multiple recipients will be used at all times.

To any Old Fairbridgians or their families not enjoying the best of health, we wish you well and a speedy recovery. As father time catches up with us all, and that seems to be happening way too quickly, I guess we can expect the never ending visits to "Doctors, Lawyers and Such" to increase, unfortunately.

I am reminded of the suggestion put forward by Vice-President Gwen Cole in a previous Newsletter and it is worth repeating here. If you hear of an Old Fairbridgian who may not be on top of their game, regardless of whether it be due to sickness, injury, old age (which I really did not want to mention), or even just loneliness and the need for some company, please let your Committee know and perhaps we can get someone to get in touch with them. A phone call, a card or even a visit from another Old Fairbridgian is probably as good "a medicine" as any.

Until next time

Cheer to all

Derek Moriarty

President



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Joe Sabin – Woy Woy

My partner and I have just returned from a visit to Western Australia where we caught up with Colin Harris and his lovely wife Gale. Not only did they make us so welcome Col and Gale took us everywhere including a lively day at Kings Park in Perth and a fantastic day cruise on the Swan River. The next trip was to Fremantle where we visited the Maine Museum, home to the victorious Australia II, that took the America's Cup from America after 126 years.

Another day Colin drove us down to Pinjarra to visit the Fairbridge Farm School that has been preserved as near as possible to what it was. It brought tears to my eyes as we strolled through the village and thought of our home at Molong that has sadly been wrecked from vandals and nature.

Another day we visited the old Freemantle Goal, a really great guide showed us through. I thought we had it tough at Molong but the conditions those inmates suffered day after day will remain with me always.

Thank you Colin and Gale for a wonderful two weeks. Joe Sabin – Old Fairbridgian.

Arthur Novis

I have entered this as a comment somewhere in Fairbridge tales but that is not going to get the message across except to the limited number who will go to the trouble of trolling thru that section, and I do believe that the comments I have made are worthy of consideration even if to add just a little balance to the negativity of much that is being said. (In and about the class action) I say here as in my letter later on, I acknowledge there were errors, but no man alive stands clear under the microscopic attention of those of one view only.

"I know that not all was as it may have been at Fairbridge, with the benefit of hindsight, but as I read some of the accounts making much of the more negative aspects of the situation, I am often at a loss when I see recorded things of which I had no knowledge although I was resident there from 1948-1954. For example, I never to the best of my knowledge witnessed children 5 years old cutting wood, in my day children of that age raked paths, collected chips for example and worked with a senior boy about

the cottage. Woodsey would have never have allowed a kid of that age to use an axe. We certainly never rose at 2.30 am to get the cows in, and when we did wake we certainly had no trouble rising from our pillows, we didn't have any, our cyclone wire steel framed beds had a raised end supposedly to negate the need for pillows, that however never caused us any trauma. I don't deny the certainty of swift punishment was great incentive to "get it right" but the over all results speak for themselves, the vast majority learnt the basic lessons of life, and they have equipped most of us to survive in a world that I found was far more hostile and, predatory and unforgiving than Fairbridge ever was. I would like also to comment on a statement in the solicitors report that "many children left Fairbridge unable to read or write". I cannot prove differently, however it sounds to me like a gross exaggeration to use the expression "many". I know few of us were "brains", just a few, but I didn't know any one in the six years I was there who could not read or write. With regard to the legal action being taken, if this can of worms is opened there will be no stopping the unwarranted damage that may be done to the reputation of the many that were good honest people albeit poorly suited to the task, none of whom would be around to defend their reputation against the allegations made against them. Abuse of children is and always will be a terrible part of human nature Stop and consider that not all the perpetrators of abuse at Fairbridge were management or staff, there was much that occurred that the hierarchy could never know about because the victims would never give the perpetrators up. We may well find some of our own acquaintances caught in the outfall. So why don't I support the action apart from the points already mentioned. To be absolutely honest it was a tough place, and as I said earlier there were things done that by today's standards are wrong, The fact is that most of those guilty are dead. What can be given to those who feel hurt and offended to heal them? No amount of "sorries" or "monetary compensation", nothing can heal the hurt. A wise man once said, "The only result of looking back over your shoulder is a terribly sore neck" You cannot repair the past, yesterday is gone, our duty as far as we are able, is to make sure the past does not repeat itself.

Arthur

Donald Wood UK

The build up to our trip, through the F.R.F. was exciting, yet somewhat stressful. I being Donald Wood was going to see my brother Geoffrey Wood. We hadn't seen each other for ten years, and I wasn't sure if I would again.

In 2009 I had an encounter with the dreaded C word, (bowel cancer) but after a very long and stressful recovery, I'm through it and doing fine.

The day before we were due to leave it snowed heavily, England was covered and the airports were cancelling flights, fortunately ours was ok, only domestic flights were affected.

We were picked up at 4pm to travel to Heathrow Airport, our flight was at 9.30pm, a delay of half an hour, but still arrived in Singapore twenty minutes ahead of schedule.

We had a two night stopover in Singapore with plans to do a city tour, and a visit to the famous Raffles Hotel for a Singapore Sling, it was fantastic.

We continued our journey to Sydney, where we stayed for a few days.

Today we pick up the hire car, so we can continue our journey to Katoomba for two nights, then onto Orange, where we arranged to meet my brother and sister-in-law Geoff & Pat. Orange is also where our nephews live Michael and Terrence.

That night we went to Terrence's place, where the boys put on a BBQ.

We were staying in Orange for a week. Geoff had booked a cottage to rent between three couples, Geoff and Pat, our friends Pat and John, me and my wife Shirley.

While in Orange we visited Mt Canobolas and Lake Canobolas, we walked round the lake while Geoff sat in the shade.

Today was to be a very long day, we visited Fairbridge Remembrance Drive to see how our trees were growing, Geoff's was beautiful, unfortunately mine was not, the first tree I had when my wife brought them was growing well until it got the borers, they replaced it, but that doesn't look that healthy either, while we were in Molong we put in a complaint, to be told it would be sorted, they were going to e-mail me, nothing, since we have been home we have e-mailed

them again and it seems they have chosen to ignore the situation.

While in Molong we were able to view the new Fairbridge room, and watch a DVD, next up to view the stain glass windows of Fairbridge. Then onto view the relocation of Lilac Cottage on Parks Street in Molong, looks absolutely beautiful and the residents were more than happy to chat and let us take photos of the place. After lunch Derek Moriarty the President of the O.F.A. also member of our 1951 party, arranged for us to gain access to the Fairbridge site, we all felt quite privileged. Had a good wander round all the derelict buildings, we all went down memory lane, exchanging stories, myself Geoff, Moriarty and Roy Ryan. We all had a brilliant afternoon, many thanks to Derek for that privilege. That night we had dinner at the R.S.L. Club in Orange, where Derek arranged for some more Fairbridgians to join us, it was quite a gathering, Derek and Sandra, Julia Gelson, Gwen Cole, Roy and Sharon Ryan, Janet Ellis, Isabel Reed and Verdon (fatty), Pat and Geoff, myself and Shirley, and our friends Pat and John.

Next day we had a trip to Blaney wind farm and lake, historical village of Carcoar, historical village of Milthorpe.

The following day we went to Burrendong Dam near Wellington, lovely views, met up with Robert and Pam Sinclair who layed on a sausage sizzle, great time was had by all, many thanks to them both for that, after we went onto Fern Gully, then onto their home, very nice place, back to the cottage for a pizza and a few drinks. We saw the boys (Michael and Terrence) one more time before they have to return to work in Western Australia on a gold mine.

Today we had visitors coming to the cottage, Margaret and Ray Scotti from Gilgandra they spent the day with us, we went to the Botanical Gardens for lunch, after we wandered round the grounds, saw the chapel where Rachel and Terrence got married then made our way back to the cottage, for another cup of tea before Margaret and Ray had to go home, many thanks to them for taking time out for us, it was lovely to see them again. Last day in Orange, so we had a look around the shops, also walked round Cook Park, after back for lunch, Geoff took us to a motor rally, which we all enjoyed. We left Orange to travel back to Hay where my brother and his

wife live. Pat and John our friends only have a few days left, they wanted to visit Hay and see some of the local interests.

We took them to Griffith Airport for their departure back to Sydney, then onto England.

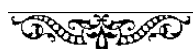
This leaves us with two more weeks to spend with my brother, the rest of the week in Hay and the last week he wanted to go to the coast, Narooma, so we rented another unit, we visited a number of little seaside towns around the coast, we saw a whole lot of different bird life, sting rays, seals, it was great.

Time to think about return to England, it soon creeps up on you, we said our good- byes and went our separate ways, Geoff back to Hay and us we were spending one last night in Wollongong with Sandra and Derek Moriarty, where we met up with David Wilson as well, before travelling back to Sydney to hand back the car. While in Sydney we took one last trip to Darling Harbour to view The Welcome Wall, also The Fairbridge Children.

Today we departed Sydney for our stopover in Bangkok, where we had temples and city tour booked, also the floating market, what an experience.

We had an amazing three weeks with my brother, and all the other friends we caught up with along the way, many many thanks to you all for making our trip so memorable.

Don



Ha! Ha! Ha!

A brilliant magician was performing on an ocean liner. But every time he did a trick, a talking cat in the audience would scream, "It's a trick, It's not magic. You're a big phony!"

Then one night during a storm, the ship sank while the magician was performing. And who should end up in the same lifeboat together, all alone, but the talking cat and the magician! For three days, they glared at each other, neither one saying a word to the other. Finally the cat sighed and said, "All right smart-aleck. You and your darn tricks. What did you do with the ship?"



AREA REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

West Australia – Mike Walker

Not a lot to pass on from WA. My attempts to contact **Eve Bryason** have been unsuccessful, maybe she is tearing around on her motorised scooter. I am sure she is keeping busy.

Brian and Cynthia Scott are still on their rural holding with their animals reduced to a few sheep. Brian said he keeps in touch with his brother Eddie by phone and all is well. Brian said the white ants are affecting a few shed timbers causing extra work but there always seems to be some maintenance to do.

Alan and Lorraine Scotti have been losing sleep just lately trying to hurry the imminent arrival of another grandchild. They are ready to head off on a cruise shortly taking in a wide part of Asia including Bali, Christmas Island and the dragons on Komodo.

I have not been able to contact **Colin and Gail Harris** so maybe they are around and about. I did see them at the AGM in March at the Orange Ex-Services Club looking well and ready to spend a bit of time with his brother John and Deral. I believe Colin spent a bit of time with **John Harrop**. (I talked to him recently trying to arrange a meeting while I was over but could not agree on where to get together.)

I was in NSW in March to attend the OFA AGM and visit my brother Jim in Molong. I am sure it is covered elsewhere but the meeting was a historic event with a very emotional Laurie Field stepping down from a marathon run of 48 years as Treasurer and many years as Secretary. I join with others in thanking him for the dedication he has given to these positions and wish both he and Terry well for the future. It was a small meeting but went well with Brian Kirkby stepping until the next AGM in March 2014. Well done Brian.

After the meeting a few of us attended a barbecue lunch prepared by **Eddie and Wendy Baker** at their lovely place on the Pinnacle Road. It was a fabulous meal and was finished off with a dessert of cherries picked and cooked by Eddie. Absolutely scrumptious! My brother Jim and I had a further meal a few days later which was

also delicious while there we had a game of snooker on Eddie's full-length Billiards table. (Well I would not describe my effort as a game more like shame!) Thanks Wendy and Eddie for a wonderful time.

I spent two weeks visiting friends around the area including a former boss and a farmer I knew in the Yeoval area. The country looked in glorious technicolour condition after the black and white dryness of WA. The sheepdog trials were on in Molong and I spent some time marveling at the sensitive relationship between sheepdog controller and three nervous looking sheep being moved through various obstacles against their will. A study in concentration. Jim and I visited **Henry Macfarlane** one morning and shared a cup of coffee with him and Edna. He is rather restricted in his movement but Edna keeps an eye on him to make sure he does not get into strife. He still gets around the town on his gopher when he feels the need.

That is it for now --- Mike Walker



NSW – DENNIS SILVER

MOTION PRESENTED TO THE A.G.M. IN ORANGE, NSW, ON THE 10TH OF MARCH 2013 ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION OF MR L.A.FIELD AS SECRETARY/TREASURER OF THE O.F.A.-MOLONG AFTER 48 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE O.F.A.

Firstly may I apologize for being unable to be present at this meeting.

It is with very mixed feelings that I move this motion of acceptance from Laurie after such a long and loyal service to our organisation.

From the formation of the OFA on Sunday the 7th of January 1940 to 1965 our Association had what can only be described as a very chequered history; irregular meetings, very little recorded history and a general lack of interest in the continuation of activities. This was contributed to by World War 2 and younger Fairbridgians establishing their futures and working commitments.

In 1965 a group of Old Fairbridgians met in Sydney with a view to setting our organisation on

a more permanent footing. A working group agreed to guide activities to bring about this most desirable situation. Laurence A. Field was one of this group and accepted the responsibility of controlling and recording all monetary activities.

On the 26th of January 1966 an official meeting was held at Fairbridge where the foundations of our current organisation were established.

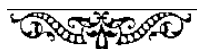
Laurie was appointed Treasurer, a position he has held until today.

About 1999 when our Secretary, Ralph Warhurst, passed away the Executive Committee could not find a replacement for Ralph. Laurie agreed to temporarily cover the Secretarial work. He has carried both responsibilities since that date. The saying goes "if you want a reliable job done give it to a busy person" that certainly applied to Laurie.

As President of the OFA for 37 years I have observed and been pleased to work with Laurie despite heavy responsibilities to his employer, The Commonwealth Bank, fathering a growing family and serious bouts of illness he has given 100% to the success of our organisation. I firmly believe that no one individual has contributed more to the OFA than Laurie.

In moving this motion of acceptance, on behalf of all our members, I wish Laurie and his wife Terry a long and happy retirement and a huge **THANK YOU** for such a long and loyal service.

Dennis C. Silver



Queensland – Mary O'Brien

Eric Baldwin arrived with the 4th party to settle in Fairbridge Molong in 1939. Eric spent many years in the motor trade in Orange where he and his wife Jean raised three children. They moved to northern NSW in 1978 and to the Gold Coast in 2004. Margaret Humphreys located Eric's family in the UK and along with his wife, Eric has returned to the UK twice to meet family some of whom have reciprocated and visited Australia. Are there any contemporaries of Eric who could contact him?

Joe McCallam arrived at Fairbridge in 1938 with the 3rd party at 7 years. 54 years ago when he

was 28, Joe married Joan, they have had 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. They live in Cooloola Cove in Queensland. If any OF's are in the area they are welcomed to call in to have a cuppa and a chat.

Christine Wiford nee Waddington found out about OF's when she read David Hill's book. Christine's brothers were in Brown Cottage. In the short time the Wilford's spent at Fairbridge in the early 60's her brother's lives were severely affected.

Fortunately Christine has done well for herself in the intervening years. When she was married she ran several businesses and had two beautiful children and 7 grandchildren. Granddaughter Kodey has represented NSW Junior Baseball overseas with her son being the team manager. Now divorced, Christine is enjoying a comfortable retirement on the Sunshine Coast and doing volunteer work. She is Treasurer for 60+ Better Group Inc and works with Sunshine Linus who make quilts for foster children, autistic children and 'touchy freely quilts' for the blind and the elderly in nursing homes. Christine would like to say hello to David Hill and Lyndon Dean both of whom assisted her to settle in.

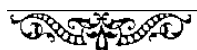
Eric Lofting arrived at Fairbridge in 1963 (Canary, Mrs De Fratise cottage mother). His house mates were Laurie Lipscomb, Barney Piercy, Dan Brooker, Graham Maycock, Anthony O'Neil and Arnold Bingham. After leaving Fairbridge Eric moved with his father to Queensland working for ABC TV for 34 years. Eric went on to Cambodia and Indonesia developing better standards for video production then to Bali doing similar work. Eric has 4 children and 4 grandchildren.

Dennis Piercy and his brother Barney arrived at Fairbridge in 1955 along with the Henderson's, Ron Wright and Eric Fowler. Dennis went to Mort while Barney went to Canary. In 1959 Dennis along with Lennie Magee and Robert Parker won scholarships to Hurlstone Agricultural High School near Sydney for three years allowing them to 'escape' from Fairbridge at least for the school terms. Dennis spent 6 years in the Army learning a trade then 32 years in PMG Telecom and Telstra. Although now retired, Dennis utilises his skills to voluntarily installed emergency medical alarms through his RSL Sub Branch. Dennis and his wife June have raised 3 children

and returned to the UK to visit family, most of whom he had never seen. They have also enjoyed a fantastic tour of Canada and Alaska, and have been on a European River Cruise.

Tony Stepney came out from England in June 1954 aged 9 years and assigned to Mort where he stayed until he worked on the farm at age 15, he left Fairbridge in 1962. Tony is now retired and, with his wife Sandra, lives in Yelarbon 50km east of Goondiwindi. He regularly catches up with his brother Robbie and sister Shirley Hillman who live nearby.

John Marsh arrived at Gowrie Cottage in 1955 and stayed at Fairbridge until leaving for Teachers' College at the end of 1961. His brother Michael came out a few months after him at the tender age of 4 1/2yrs. John has worked in Agricultural Education and also managed to own two farms at Coonabarabran before retiring to Toowoomba about 10 years ago. John says he can be contacted at scomar44@bigpond.com. John keeps active with Lions and Rural Fire Brigade and still finds time for some travel with wife Barbara. They visited NZ last year catching up with Keith Field. John said "I found someone can scan 'Fred' off the front of the magazine to do a metal lazer cut out. It looks really good with the plough, tree, etc. I believe it can be done in almost any size. The one I had done is about 18" x12" and cost \$35. It's in 1.6mm for free standing or 1.6mm for mounting on timber or the front door. With or without the "WELCOME" across the bottom. Postage is \$15".



Roving Reporter - Paul McMullan

Greetings

It really does prove to be a small world at times Margaret Bannerman circa Fairbridge 1950's - 60's works at Canberra hospital and was chatting to a fellow worker and the lady mentioned that she came from Trundle and Margaret said "Oh I used to go out to a property there in school holidays in the 60's to the Grady's". Her co worker said I know them well and Margaret says "they are still alive", very much so answered the co worker and gave Margaret their number. Marg got in touch and went to Trundle for a re-union. It

had been almost 40yrs since Marg had seen them. Selena McKenna and one other girl were sent there in the holidays too. Fairbridge used to send kids out to these properties and Margaret says she had the time of her life on these holiday visits, which often lasted several weeks. The Grady's even wanted to adopt Margaret but Fairbridge wouldn't allow it of course, but she had several re-unions with them before they passed away.

Another case of small worldiness James Burns circa 1960's who lives on the outskirts of Sydney at Glenorie on some acres, very much country, decided to sell a car he had. He parked it at the gate and someone pulled up to have a look, they decided they liked it and bought it, after signing the papers etc. someone mentioned the Molong area and James said to the bloke I lived up there on a place called Fairbridge, you wouldn't know it but it was a farm school for British kids. Then the guy came back "know it, I was on it as a Fairbridge kid" James said you could have knocked him over with a feather. It turned out the fellow was Keith Craig who was at Fairbridge with a brother and sister circa early 60's and was in Canary cottage with Barney Piercy, Laurie Lipscome, Runty Maycock etc.

Mrs Defraties who had a colony of cats was their cottage mother. I just happened to have a bit of a re-union of sorts with James and his brother Keith recently, hadn't seen James for 10yrs had a BBQ at his place and he recounted the story to me.

I was at the caravan and camping show at Rosehill Racecourse last week and after wandering around for several hours I came across a Western Australia display. I was surprised to see one from W.A. there, I was talking to the lady and she happened to mention the Fairbridge Village at Pinjarra and she thought they were about to have a 100yr anniversary celebration for something or other. I thanked her for the information and called up the village next day, and they gave me the number for O.F. President, Richard Sherwood.

I rang Richard and he told me they will be having an anniversary ceremony to celebrate 100yrs of the founding of the farm school. This will be held with their usual flag raising ceremony at the village gates followed by a lunch in the hall. This

will be held on the 21st July 2013 and all O.Fs are invited as is any others who might like to go. Richard told me an interesting story, his wife is a Fairbridge girl as was her mother, not that unusual, except his wife's mother came out to Fairbridge in the early days of the farm and returned to England when she was 19. She married and had two children but her husband died of appendicitis in his early 30s. Times were still tough in Britain after the war this was 1950 and she found she couldn't look after the children properly so she allowed them to be sent out to the Fairbridge in W.A. the place where she grew up

Patricia was at the farm until she was 16 and she believes it was a lot better than the alternative of being in a home over in England or just roaming the streets as many kids did in the crowded parts of Britain.

Patricia did manage to re-unite with her mother a few times over in England. Fairbridge village is now run by a private company, Fairbridge Inc. They have many activities there including a huge Folk Festival this weekend. Anyone interested in going over in July let me know maybe we can arrange to go together.

Bye for now
Paul.



VALE

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

Patrick Dyson-Holland passed away in Dubbo on the 4th April 2013.

Our sincere condolences are afforded to all relatives and friends

