
FOLLOW FAIRBRIDGE THE FOUNDER



NOVEMBER 2016

THE OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS' ASSOCIATION - MOLONG

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Derek Moriarty
46 Holborn Street BERKELEY NSW 2506
Ph: 02 4271 1417
E-mail: derekmoriarty@optusnet.com.au

Vice President:

Janet Barby
1 Pioneer Place ORANGE NSW 2800
Ph: 02 6360 4343
E-mail: jan.barby@bigpond.com

Secretary:

Brian Kirkby
55 Torrens Road RIVERTON SA 5412
Ph: 0412 501 137
E-mail: kirkby@senet.com.au

Treasurer:

Sandra Moriarty
46 Holborn Street BERKELEY NSW 2506
Ph: 02 4271 1417
E-mail: derekmoriarty@optusnet.com.au

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Hill
107 Clovelly Road RANDWICK NSW 2031
Ph: 02 9399 9902
E-mail: davidhill04@optusnet.com.au

Peter Bennett
3 Wolaroi Crescent REVESBY NSW 2212
Ph: 02 9771 3056
E-Mail: peter.bennett8@bigpond.com

Paul Ellis
17 Kundle Street DAPTO NSW 2530
Ph: 02 4260 9097

James Burns
50 Halcrows Road GLENORIE NSW 2157
E-Mail: jamesburns2@bigpond.com

Ian Dean
Site 144/2129 Nelson Bay Rd
WILLIAMSTOWN NSW 2318

Caryl Sharp
Littlevale RMB
Woodhouselee Rd GOULBURN NSW 2580
Ph: 0459 547 378

E-Mail: caryl.sharp1@gmail.com

Gwen Cole
3 Eloc Place ORANGE NSW 2800
Ph: 02 6362 8496
E-Mail: gcole5@bigpond.com

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

New South Wales

Dennis Silver
25 Redwood St COFFS HARBOUR 2450
Ph: 02 6651 6278
E-mail: seira@cloud.com

Queensland

Mary O'Brien
20, 157 Long Street CLEVELAND QLD 4163
E-mail: queenslanders@ozemail.com.au

South Australia

Brian Kirkby
55 Torrens Road RIVERTON SA 5412
Ph: 0412 501 137
E-mail: kirkby@senet.com.au

Western Australia

Mike Walker
159 Carmel Road CARMEL WA 6076
Ph: 08 9293 5008
E-mail: walk.even20@gmail.com

New Zealand

Jane Oakes
66 Snell Dve Fairfield Hamilton New Zealand
Ph: 0011 6 7 855 2453
E-mail: bigandsibs@Xtra.co.nz

United Kingdom

Ray Tate
178 Bell Lane Kesgrave Ipswich Suffolk
1P57 1NB England
Ph: 01473 622 187

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

June Piercy
32 Symphony Avenue STRATHPINE Q 4500
Ph: 0409 619 493
E-mail: junepiercy@netscape.net

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hello everybody. Another year has flown by and Christmas is nearly here again. Thank you to those who've sent me messages of support and stories for the newsletter. It's much appreciated. I'm sure there are lots more stories to be told though. I've included a story about our visit to Dennis's family in the UK recently. We'd love to hear about your visits to your UK families too, "Reminiscing" or funny things that happened during your time at Fairbridge. I've included another poem by Jim Napper and Eddie Baker has also written a poem. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I did. If you don't use computers and you've got a story to tell that's too long or difficult to hand write, please call me and I'll be happy to type it for you. **Closing date for articles for the May 2017 newsletter is 15th April 2017.**

Derek mentioned in the May 2016 Newsletter that we would be printing a list of tree owners in this edition but he's been unable to obtain a full list yet. The list will be published as soon as possible but if you need information before then please contact Derek.

Dennis and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful and healthy 2017.

June Piercy
Editor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi once again to all Old Fairbridgians, Associate Members and families.

As I have taken up more than my share of space in this edition with Part 2 of "Remembering", I will keep my report as brief as possible. I am delighted to report that since Part 1 came out in the May Newsletter, Sandra and I had the pleasure of spending an afternoon with Robyn, the daughter of our Mr and Mrs Savage, along with Robyn's eldest daughter Wendy and husband Bernie, who now live at Kanahooka, just a five minute

drive from our place. Robyn was down to see Wendy and Bernie's new house, they having recently 'migrated' from Tathra on the South Coast. As they say in the classics, "It's a small world, ain't it!"

I had contact recently from an Old Fairbridgian many of you would remember, Ron Wright. Ron was looking to get in touch with Ron Sinclair who as it happens, was best man at Ron's wedding, unbeknown to me of course. With the privacy laws in mind I contacted Ron (Sinclair) whose first words when I mentioned who was looking for him, "Yes I most certainly do remember him. I was best man at his wedding all those years ago".

The reason I tell this story is that it is so important we keep our Organisation strong, especially with the Newsletters and the Website. I have had many such enquiries over the years and while we are not always able to assist directly, there are times when we can and it is very gratifying to know we have helped in some small way. Incidentally, Ron Wright called me back to say how much he appreciated what we had done.

The new Orange Regional Museum was officially opened on Saturday 19th November. We received an invitation for as many Old Fairbridgians as would like to attend. At the time of "going to press", both David Hill and Jan Barby have accepted the invitation and it is hoped others may also. Hopefully, we will have more to report on the Opening in the May 2017 Newsletter and what it will mean for our Association in the future.

While Secretary Brian has announced details for the 2017 Annual General Meeting (see Secretary's Report), I cannot over-emphasise the importance of this and all AGM's. While I understand it sounds like a record stuck in a groove, I have no hesitation in placing a reminder in every Newsletter. Please mark it in your diary or on your 2017 calendar.

In closing, to any of our members not enjoying the best of health, we wish you well. If you

know of someone, please notify either Secretary Brian or myself.

To each and every one and your families, on behalf of your Committee, I trust the Festive Season brings you great joy and happiness and that 2017 is kind to you and yours.

Derek Moriarty
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi Everyone. This report details the activities that your committee undertook for the period between May 2016 and November 2016. The Committee has held two meetings in 2016. The first was detailed in the May Newsletter and the second was just recently held in October 2016 at David Hill's residence in Sydney NSW. Ten OFs attended this meeting including seven committee members. There were four apologies. Thank you to David and Stergista for hosting the meeting. Yours truly was sick for the meeting date and was unable to attend but all correspondence and minutes together with an Agenda was forwarded to David Hill, who took the minutes.

Items discussed were the financial loss at the March 2016 reunion due to the declining numbers at the Reunions which compounded the overall financial loss suffered during the preceding twelve months. Consideration was to be given in planning future Reunions for the ageing membership.

Derek and David distributed draft recommendations on the study by the UNSW into long-term outcomes of children who were in institutions. Derek and David are a critical reference group in relation to this study.

Jan Barby and David Hill informed everyone at the meeting that they are the representatives for the new Orange Regional Museum. The Museum is being encouraged to collect and display FFS heritage items.

Address list as at May 2016.

Financial Members	187
Associate Members	27
Other Associations and organisations	7
Known Deceased	189

VALE Total 189

Brian Kirkby
OFA Secretary

NOTICE OF MEETING – 79TH BI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

Notice is given that the 79th Annual General Meeting of the Old Fairbridgians Association NSW will be held on Sunday 12th March 2017 commencing at 1.30pm. Location - RSL Complex, 8 Tindale St Penrith. NSW.

The business of the meeting will be as follows:

To confirm the Minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting held in Orange NSW in March 2016.

To receive and confirm the Annual Financial Report for 2015/ 2016.

To appoint an Honorary Auditor for 2016/ 2017.

To conduct any other business matters allowable under the Constitution of the OFA for an Annual General Meeting.

It should be noted that only financial, Honorary or Life Members are allowed to register a vote at the AGM.

By order of the Executive Committee Old Fairbridgians Association Molong. NSW.

Brian Kirkby
Secretary

WEBSITE UPDATE: oldfairbridgians.org

We still get enquiries from the general public seeking contact with Old Fairbridgians they knew many years ago. You can be assured that no addresses or contact details are given out to the enquirer without the consent of the OF involved.

Our website sometimes gets enquiries requesting information in tracing missing relatives who attended either Molong NSW or Pinjarra WA FFS. It is felt in my opinion, that the Child Migrant Trust in Perth should now handle these enquiries. WA and Melbourne Victoria offices. The CMT are much better equipped to professionally handle these enquiries

Please send me more stories relating to the Farm School. This all contributes to the build up of the history of the Farm. Please submit to kirkby@senet.com.au or post to my home address as shown on the Newsletter. Many Thanks.

Brian Kirkby
Webmaster

TREASURER'S REPORT

The financial report for the financial year 2015/16 appears attached to this Newsletter.

Annual subscriptions

Most members would have received a Statement of Financial Standing with the May Newsletter. If you did not, it is because you are paid to 2020 or beyond. Subscriptions can be paid at any time and would be most welcome.

Annual subscriptions are \$10.00 per year (including spouse) and covers the year from 1st July to 30th June. Please send to:
Sandra Moriarty
Treasurer
Old Fairbridgians' Association-Molong
46 Holborn Street
BERKELEY NSW 2506

Sandra Moriarty
Treasurer

AREA REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**Western Australia – Mike Walker**

Had a chat to Colin Harris recently but he is living the quiet life "just ticking over" at the moment.

Brian Scott has just returned from a trip to Scotland to visit relatives with his son Raymond. He joined up with brother Eddie for the two-week event.

Could not contact Carol Osborne (Wilcox) and I have not heard from Stephen Blundell or Michael Waters.

Alan and Lorraine Scotti had a surprise visit from Alan's brother Ray but Alan and Lorraine were off on a cruise around Asia. Currently they are keeping a close watch on Lorraine's 89 year-old-mother who still lives independently but a recent shoulder operation has restricted her movement for the time being. Alan still cycles twice a week, just for the fun and fitness in fine weather.

Alan remembered a couple of things about life at Fairbridge. On a fellow boy's birthday in his cottage they would wake him up and then drag him naked around the frosty lawn—Happy Birthday!! As a trainee on the dairy he remembers an "induction" where a new trainee was smeared in most orifices with a mix of molasses and chaff as a welcome to the joys of dairy work. Of course everybody's favourite staff member Mr Begley was not anywhere to be seen during this experience. If he had been there I am sure he would have said, "I'll tell you what#@**!!"

Alan also remembers a Scout Jamboree he attended in the mid-fifties in Melbourne. He was one of about 20 who went down on the train. They all camped in tents and were there for a couple of weeks. It rained the whole time and everything was wet with the tents going mouldy. They had to make drains around the tents to try and keep the water from soaking everything inside. He reckons it was an interesting experience with competitions between groups and meeting other scouts from all over the country and other parts of the world. He also remembered an absence by the cottage mother resulting in hungry boys grabbing a couple of the boss's chooks and taking them home to be killed and eaten along with whatever was available. ("Wacko the diddle-o Chicken Treat!")

For myself, music has always been one of the most important parts of my life. Arriving at Fairbridge as a six year-old I remember those early years attending the little weatherboard primary school with affection. Despite the coldness of daily existence, the jangling of the bell to wake you up, the routine of bed-making, trooping down to breakfast and the chores involved, I still remember the little songs we used to sing at the school. I think the repetition of those simple words and music were a source of joy and togetherness. Probably the closest we got to love of any kind. The teacher was very pleasant, young and smiling. There was a funny little song I still remember about a koala.

"Oh, little cuddly native bear,
Your big brown eyes just stare and stare,
And gum leaves are your favourite fare,
Oh little cuddly native bear.
Trees you climb and settling there,
You go to sleep with never a care,
To do the same I would not dare,
Oh little cuddly native bear."

Another juvenile song I remember was about a frog!

"I said to the frogs in the lake one day,
Glomp, glompety, glomp,
What is this song you are singing today?
Glomp, glompety, glomp,

You sing all day from morn to night,
Your poor little throats must be tired quite,
Why are you singing with all your might?
Glomp, glompety glomp."

It still brings a smile to my face to remember that little ditty!

Still at the primary school, we learned "The Last Rose of Summer", quite a melodramatic song about plucking the final rose of the year to join its fellows and another rose song was "Once a boy a rose espied". More melodrama!

There were lots of times when we were travelling to a sport event or function in the bus or the old blue Ford truck and someone struck up a song. It made the time pass and was a great feeling of togetherness. Songs like "Ten Green Bottles" could go for ages especially if the words were changed to "Ten Green Blowflies". "The Quartermaster's Store" was another favourite with lots of irreverent verses about "Woods, Woods, eating all the goods in the store". All these occasions helped to foster a feeling that we were all a part of something greater than the individual. It made the often unpleasant daily experiences better for this. "My Girl's A Corker, She's A New Yorker" and "As the Trek Cart Goes Rolling Along." "The Road To Gundagai" became our song as "There's an old fashioned bus and it's made to carry us" and this transformed it almost into our anthem. All helped the camaraderie – we are all in this together.

Even the church services we had to attend were much more bearable for me because of the singing. The hymns kept us all joined up. After his long-winded sermon, the Reverend Gaden would announce the next hymn with "And now hymn number 247 "Onward Christian Soldiers" and we would all surge into it waking Mr Woods who had been slumbering during the church service. One of my favourites at church was sung when someone had got to the age of 17 and was leaving Fairbridge to go out into the great wide world. "God Be With You 'til We Meet

Again” we sang, while wishing we were the one who was leaving the village to join the great unknown. It was a rite of passage we all eventually took.

That’s all for now

RECOGNITION

Life-Member and long serving Committeeman of our Association Peter Bennett was recently invited, along with some 400 guests, to an award ceremony in Sydney where he was recognised for ten years’ continuous service as a volunteer at the Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour, something of which he is justifiably very proud. Well done Peter!

Peter travels in from his home in Revesby three days a week and can be found in various roles at the museum. He is currently trying to convince the Curator that the section showing the display of Fairbridge material could be improved by rearranging some items and with the addition of some photos of the early days, the Nuffield Hall. He would also like to add a stainless steel mug to complete the set of utensils we used so if anyone has a mug they are happy to donate it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact either Peter or President Derek, our details are inside the Newsletter.

While father time catches up with us all Peter, now in his eighties!! is an inspiration to many as not only does he diligently fulfil the role described above, he regularly gives talks at Probus Club meetings, plays bowls and Bridge, yet still finds the time to visit his ailing wife Joan, who unfortunately is now in a nursing home, three times a week.

About Peter’s talks, I had the privilege of attending one around 2011, from memory connected to the display “On Their Own”. Peter was one of four speakers and I can say without fear of contradiction he made the others look like amateurs and had the audience spellbound throughout. Again, well done Peter.

Derek Moriarty

DAVID HILL

A NEW GOVERNMENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD MIGRANT ABUSE

Most former Fairbridge kids are aware of the Australian Royal Commission into institutional sexual abuse being conducted by Judge Peter McClellan.

Now the British Government has set up an inquiry into child abuse, which includes an examination of what happened to child migrants from Britain. Titled the *Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse*, the terms of reference include and examine ‘whether government departments, public authorities, private and/or charitable institutions based in England and Wales took sufficient care to protect children involved in child migration programmes’ and ‘the extent to which government departments, public authorities, private and/or charitable institutions based in England and Wales were aware or should have been aware of allegations or evidence of sexual abuse concerning children involved in child migration programmes and whether appropriate steps were taken in response’ and ‘the adequacy of support and reparations offered to individuals who suffered sexual abuse relating to their inclusion in child migration programmes’.

I intend making a submission to the inquiry because the British Government over many years was aware that children at the Fairbridge Farm School at Molong were not given sufficient care and protection and should have been aware of the abuse that took place. The submission will also include evidence.

ANN KEMP (nee ANNETTE McFAGAN)

14.9.16

Just wanting to get in touch with Elizabeth Nellis or try to find out her whereabouts. I see her sister Lillian has been recorded as passed in your page. I would love to get in contact with her as we were in Fairbridge together and have not seen her since I left on the train for Perth to live with my sister all

those years ago. If you can help me I would be very appreciative.

17.9.16

Dear Mr Kirkby,

Thank you for getting back to me on the subject of Elizabeth (Betty) Nellis. Firstly let me explain who I am. My name is Marguerite Kavanagh and I am a very good friend of nearly 50 years to Ann Kemp whose maiden name at the time of being at Fairbridge as a young girl was Ann McFagan (Annette). As Ann does not have a computer, she has asked me if I would do a search for her and see if I could find out if many of her past mates at the time of being in Fairbridge are still around as she would dearly love to correspond and connect with them. Just seeing some of the photos on the web page brought back recognition and memories of the many faces she saw in those photos. Ann Kemp as she is known now through marriage, has given me some names of some of those she remembers of that time. This is the list of just some, to see if you can shine a light on if they are still living and their whereabouts: Eva Reid, Isabel Reid, Arthur Jevons.

Ann can be contacted at
vivian8512003@live.com or mobile no.
 0402 178396.

EDDIE BAKER

Greetings to one and all. This year Wendy, myself & three of our four daughters Kim, Ceinwen & Rayma had a lovely three weeks in Greece on the island of Poros. Every day temperatures in the 30's - a very pretty place and lots to see. The water was like a warm bath and so enjoyable. We stayed in David Hill's villa right next to the water. Many thanks David. We had two days in Athens and visited the National Museum & the famous Acropolis. Both magnificent and a must see if you are going to Greece. 2014 was 50 years since Wendy & myself got back together again and I wrote her a little poem I would like to share it with you:

When we close our eyes at night, and we
 cuddle up real tight

Our dreams drift by of long ago, of love and
 fun and where to go
 Our romantic days of yester year, we hold
 those times so very dear.
 Our children came and grew so fast, on our
 own, will it last.
 We hope to see them every day, as their
 children come and play.
 What days of joy, weeks of fun, I'm so glad I
 made you Mum.
 You gave your best, you gave your all, we
 couldn't ask for any more.
 Thank my Darling for a job well done.
 When I sit back in my old rocking chair, I think
 of the road that we both share.
 We travelled together from when we were
 young, I knew from the start that you were
 the one.
 I will love you for ever until the end, thank
 you Wendy for being my friend.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a
 special thank you to all the committee for all
 their hard work carried out throughout the
 year.

Regards Eddie Baker

MICHAEL PASS

Thoughts on Speed

Mostly this is reminiscences on Speed from
 the 1950's to 2004. It all started when Mr
 Woods took a party of children to the "GNOO
 BLAS" Grand Prix at the raceway in Orange. It
 was thrilling to us youngsters to see racing
 cars, the sounds, the smells, the thrill of the
 occasion. To imagine being the driver of the
 racing car, beyond our wildest dreams, it
 seemed. Maybe there is one or more of
 others who recall this outing. After the picnic
 lunch, Mr Woods had a surprise
 announcement. The British Racing Team had
 agreed to show 6 children around the Pit
 Area. He then called out the names. John
 Barker, Norman Appleby and myself are all
 the names I can recall. A race official came in
 a little bus to collect us. Full of excitement we
 set out for the Pit Area. This was set around
 the aircraft hangar area so not only did we see
 and touch the cars, there were airplanes also.
 I fell in love with a Tiger Moth. We were

escorted around the various pits and came at last to the British Team. The principal driver was Mike Hawthorn. He proudly showed us his winning two seater Maserati. We asked so many questions and he answered all of them. One curly one was, "What does it feel like at 100 mph". He said he could not describe, but would show us. We each were taken for a ride. Off from the start and round behind the Mental Hospital, past the fisheries lakes round a fast corner and down the long straight. Mike said, "Look at the speedo". I did and found it showed 104 mph. WOW. It was incredible, simply incredible. Over all too soon. Photos were taken, though I never saw the results.

My next meeting with speed was when our unit was on training in the Northern Territory. A radio message came through for the CO and myself to report to the airstrip. On arriving, we found two two-seater Mirage fighters waiting. Clad in pressure suits we were bundled into the rear seats and quickly took off. Destination Melbourne. After inflight refuelling we settled down to the long flight at 1400 mph. I was surprised and said to the pilot I had not heard the bang as we went through the sound barrier. He explained that happened behind us. The scenery was unusual until we approached civilisation. How they could recognise where they were I did not understand. Soon we were landing. Off to Albert Park to report for duty. I cannot say what happened next except to say 72 hours later we arrived in Vientiane Laos. There starts a cannot-tell story.

During the late 1980's, I had another encounter with speed. This time several flights in Concorde. Truly a wondrous aircraft. What a loss to Aviation. I mentioned earlier there may be another child who recalls being in the chosen six. While I can no longer be sure, I seem to recall Polly Farmer could have been another. Wonderful memories of yesteryear.

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY (Extracts from Winter 2016 newsletter)

2016 FAIRBRIDGE REUNION

The Museum opened as part of the bi-annual reunion of the Old Fairbridgians held over the week-end of 13/14th March. Over thirty visitors arrived and spent the morning looking at old photos and renewing contacts over a cuppa. Special visitors were Peter Bennett (constructed the photo stands) and his nephews Terry & Jeff Field.

THE EDWIN LAMBERT PHOTOSTAND

Fairbridge Farm School has been part of the Molong District since it was established in 1937. Even though the property closed and sold in the 1970's it remains part of the children and staff that lived and worked there. The Molong Historical Society is the custodian of official photograph collection as well as books and artefacts from the organisation. This is the story of the Photographic stands. Over the years Fairbridge Farm has collected a large amount of photographic material. This was in many formats and had been kept in several places. In 1980 it was felt by many that a permanent location should be determined, so that the records could be available at any time for all to view. After much discussion The Old Fairbridgian Association (OFA) determined they would have "The Edwin Lambert Photo Stand" built and donate it to the Molong Historical Society. To finance the project \$860 was pledged by the Association at the 1982 Annual General Meeting. John Richards (OFA 1939) designed the stands, Peter Bennett (OFA 1940) handled tenders, supervised construction and delivery. It was delivered to John Orringe (OFA 1948) who erected the stand and arranged the photo display, with help from Molong O.F.A. This stand was the first part of an ongoing project to collect and store Fairbridge memorabilia for public access. "The Edwin Lambert Photo Stand" was dedicated in April 1983 and it is described as a grand affair. With over 70 people present, Dennis Silver (President of OFA, Northcote) presided over the event, played a recording from Edwin Lambert (who was unable to attend). Edwin spoke on dedicating this photo stand with all the history in photographs of our lives at Fairbridge. It is truly a magnificent display and he thanked everyone who took

part in putting together this stand. Margaret Jeff spoke in remembrance of Fairbridge, and Mrs Drummond responded on behalf of the Historical Society. A delicious afternoon tea was served by the ladies of the Historical Society. The photo stand was on display in the then "Fairbridge Room" a small alcove in the museum, along with other memorabilia of the farm.

In 2000, the photo stand received a facelift, mainly due to the work of Jim (OFA 1950) and Beryl Reid who were managing the collection. Many of the small photographs had been replaced and each photo individually mounted to give a more effective record.

In 2004 with the help of Ian Bayliff (OFA 1955), a computer disk of all the photographs in the museum was made. The disk included some documents and photos of the remaining buildings. There were approximately 900 photographs and these were available for sale. Jim and Beryl continued to look after the Fairbridge collection for over twenty years until resigning in 2012. The Historical Society now maintains the collection.

The Museum underwent major renovations and repairs in 2009 and was closed for several months. During this time, the Fairbridge Room was rearranged and relocated to a larger stand alone room. Assistance from "The Sustainable Collection Project" and "Migration Heritage Centre" funded the refurbishment and enabled several large posters to be produced that told the Fairbridge Story in pictures, clippings and included several movies. During these renovations we were advised that the "Edwin Lambert" photograph display boards should not be rehung as their weight could cause damage to the walls of the building (built in 1856). The Museum reopened in March 2012 in time for the Bi-annual Fairbridge Reunion. The photo stands are stored at the museum and may be viewed, as well as the CD disk. Arrangements can be made to obtain copies of photographs either in print or digitally for a small cost. (Appointment preferred)

EDWIN LAMBERT

Edwin Lambert (born 1926) was one of the boys in the first party to arrive at Fairbridge in February 1938. He passed away in 1995. Edwin Lambert has donated several items to the museum including schoolbooks and articles about his time at Fairbridge.

DEREK MORIARTY

"Remembering"

(Continued from May 2016 newsletter)

I mentioned earlier that Mr and Mrs Savage only had one child, a daughter Robyn. I have kept in touch with her over the years, and when Sandra and I were married in 1984 we travelled to Surfer's Paradise for our honeymoon, stopping to attend the OFA Reunion Dinner at Wyong along the way. By this time Robyn had moved to Port Macquarie to live and had invited us to visit with her and her husband, an invitation too good to refuse. We stayed two days at Robyn's, during which time she introduced us to some very high quality locally produced red wines and made us equally as welcome as her parents had done all those years earlier. Several years later Robyn separated from her husband and moved to Toronto at Lake Macquarie. Once again as Sandra and I were returning from a holiday in Queensland we visited with Robyn for two days. Unfortunately, Robyn by this time had suffered a mild stroke and while it did slow her down, it did not stop her. It was during this visit that when the subject of finding my Mother and a whole tribe of relatives back in the UK came up, Robyn informed me that Mr and Mrs Savage had actually adopted her as they could not have children. This blew me away, but more was to come. They told Robyn that they had tried to adopt me also, but this was rejected by Fairbridge. It is not clear if The Fairbridge Society in Sydney made the decision or if it was "The Boss" himself. Funnily enough they did not want to adopt Paul as they considered he was such an unhappy little boy and would argue 'til he was blue in the face about anything and everything!

In 2008 we received an invitation to Robyn's 75th birthday party up at Cessnock. She had moved there some three years earlier. We readily accepted the invitation, booked accommodation online and travelled up for what we thought would be just a quiet family get together. Now Robyn has four daughters and three sons, all of whom are married and have their own kids and all of whom were there, which of course has not happened very often over the years as they live all over Australia. Throw in a few of Robyn's friends and it was a party to remember and could not have happened to a nicer lady. I might add that Robyn still enjoys a sip or two of the finest red wines. Says that is what keeps her young!

Ever the restless one Robyn then moved to Metford, which is near Maitland and on the New England Highway. She lives alone in a lovely two- bedroom house with plenty of surrounding "bush", similar in many ways to where she grew up in Cheltenham. It was here that Sandra and I last visited her, again on our way back from a trip to Queensland in late October 2014. Despite the fact we had my son's Jayco Caravan and 4WD Nissan, Robyn insisted we stay at her place overnight. Her eldest son Phillip and his lovely wife Lisa who live at Cessnock, arrived right on cue with heaps of delicious Chinese take away, and of course, a couple of bottles of red. Just like at the OFA Reunions, we reminisced well into the night, finally retiring around midnight with so many fond memories.

Leaving for home next morning with Robyn making us promise not to leave the next visit so long, once again I had a lump in the throat and teary eyes, just as I had all those years ago each time Paul and I boarded the Old Forbes Mail for the journey back to Fairbridge. "Home sickness" is how I described it then! Strangely enough Sandra says I am like that each time we leave Orange following a Reunion. Even used to call me a sook! However, I readily admit, even to this day, I do not hide my emotions very well.

I believe that Paul and I were blessed to have had the good fortune to have a family take us into their lives as Mr and Mrs Savage, along with Robyn did and I know there are many other Fairbridge kids who had similar experiences with private family holidays. I encourage you, as we always do, to put pen to paper and share those "good times" with us. I'm sure Newsletter Editor June will be happy to hear from you, if not for this Newsletter, then certainly for the May 2017 and ongoing issues. Additionally, Webmaster Brian is always looking for stories to add to the Website. You can either Email your stories to him or send hard copy. He would love to hear from you.

Incidentally, I did not set out to write a "manuscript", however I make no apology.

RAY SCOTT

Where has the time gone since my last Newsletter. As a family, like all of us that are reading this letter, we've had some ups and downs. Devastatingly in February this year our eldest Brant passed away unexpectedly after having heart surgery at RPA. His loss is still surreal and something we are dealing with everyday. Brant was only 56 and is deeply missed. Sadly again in April, Margaret's Dad Kevin passed away at the ripe old age of 94. When an innings. A gentleman to his last breath.

Margaret and I are planning to go up to the Northern Territory and then across to the West Coast in June for about six weeks. Margaret has retired from nursing and is enjoying her free time (when I will allow her). I still go to car races frequently and have my business in town doing jack of all trade jobs, which suits me fine as we can come and go when we please.

I have a question that one of you might be able to answer on behalf of Harold Cox who lives here in Gilgandra. Does anyone remember Beryl Cox who lived in Lord's Place, Orange and had La Dore photo studios and

used to take in junior – Gary?? Harold is asking the whereabouts of Gary.

Well that's my update. Hope you are all keeping well and life treating you fairly. Until next time, regards to you and your families.
Ray Scott

DENNIS PIERCY

June and I had the pleasure of visiting my family in Birkenhead (across the Mersey from Liverpool) again in September of this year. It was good to be there for the christening of one of our great great nieces (who was nearly due last time we were there), three great nephews' third birthdays (twins and a single born one hour apart!) and be able to go to one of our nieces birthday dinners, as well as all the get togethers that happen when you're second oldest of seven kids. My older brother Ray had eight kids! It was nice to be able to attend these special family occasions that so many take for granted.

We visited Goathland, a very pretty village in Yorkshire where the TV series Heartbeat was filmed, a favourite of ours. We had a drink in the 'Aidensfield Arms Hotel', saw the village green and shops, one of the police cars, the picturesque railway station and Bernie's garage. We went with my half brother Mike, his wife Jayne and my half sister Pauline (although I don't think of them as 'halves'). We stayed overnight in a quaint B & B in Scarborough, explored there next morning then went to Whitby, which is also featured in Heartbeat. It was great fun.

In Birkenhead we stayed in a Tudor style terrace house at Port Sunlight, a workers' village developed by Lord Lever of Lever & Kitchen. This beautiful village is Grade II heritage listed and has a fascinating history. Some of you might have seen it featured on Antiques Roadshow. Lord Lever was ahead of his time with the conditions he had for his staff. Staying there was a holiday experience in itself. Our son Gary who is still living in Vilnius, Lithuania spent a week with us.

Another highlight was our third visit to the Cavern in nearby Liverpool to see the official Beatles' tribute band which is endorsed by the fan club, so they're pretty good.

The downside to getting so close to everyone over there is that it's getting harder each time to say goodbye. June makes sure she has plenty of tissues handy. We also enjoyed a couple of days in Singapore on the way over and on the way back. A couple of highlights were seeing the amazing triple tower Marina Bay Sands Hotel and the new Gardens by the Bay.

We're very grateful to the Child Migrant Trust for making these trips possible.

IAN "SMILEY" BAYLIFF

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE CANONBAR AND ROSE COTTAGES ARE NOW?

Some OF's have been asking what happened to the children's cottages that were removed from Fairbridge. There were originally fifteen cottages built in the village and eight are still there. They are Orange, Molong, New, Blue, Corinda, Goldsborough, Green and Mort. The other seven were sold after Fairbridge was closed and moved to various locations where they were converted into grand country homes. We have managed to track down five of the seven.

Lilac is in Molong near Molong School
Canary is on the road between Molong and Manildra

Brown is on a property close to and behind Canary

Red is in Yeovil

Gowrie is on a property on the Wellington Road behind Yeovil

This leaves two unaccounted for: the boys' cottage, Canonbar and the girls' cottage, Rose. We were told that Canonbar may be at Goodooga on the NSW/Queensland border. David Hill and I plan to go and have a look but we haven't had a chance yet. As for Rose, we haven't had any luck at all. So if you have any clues please let us know.

ACCEPTANCE

The phone rang in the early morning
 Ringing loud and clear
 Voices spoke without warning
 Siblings from a yesteryear.

Then as hearts skipped a beat
 And eyes brimmed with tears
 Joy and happiness then compete
 With regrets of those missing years.

Searching back deep in the mind
 To those years so long ago
 Hoping a memory you can find
 Of a family you do not know.

For seventy years you've been apart
 But now it's time to meet
 With feelings building in your heart
 A family can now be complete.

Pat and Terry are due to arrive
 One week before the others
 Once again there will be five
 Two sisters and three brothers.

The longed for hour is finally here
 What if we are there late
 Brushing away a nervous tear
 Then trembling prepare to wait

Many times I dreamed the dream
 And thought of words I'd say
 But now emotion so it seems
 Make us speechless today.

No chance to ever forget
 The place or the date
 And the tears when we met
 In the year two thousand and eight.

With eyes brightened by tears
 Striving to forget the past
 For now after seventy long years
 We are family together at last.

Jim Napper

VALE

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

Edward Ted Gamsby (Molong)
Another pre-war warrior departs this scene (from Dennis Silver)

Joe McCullum (Joey) 12th May 2016

