
FOLLOW FAIRBRIDGE THE FOUNDER



NOVEMBER 2017

THE OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS' ASSOCIATION - MOLONG

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hello everybody. As usual, the year has flown by and Christmas is nearly here again.

Thank you to those who've sent me stories for this edition. Unfortunately there was insufficient space for some photos I received, but I'll endeavour to use them in future. I'm sure there are still lots of tales to be told. You'll see from two letters printed in this edition how much it means to fellow OFA's to hear your news. If you don't have access to e-mail, perhaps you'd like to type or write your story and hand it to me at the March 2018 reunion. I'd be happy to edit it for you if necessary and give any assistance I can. I've joked to President Derek that I might not let people leave the March AGM unless they hand me a story. I'm only 4ft 11in, so I don't know how effective that would be!

Closing date for articles for the May 2018 newsletter is 15th April 2018. Please put Fairbridge as the subject as with so many computer viruses, I won't open e-mails from unknown senders and unfortunately I don't know all of your names. I nearly missed an interesting article recently because of this.

Dennis and I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year and look forward to seeing our OFA friends at the reunion in March. To those who may be facing health or other life challenges, we wish you well.

June Piercy
Editor

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

As the November Newsletter is our last opportunity to contact many of you prior to our upcoming 80th Reunion, I wanted to point out the importance of not just acting on the information provided in this edition, but doing so sooner rather than later. In particular we have pointed out accommodation arrangements in Orange as a priority. Additionally the ordering of tickets for the Reunion Dinner (see notice elsewhere) has a cut-off date. This is very important as we must give our numbers to the Ex Services Club for catering arrangements.

We ask also that you consider if you would like to become a member of the Committee and have not done so previously, or if you are currently on the Committee, you wish to do so again for the 2018/2020 term.

Having said that I would like to sincerely thank the Committee members, past and present, for their efforts and support over the last fifty odd years. The letter from Mrs Joan Carroll, included in this edition with Joan's consent, is testimony that what we do in our organisation is of tremendous importance to each and every Old Fairbridgian. While there are far too many to name individually, we should all be extremely proud of our efforts. As your President I certainly am. I have personally thanked Joan, not only for her very kind words but also for permitting us to include her letter here.

As another year rolls on towards Christmas, may I firstly send best wishes to any of our members who are not enjoying good health (or old age, which includes most of you). We wish you a speedy recovery.

On behalf of your Committee, may you and your families have a wonderful festive season. Looking forward to seeing you all in Orange on 10th/11th March next year.

Derek Moriarty
President.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi everyone,
This report details the activities that your committee undertook for the period between March 2017 and November 2017.

The committee held two meetings in the period shown above, one following the AGM in Penrith in March 2017 and the other on the 12th November 2017 at David Hill's residence in Randwick,

The Child Migrant Trust has reopened the travel fund to the UK. It has actually been operating since July 2017 and it is expected to be funded to at least March 2019. The UK government has funded it for two million pounds. Ring CMT in Melbourne on 03 9815 2022 or Perth 08 9472 7582 or 1800 040509.

The reunion will be held again in Orange for next March 10th and the 11th, 2018. I personally believe that these functions are the basis of our organisation and as such are invaluable in keeping us together. I note with sadness that the WA OFA committee in Pinjarra is, in my view, dysfunctional. Several websites are operating in that State which seem to denigrate each other, all in the name of Kingsley Fairbridge.

Please do not forget the AGM on the 11th March 2018. We need your support at this meeting. Please note the advice for this meeting further on in this newsletter, including Proxy vote forms. Please notify any member of the committee if you know of any deceased OFs that are not listed on the Vale section of our website **oldfairbridgians.org**.

Address List

Financial members	183
Associate members	25
Other Associations and organisations	8
Known deceased	192
VALE. Total	192

Cheers
Brian K.
Secretary

WEBSITE UPDATE:

oldfairbridgians.org

Hi to everyone. It was most gratifying to observe the need for the website in that when the Allen Mawer Shield was in peril and about to be discarded, contact was made via the website to assist in providing information as to who to contact to preserve it. It now is in the safe keeping of the Molong Museum.

Thanks to Graham Lee who has provided further information through research on migration sailing dates for parties arriving at the FFS from 1938 onwards. Some deceased OFs are not listed in the Rutherford book, which I have always been puzzled about. This factual information will be included in the relevant Vale entries. Thanks again Graham.

The Vale section is up to date as of November 2017 with all KNOWN deceased Old Fairbridgians.

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

I can advise everyone that the 80th Reunion Dinner Tickets go on sale as soon as you receive this newsletter. You will find the booking slip on the last page. Also included is the Old Fairbridgians Association – Molong financial statement for the year ending 30 June 2017.

80th REUNION DINNER DETAILS

Saturday 10th March 2018.

- 7-00pm for 7-30pm - 80th Reunion Dinner in the Coral Sea Room, Orange Ex-Services Club Ltd, 231-243 Anson Street, Orange, NSW.
- Cost-\$50-00 per head
- Drinks available at the bar for normal prices from 7-00pm.
- Lucky door prizes
- Raffle to be conducted during the evening

To purchase tickets please complete the booking slip and send it, together with a cheque or money order, made payable to:
The Old Fairbridgians Association – Molong.

Address To:

Mrs Sandra Moriarty
Treasurer
Old Fairbridgians Association-Molong
46 Holborn Street
BERKELEY NSW 2506

PLEASE NOTE - BOOKINGS CLOSE ON FRIDAY
23 February 2018.

ALL TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

Sunday 11th March 2018

10-00am

Arrive at the Moresby Room, Orange Ex-Services Club, Anson Street, Orange NSW for those wishing to pay annual subscriptions. All attendees are required to sign OFA Attendance Book prior to start of meeting.

10-30am

80th Annual General Meeting of the Old Fairbridgians Association - Molong.

At the conclusion of the meeting please feel free to purchase your own lunch. The Club has several areas where meals may be purchased including the Coffee Lounge or the Diggers' Brasserie.

Members are urged to make their accommodation arrangements sooner rather than later, bearing in mind that Orange always has lots happening in March. The Templar's Mill Motel, Byng Street Orange, owned by and adjacent to the Ex-Services Club is always prepared to assist with accommodation if you get in early. They give a senior's discount on request. Tel. 02 6362 5611.

Sandra Moriarty.
Treasurer

Good news – The Family Restoration Fund is still flying.

The Child Migrants' Trust is taking applications to this Fund from former child migrants for travel **before 31st March 2019.**

This UK Government Fund has helped many families to be reunited over the past several years. Former child migrants from the UK can apply to visit their original family members overseas and be accompanied, if necessary, by a carer. This will require a medical recommendation, as will an upgrade to premium economy seats for those with conditions which require more legroom, for example.

There is also an option for relatives to visit you if your doctor agrees that long haul travel would be too much for you. Important family events like weddings or birthdays as well as visits to relatives in hospital or nursing care are all good reasons to use this Fund.

If possible, try to avoid the summer school holidays in the UK from mid July to the end of August, when prices increase for the peak period of the tourist trade and major cities and roads become extremely busy.

The Child Migrants' Trust has offices in Melbourne and Perth which can be contacted by telephone at 1800 04 05 09. For more detailed information about the Fund as well as application forms, please go to the internet at www.childmigrantstrust.com.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mike Walker – Western Australia

Remember free afternoon?

Well it was wonderful to contemplate a free afternoon after the structure of the rest of the week. Remember of course that you had already done chores before breakfast after the morning bell woke you up each and every morning, rain or shine, at 6.30 in winter and 6 in summer.

Monday afternoon: This was mostly muster. That meant that you had an obligation to report to the bell. It spelled more work. General maintenance had to be done around the village, digging up overgrown areas, removing accumulated rubbish and transporting it all by wheelbarrow down through the horse paddock to the general dump.

Tuesday was cottage gardening. Here, the cottage 'mother' had complete control. If she was a keen gardener it meant lots of work for you - not her - she just directed "lift that barge, tote that bale" sort of stuff. I think this actually must have soured me about gardening – a sourness that persists today. I can still see garden beds we slaved over to produce a few flowers and a green lawn.

Wednesday was seen as an unstructured afternoon but if you had run foul of the cottage 'mother' or the Principal you had to forfeit that free time to serve your punishment.

Thursday meant sport. Depending on the time of year you had either cricket, rugby league training or soccer. All of this was designed to sap your energy and keep you under control, I am sure. While I did not do too well at cricket I had a bit of speed which I used on the wing in rugby. But I really enjoyed hockey and looked forward to the games and Saturday's competition away from the village.

Friday was everybody's favourite!! Muster yet again. So another bout of cleaning up with shovel, rake, hoe or wheelbarrow to keep the place looking tidy. Or another job of work.

Saturday: If you were not involved in a weekly clean-up of your cottage with polishing floors and making everything spick and span you had another bout of muster if you were not involved in off-site sport. This involved a trip to Orange to take part in a competition like rugby league or hockey. We were transported in the old blue truck or the bus. In winter there was often rain and snow to make you work hard to get the blood pumping while you played in the mud and slush. After the games it was one of the highlights of the week to stop at Robert's Pie Shop. Then with your meat pie cupped in your hands to keep you warm while you ate it, you could enjoy the rumbling, draughty journey back to the farm. I still remember those wonderful trips in freezing conditions with hands wrapped around that pie that was often the highlight of the week.

So that left Sunday. Usually there was church in the morning, mostly held in the Nuffield Hall. All the benches were arranged in rows facing the altar set up in front of the stage. The local vicar from Molong, the Reverend Gaden, would take the service. Mr Woods often fell asleep during the proceedings which were often rather long-winded. I did enjoy singing the hymns. Many of them were quite rousing like Jerusalem, Onward Christian Soldiers and another to the tune of the German

National Anthem was a stirring favourite. Whenever someone left the village to go out into the world we wished them well collectively with the hymn God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again which I remember with a tinge of sadness for that great step. You envied them their turn to go and wished it was you.

So after church and lunch was the prospect of a FREE AFTERNOON!

One great favourite at this time was going rabbiting. A couple of you would take a shovel and head out of the village to a chosen spot. You had to select a likely burrow and set to with the shovel to follow its twists and turns to hopefully lead you to a rabbit which was quickly pulled out of the burrow and despatched.

Another activity was collecting dead sheep's wool. This involved a hessian bag for the fleece and the ability to find a dead animal well away from the village. Some sheep were recently dead and smelled appropriately. How long the animal had been dead was important because too fresh and the wool was tough to pull and too old and the stench was foul and the rotten flesh came away when it was pulled. Sometimes you got a good full fleece and other times it was spoiled. A bag of dead wool was worth real money in Molong.

Yabbying was another popular free time activity down at the creek at the foot of the Fairbridge hill. Not much equipment needed either. Just a length of string, bait (lump of meat) and a crude wire scoop and billycan. You throw the baited line in a likely spot in the creek and when the yabby hooks onto the meat you draw it gradually to the surface and scoop it up and deposit it in the billycan. With a few of these boiled up and then peeled and eaten they made a great addition to the diet.

A favourite of mine was birdwatching or actually collecting birds' eggs. This involved finding different birds' nests and stealing an egg from the clutch. This could involve a precarious climb to claim your prize but all part of the challenge. Each egg was then pricked at each end and the inside blown out to leave the empty shell for you to display. Collections were usually set on a cotton wool layered case. I remember Billy Gelson had a particularly varied collection. I still retain a love of wild birds but this does not involve stealing eggs for trophies.

They are a few of the activities that I remember from my free afternoons before the setting of the sun on Sunday and the return to the routine of the

working week when the morning bell rang out on Monday.

Fairbridge Without Tears

There were quite a few of us
Incarcerated without fuss
Got up each morning by the bell
Did our chores and did them well
Did the right thing went to school
Didn't disrupt or act the fool
Kept our lockers tidy and neat
Tried to keep a sour cavvy* sweet
All went through the same routine
Kept until you were seventeen
And when that birthday came around
You left - and scarcely made a sound.
**cavvy - slang for cottage mother.*

Mike Walker

MOLONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY Sue Milne

The museum will be open on Saturday 10th March but final arrangements are yet to be made. The usual opening is from 10.30am and lunch from 12.30pm. It will be a light lunch and cost will be about \$10 - \$15. It would be handy to have a rough idea of numbers for catering purposes.

(Please contact Sue through any of her contact details (see below) closer to reunion time to find out museum opening hours and to advise for catering purposes. Ed.)

We are looking forward to the next reunion and are intending to have a new display for the weekend.

Over the last two months we have had several visitors looking for their relatives who spent time at Fairbridge. I have found information on them but it is very limited, so I thought you may be able to help through the magazine.

- Peter Denis Postlethwaite who arrived in the second party on the S.S. Oronsay in 1938. His cousin from New Zealand is looking for him.
- Euphemia (Vera) Priestnal, who arrived in the first party after the War, aboard the Ormonde in 1947. Her son is looking for information. Vera is living in Queensland.

If anybody has any information about these people would you please contact Sue Milne (contact details below).

THE ALLEN MAWER SHIELD

Recently the Museum was given several framed photographs and a shield found at the closed Fairbridge Foundation headquarters in Sydney. Ross Tierney completed research on the shield and contacted Allen Mawer, the grandson of the original shield donor. Ross Tierney and Allen Mawer visited Molong and presented the shield and photographs to the museum in June this year. Allen gave us a brief history and the connection with Fairbridge Farm School, Molong.

Granville Allen Mawer was born in 1919 and enlisted in the RAAF in Sydney in December 1940. He completed his training in Canada to become a pilot. His next posting was to England. During his time with 501 Squadron RAAF he shot down a German Dornier Do 217 bomber over the English Channel. In November 1942, he was recalled to Australia and in 1943 was posted to 54 Squadron RAAF in Darwin, then to 452 Squadron RAAF, both equipped with Spitfires. Allen, as he was known, shot down and destroyed three Japanese fighters. Tragically, he was killed in a flying accident in September 1943. Allen is buried in the Adelaide River War Cemetery.

Granville Allen Mawer was unmarried when he was killed in 1943. He was unaware that he had a son also named Allen living in England. The boy's mother wrote to tell Allen, but his own mother, Ella Allen, intercepted the letters. Ella always felt guilty that she had not told Allen about his son. She commissioned two scholarships/awards in his name to La Perouse School for Aboriginals in Sydney and Fairbridge Farm School, Molong for the "Best pupil of the Year" with a monetary prize.

Ella was a seamstress for Lady Isaacs, the wife of the Governor General during the 1930s. She also knew Sir William Slim, Governor General during the 1950s. This may have been the reason for the award to the school.

The shield was awarded between 1953 and 1966. Significant events in 1966 were Mr F.K.S. Woods' resignation and the last children arrived from England. There was also a shield for the girls, but I have been unable to find any details yet.

FAIRBRIDGE FARM SCHOOL CHAPEL BELL

On Saturday 11 November 2017 the Molong Historical Society committee member John Hammond rang the Fairbridge Farm school chapel bell, which is now at the Molong Museum. The ringing of the bell announced a minute's silence for the service held at the Molong RSL, located

opposite the museum. It is believed that this is the first time the church bell has been officially used since it was last heard in the Fairbridge chapel before the farm school closed in 1974.

Regards

Sue Milne (Secretary and Researcher)

My mother was June Milne (Burt) who also came out on the Ormonde in 1947.

Phone 02 6362 8960

Mobile 0400 425015

suemilne@colourcity.com

GRAHAM LEE

ALLEN MAWER MEMORIAL

I refer to the May 2017 OFA Newsletter in which Dennis (Piercy) was seeking information regarding the origin of the Allen Mawer Memorial. At the outset, I must admit that I cannot provide answers to its origin. However, Australia had a Spitfire Pilot named Granville Allen Mawer who was known as Allen Mawer and after serving in England during most of the war, returned to Darwin and was unfortunately killed in a mid air collision. His mother was employed as a seamstress and lady-in-waiting to the Governor General of Australia, Sir Isaac Isaacs, so perhaps there may be some link with this family.

However, as a recipient, I can recall being presented with a cheque for twenty-five pounds, although I note that Dennis is still waiting for his. According to the official title, it was purportedly awarded to 'the best pupil of the year', which is such a misnomer; when were we ever pupils at Fairbridge? But I digress.

Like Dennis, I had left Fairbridge at seventeen years of age and was working at a sheep stud at Oberon NSW. I was surprised when my boss told me that he had received a request for me to return to Fairbridge to receive an award. When I arrived, I was informed that I had been chosen by the staff for 'the best boy of the year' award. I thought my worst nightmare had occurred; here I was in the place where I had vowed never to return. With my record of behaviour, the only appropriate award I should have received would have been another year as an inmate. Maybe I was the only one that left that year (1962) or they must have been scraping the bottom of the barrel to find someone.

Anyway, I was driven to Sydney by Mr Woods with Gwen Callister, who I understood had received the 'best girl of the year' award. I do not remember seeing a memorial shield for girls, but then it was all a mystery to me. We arrived at the 'official

reception', which I think was in a large house and it had attracted quite a few VIP's. After some refreshments and a few speeches, both Gwen and I received our cheques for twenty-five pounds. I am sure that the lady presenting the cheques was blind, but maybe Gwen may recall some other specifics.

The year 1962 listed alongside my name is the year I left Fairbridge and the year in which I received the award. I have no idea who G Lee listed in 1976 is, but Reginald Miller, Dennis Piercy and Laurie Lipscombe are known to me, although the dates are obviously out of wack.

I know this has not helped resolve the initial question, but perhaps it may jog one of the other recipient's memories.

Regards,
Graham Lee

PETER DENIS POSTLETHWAITE

Hello, one of the children that travelled on the SS Oransay is my mother's cousin (Peter Denis Postlethwaite), my second cousin. He disappeared when my mom was a young girl, and no one had any idea where he had gone. I noticed that he appears on the list of children travelling on the Oransay in 1938 on your website. I wondered if any of your existing members might know him, or if anyone can tell us anything about him and his life in Australia. I don't see him listed on your Vale site but he would be in his 90's today if he was still alive. I just wondered if he had ever attended any of the gatherings.

Thank you
Tina Jones (Mrs)
at.jones@xtra.co.nz

BILLY HALL

Hello, I spoke to Derek about my trip to UK. We had spoken about Paul Suret passing away and he had lived in Wycombe, so I said I would look his family up whilst in Wycombe. Would you believe I had been within a stone's throw of Paul each time I went to visit over the years. My niece came with me to meet his wife and she was very happy to have a talk, from my point of view, what life was like after Fairbridge, her point what life was like in Canary cottage. I know most would say not good, but I thought we were very lucky to be sent to Fairbridge. I told her a few things about Paul growing up. He was very quiet and got along with all of the kids. Mind you, he went to Orange High School, so was in a different class to us Molong

kids. It's a shame that we didn't get together years ago.

Anyway the trip was to take my daughter to meet the family and it was a great event to see. Worth every minute of the trip. See you in March at Orange.

Yours,
Billy Hall.

LYN NERON

Love receiving the newsletters, so full of news and interesting details on a life I had all but forgotten. I especially enjoyed David Eva's recollections of the horses at Fairbridge. I also rode while I was there and especially loved to ride Beauty and Sandra. Betty was a bit of a meany and bit me a few times. I also used to do the long ride into Molong to participate in the pony club events.

Can you please change my address so that I can continue to receive the news!

lneron83@gmail.com

MICHAEL PASS

Further to my email reported in May 2016 newsletter, 2016 proved to be a memorable year for me in many ways, but the CMT made it the success it became. I wrote of attending at Nottingham to give evidence to the Sydney Royal Commission and its after effects. Also that CMT had found details regarding my father. It transpires that in 1956 he remarried and had a daughter, Patricia. This news was so unexpected that it took several weeks of soul searching and seeking advice from Lindsey Hughes before I wanted to possibly make contact.

Lindsey offered to make the first contact and to report back to me. A couple of weeks later Lindsey rang to say that contact had been made. Pat had two children, Sarah and Amy. So suddenly I found I had a stepsister but also two nieces. (I hate the "Step", much preferring to consider Pat as my sister.) So I asked Lindsey to arrange a meeting for us. I thought having Lindsey as a buffer would avoid any unpleasantness that might arise. But I pre-empted that by contacting Pat myself and arranging to go to Coseley to meet.

In July, I drove up to Coseley and we arranged to meet at a pub nearby. Pat and Pete (her husband) were a real joy. Pat knew of me, having been told I had gone to Australia to live with my Mother. I cruelly set that right, as he had signed the paperwork condemning me to Fairbridge. Later I

was privileged to meet Sarah, her husband Adam and also Amy and her boyfriend Jay. These are truly wonderful people, who, faced with a completely unknown stranger, made me so very welcome. Trying to lose weight, I have become a complete scruff. Not going to buy clothes till I get to seventeen stone. Eight stone to go.

The three days I was away passed so quickly. All too soon it was time to drive back to London. I cannot explain how I felt, except as wonderful. Learning my 80th birthday was approaching, it was mooted to celebrate it as a family.

In September, I got away from the flat for a two week holiday in India. This was a major undertaking as it was the first venture of any distance (except the trips to Nottingham and Coseley) since 2004, when I became ill with my leg. I got a cab to and from Heathrow. The tour group numbered thirty people. Much of the tour was in hilly areas so I missed much sightseeing. Being on crutches did not allow me to walk very far. I did manage to do two memorable things though.

Firstly, I climbed a step of stairs crossing between platforms at a station.

Secondly, I had to go to the toilet urgently. (I did not want to go while on the train which had western style toilets). At the station we arrived at were native toilets, a hole in the ground. Needless to say, being an Australian, I managed to fall in. The only thing hurt was my self respect.

The Taj Mahal was an experience, like visiting the Pyramids, awesome, magnificent and unique. To think it was built by a man for the love of his wife. For myself just seeing in person the Taj justified the expense of the tour.

Two weeks flew so quickly and so I got back to the UK. Tired, elated and ready to tackle whatever the world may throw at me.

My 80th birthday arrived so again I went to Coseley. It was a nice quiet dinner among lovely people. I also met the dogs. Pat and Pete have Ollie and Sarah and Adam have Charlie. Both are small, white and fluffy.

My leg continues to heal, albeit at a tenth snail's pace. After thirteen years I have learnt to be patient with it. In those years I developed osteoarthritis in the left hip. The GP could only prescribe painkillers, getting stronger and not working. I saw an article in a newspaper extolling the healing properties of

collagen. I bought some capsules and within a week the hip pain had halved and after two weeks the pain had gone. It is now seven months of being pain free.

Back to the Child Migrant Trust. After finding my family, I requested that they try to find details of my Mother. A seemingly impossible task. The last time I saw her was in 1950. I had reason to believe she then went to New Zealand. Her brother and sister-in-law also were in NZ. Recently, Lindsey rang to ask for a copy of my passport for ID reasons, then she rang to say they have details. I am going up to Nottingham again on 6th June to find out what they have discovered. They are **Miraculous**. Like finding the needle in the haystack. **Awesome**. So you can see why I think 2016 was a Red Letter Year for me. 2017 looks as though it may be as good.

Respectfully
Michael PASS.

ROSETTA ROBERTS

With great sadness I must tell you my beloved mother, Rosetta Macmin, who was born Rosetta Roberts, passed peacefully away in the arms of her family on Monday September 4th in Bath, UK.

She came to Fairbridge Molong as an evacuee in 1940. She was accompanied by the Watts sisters, among others. Her funeral was held on Tuesday 19th September 2017 at St Saviours Church, Larkhall, Bath.

I would be very happy if anyone who remembers her contacts me at liz@aizoon.co.uk.

Liz Rogers

TONY STEPNEY

We had the opportunity to have another trip to England to meet the family once again, thanks to the Child Migrant Trust in Melbourne. We flew Cathay Pacific and had a hire car waiting for us at the airport for the trip to Eastbourne where all the family live.

The weather wasn't all that great, cool with misty rain, but Sue, Shirley and I got there safe and sound to my niece's home and were made very welcome. We made plans to just meet all the family and friends as we only had two weeks because Shirley had a fractured hip and didn't know how it would affect her when we went walking.

We met my youngest brother Allen and his wife Michelle and their daughters Chloe and Leah who are all grown up now. Allan had a heart attack the next day and was rushed to Hastings Hospital where he had three stents inserted and balloons as well. We all went to see him in hospital and all we did was laugh, seeing Allan was unable to give us any cheek.

With my other brother Christopher and his partner Sarah, we also had some fantastic times when we all went to a pub called the Eight Bells. What a fantastic time we had with all the family.

I rang and spoke to David Hill before we left Australia to see when he was in London at the abuse hearing. I rang when he was booked into a motel to tell him when we would be in London, but we were unable to catch up, which was a bit sad, as with his schedule and us getting ready to return to Aussie, we couldn't meet up.

DENNIS PIERCY

June and I spent a day with Ron Wright and his wife Penny at Noosaville in June this year when they were house sitting for a friend. Ron and I came out on the Arcadia together in 1955 and we had a great time reminiscing. Also in June, we had a short holiday at Coolangatta and had morning tea with Len Magee. Len is looking well and is as busy as ever. We've had lunch with Sandra Stepney twice at Emerald Lakes Golf Club at Carrara. I practically drooled looking at that course! Sandra is also keeping very well. It's great catching up with old friends.

JOAN CARROLL, WIFE OF PETER CARROLL

I am writing to let you know that Peter Carroll, a proud member of your Association, sadly passed away on July the 8th 2016. He suffered from Alzheimer's disease but died of respiratory complications. He would want me to thank you all from the heart for all the support, joy and comfort we received from your newsletters over the years.

Pete used to scour the pages for references to people he knew during his time at Fairbridge. Those who knew Peter and his twin brother Paul, who sadly predeceased him, would remember a couple of wags, I guess. Peter developed a lifelong interest in all sports at Fairbridge, moving on to play rugby for the army and to enjoy high level hockey and very skilled golfing and bowls interests. He was devoted in the end to AFL footy and a definite Collingwood tragic, while all the time lamenting that it wasn't football at all, but aerial ping pong.

Some decades ago Pete was tracked down by former Fairbridgians through the Melbourne phone book and from then on started to subscribe to your newsletter. This newsletter has proven a turning point in Peter's being able to find his way home in so many ways.

When we married in 1971, we didn't even have his birth certificate. He had to contact the Fairbridge people for an extract of birth. Reading the newsletter years later led to him being able to send a letter to Darlington in England for a full birth certificate, which finally confirmed for him his mother's maiden name.

Another gem was to find the list of children sent out to Australia from England, including Peter and Paul on the SS Ormond in 1948. Gold Dust!

Next, we found from the newsletter, how to request Peter's file from the Fairbridge Foundation in London. Eureka! So much valuable information about his family and official documents pertaining to his being sent to Australia as a child migrant. This provided proof to Centrelink when seeking a pension that he had been sent here at all, as he held no other travel documents. As well as the passenger list from the SS Ormond, we were able to provide proof positive of Peter's bona fide residence in Australia since that time. The staff at Centrelink were enthralled. Never seen anything like it, nor heard the incredible story of this child migration scheme.

The most momentous newsletter inclusion was in the late 80's when a UK social worker called Margaret Humphries was seeking child migrants who would like to be reunited with their UK families. This can still bring tears to my eyes to finally see him given a chance to hear from his family again. I wrote to Margaret that Peter and his twin were sent to Australia in 1948 (40 years or so ago). He had a mother, sister and brother alive when they left. It took a year and in the interim the film "Lost Children of the Empire" screened in Australia, causing real consternation about this child migration scheme.

We met Margaret Humphries in 1989 when she visited Melbourne. He was able to speak to his brother in Northumberland that day. Margaret had received two letters from UK relatives eager to find these lost twin boys.

The newsletter again came into play in advertising the family reconciliation programs of the Australian and British governments and the parliamentary apologies of both parliaments to former child

migrants. Peter was able to journey to England twice on these schemes to visit with a wide family circle. Sadly, he missed seeing his mother and grandmother again. Both died just years before the twins were able to reconnect with their family.

The most recent incredibly valuable message we found in the newsletter was reference to the class action brought by ex Fairbridgians in the NSW Supreme Court.

Your Association and newsletter have proven to be the most positive of influences in our lives. In some ways, you could say life changing.

On Peter's behalf and on my own I want to sincerely thank you for your care and concern for all your members over the years.

Yours sincerely
Joan Carroll

MONUMENT FOR FORMER FAIRBRIDGE CHILD MIGRANTS

We are planning to erect a permanent monument to commemorate all the child migrants who went to Fairbridge and to celebrate the contribution they have made to Australia. The proposal is to have a life size statue of some Fairbridge children along with a plaque listing the names of all one thousand child migrants who were at Molong. At the moment the most popular suggestion is a life size statue of the four children photographed carrying their big Fairbridge cardboard suitcases who came out in the second party to Molong in 1938 (see photo below). The monument will most likely be erected along the Mitchell Highway near Fairbridge Farm although some other local sites may also warrant consideration.

We would welcome your thoughts about the monument and your ideas about what form it should take.

We want the monument to be supported and embraced by the local community as well as by former Fairbridge children. We want it to be something that all passers-by find interesting enough to stop and hop out of their cars to view and admire. The monument will complement the trees that form the Fairbridge Remembrance Drive and act as a beautiful entry to Molong.

Recently, Old Fairbridgians President Derek Moriarty along with Jan Barby and David Hill met with the Mayor of Orange, Reg Kidd, who expressed enthusiastic support for the project. The local media also showed great interest and so far all the people we discussed this with think it is a great idea. Mayor Reg Kidd and local Federal Member of Parliament for Calare Andrew Gee have already agreed to start our list of Patrons as supporters of the project.

The monument will cost tens of thousands of dollars. Some of our friends in Orange, including Wade Mahlo, have agreed to help raise funds from the local community and will help our application for Federal and State regional grants.

To attract funding from the local community and from governments we have to demonstrate that we have already made a contribution ourselves, so we are setting a target for the old Fairbridgians of at least \$10,000. If you want to pledge a donation of \$100 or more, please let Derek Moriarty derekmoriarty@optusnet.com.au, Jan Barby jan.barby@bigpond.com or David Hill davidhill04@optusnet.com.au know, though any donations, large or small, will be gratefully accepted. We have already received the first pledges of support totalling close to \$2,000 from Ian Bayliff, David Eva, Sydney Lee, Patrick O'Brien, Brian Kirkby, Derek Moriarty, Jan Barby, David Hill, Dennis and June Piercy and Dudley Hill.



VALE

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

Edward (Ted) Gamsby, 25.8.26 – 18.8.16. Passed peacefully after an illness.

Veronica Joan Skinner – ex Old Northcotian, on the 20th October 2017

Rosetta Ann Macmin (nee Roberts) passed peacefully 4th September 2017, aged 87 years

Peter Carroll – passed away after an illness, 8th July 2016

NOTICE OF MEETING - 80TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 11TH 2018.

Notice is given that the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Old Fairbridgians Association will be held at the Orange Ex-Services Club Ltd. Anson St, Orange NSW on Sunday 11th March 2018. Commencing at 10.30am.

The business of the meeting will be as follows.

To confirm the Minutes of the 79th Annual General Meeting, March 2017

To receive and confirm the Annual Financial Report for 2016 / 2017.

To appoint an Honorary Auditor for 2017/ 2018.

To elect to the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and a minimum of four elected members, all of which must be financial or Honorary Life Members of the OFA. These positions are for a period of two years as per the constitution.

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

That a recommendation from the Executive of the OFA be forwarded for consideration at the next AGM of the OFA to be held in March 2018 proposing Honorary Life Membership of the Old Fairbridgians Association be awarded to Ian Bayliff. Ian satisfies all of the requirements for Life Membership as outlined in the OFA Articles of Association and has for many years provided help and support to many former Fairbridge kids, including assisting many to connect with their UK families.

That a recommendation from the Executive of the OFA be forwarded for consideration at the next AGM of the OFA to be held in March 2018 proposing Honorary Life Membership of the Old Fairbridgians Association be awarded posthumously to the late Margaret Piercy. Margaret satisfied all of the requirements for Life Membership as outlined in the AFO Articles of Association and for many years provided help and support to many former Fairbridge kids, including being the long term editor of the Old Fairbridgians newsletter.

It is the view of the Executive that both nominees would be very worthy recipients of Life Membership.

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

Proxy forms for this meeting are available from the Secretary, contact Brian Kirkby on 0412 501 137 or email kirkby@senet.com.au

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

Brian Kirkby
 Secretary
 November 2017

BOOKING SLIP**80TH REUNION DINNER – ORANGE NSW – 10TH MARCH 2018**

Please return this booking slip with your cheque/money order etc., made payable to
OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS' ASSOCIATION – MOLONG

Mail to:

Mrs Sandra Moriarty – Treasurer
 OFA – Molong
 46 Holborn Street
 BERKELEY NSW 2506

Saturday	HOW MANY	COST (per person)	TOTAL
10 th March 2018			
Reunion Dinner	-----	\$50.00	\$.....

Closing date for booking is Friday 23rd February. Please note that tickets are non refundable. Your tickets will be forwarded to you by return mail.

Name/s (please print)

.....

Address

.....

.....

..... Post code.....

Date.....**Telephone**.....

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO ATTACH YOUR REMITTANCE