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# **FOLLOW FAIRBRIDGE THE FOUNDER**

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**MAY 2019**

## **THE OLD FAIRBRIDGIANS' ASSOCIATION - MOLONG**

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hello everyone,

It was good to see so many friends at the AGM in Penrith in March. The day before the meeting, six of us enjoyed a lunch cruise on the Nepean Belle paddle wheeler and had dinner together that night. It was such good fun, it's been suggested we should arrange this again for the day before the next AGM in Penrith in 2021. We'd love to have more OF's join us next time.

For those interested in the location of trees on Fairbridge Remembrance Drive or any other queries, please contact President Derek who will post or e-mail an updated map to you.

Jim Napper written a lovely poem for this issue about our river cruise. I'd like to wish him a full and speedy recovery from his surgery and also wish him a very happy 91<sup>st</sup> birthday for the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Thank you to all those who've sent in articles for this Newsletter. I hope it inspires others to send in reminiscences of Fairbridge, current news of family or travel, etc. **Please note that the cut off date for the November 2019 newsletter is the 15<sup>th</sup> November. Send articles to [junepiercy@netscape.net](mailto:junepiercy@netscape.net)** Please put "Fairbridge" as the subject.

**June Piercy**  
Editor

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi once again to all Old Fairbridgians, Associate Members and families,  
On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the day before our 81<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting at the Penrith RSL Club, a small group of OF's took up the suggestion of Newsletter Editor June Piercy to book in for the lunch time cruise on "The Nepean Belle" Paddle wheeler, a two and a half hour cruise along the Nepean River. (See photo). A delicious lunch was served and full bar service was available, although we were too busy talking to be tempted! A great experience and one I thoroughly recommend for the future. Can also recommend "Nepean Shores" Caravan Park for very reasonable cabin style accommodation, just 300 metres from the Nepean Belle jetty. Saturday evening, we had a ten minute drive to the Gaels Irish Club for dinner, a 'drop of the nectar' (Guinness) and dancing, if so inclined, although have to say I 'declined'.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March, we again gathered at the Penrith RSL Club for the 81<sup>st</sup> AGM, with 26 OF's in attendance and 20 apologies. The club has a

great smorgasbord dining area where patrons can eat as much as they wish and there is a great variety. There is also a coffee bar where light snacks such as sandwiches, cakes, etc are served with tea and coffee.

Our good friend Ian 'Smiley' Bayliff gave an update on The Bayliff Papers, an internet site he has brilliantly put together, with literally thousands of photos and documents of all descriptions relating to Fairbridge. To those OF's who are computer savvy, I suggest you check this out, you will not be disappointed. Well done, Smiley. To access it, the link is: [bayliffairbridgepapers.com](http://bayliffairbridgepapers.com)

Other important items discussed were the Ex Gratia Payment from the British Government, including the ineligibility of kids who came out with a parent or parents. While it appears we are fighting a losing battle on this front, we are still in there and are awaiting further contact from CMT.

The National Redress Scheme (Australian) was also discussed and an update given by myself. The scheme appears to be totally unrealistic in many areas and is receiving widespread criticism across the country. So much so, that some of the support groups are demanding it be 'torn up' and started all over again. This of course, would be most unlikely and despite that many people predicted a fiasco before it had even started, it has gone too far now and the Government has given no indication that changes will be made. The advice that I have received and which I gave at the AGM is that everyone should apply for it, even if you were not sexually abused. While they said all along it was not about physical and psychological abuse, strangely, in the application form, you are asked to describe all three forms of abuse you may have suffered!

The other most important advice I have been given is, do not attempt to fill in an application on your own, something many people would not be capable of anyway, as it is around 44 pages long and many of the questions will be too confronting or legally difficult for a lot of people.

The Government has kindly provided a legal firm by the name of Knowmore to assist anyone in filing an application. They can be contacted at [Knowmore.org.au](http://Knowmore.org.au). The service is free, regardless of whether your claim is successful or not. Additionally, you can use your own legal adviser but this will incur fees, although some legal firms are advertising they will assist you on a no win-no fee basis. Most of the support groups such as

Clan, Relationships Australia etc. are also offering assistance.

I have included an information sheet which has all the necessary information to get started, including the website and phone number for the National Redress Scheme. (The information sheet is at the end of this Newsletter.)

If anybody is having trouble obtaining a copy of their Australian or UK file, please contact me.

The other very important item at the AGM was an update on the Fairbridge Children's Farm Park (FCFP) in a letter from David Hill, Chairman of the park committee to Secretary Mary O'Brien, which was read to the meeting. Thank you, David. (David's report is at the end of this Newsletter.)

As David has included a further update in this Newsletter, the only comment I would like to add to his report is that while we have raised in excess of \$21,000.00 towards the project in pledges from Old Fairbridgians, we did set a target of \$25,000.00 and I would like to think we can still reach that. So, if you have not contributed to date, or even if you have but feel you could maybe spare a little more, your pledges would be most welcome.

Donations should be sent to:

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

Please make cheques or money orders payable to: Old Fairbridgians' Association-Molong Inc. and indicate for FCFP.

Alternatively, if doing direct credit online, bank details are as follows: BSB 802-124

Account No. 100086713

Please add your name and mark: FCFP.

**The 82<sup>nd</sup> Reunion and Annual General Meeting of the Old Fairbridgians' Association – Molong Inc. will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020 respectively, at the Orange Ex Services Club.** Members are reminded that accommodation can be hard to come by at that time of the year, so you are advised to book early.

Booking slips and an update on details will be included in the November Newsletter.

Closing date for bookings is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and all tickets must be paid for in advance.

**Derek Moriarty  
President.**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

On March 10<sup>th</sup> we held our AGM at the Penrith RSL Club with 26 attending and 20 apologies.

Financial members 181

Associate members 37

**To enable easy communication with our members I would encourage you to pass on your email addresses to Derek Moriarty or myself.**

Several members have approached me asking if we could implement a members' list for distribution amongst members. OF's have said when they are travelling around Australia it would be nice to contact fellow OF's. The membership list was discontinued several years ago due to privacy laws. If you are interested to have your name, phone number and location included in a membership list please contact me and I'll issue to all who are interested to share this information and are prepared to be contacted by fellow OFs. (You won't need to include full address).

### **UK GOVERNMENT BRITISH FORMER CHILD MIGRANT PAYMENT SCHEME**

It is an easy process to apply for funds from this scheme.

Contact the Child Migrant Trust stating you want to register for the fund:

Child Migrant Trust  
169 Riversdale Road  
Hawthorn VIC 3122 Tel (03) 9815 2022

They will then send information for you to complete, which they then process and send to the UK. All you need to supply is photo identification, bank details and proof of address (utility bill). Once Child Migrant Trust have processed your application they will notify you that your application is successful and that the funds will be paid into your account by the UK government within 60 days.

## **CHILD MIGRANTS FACING HARDSHIP**

The Child Migrant Trust has sent the following to me:

The Child Migrant Trust has promised to help former Child Migrants with concerns regarding frail health, advanced age or financial hardship.

If you are aware of OF's in need of assistance, please contact one of the OFA executive or the Child Migrant Trust to investigate if assistance is available.

**Mary O'Brien**  
**Secretary**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Annual Statement of Income and Expenditure was circulated in the November 2018 Newsletter. At the 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association at Penrith RSL on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019, a motion to appoint Mr Geoff Smith as Honorary Auditor, following the sad passing of long time auditor Danny Moran on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018, was moved and seconded. The motion was carried.

My motion to again make the usual donation of \$150.00 to both the Molong Historical Society and the Lions Club of Blacktown City was seconded and the motion was carried. As the workload of the Honorary Auditor has increased quite significantly with the operation of a separate account for the Fairbridge Children's Farm Park, it was agreed the Committee would look at an increase to the Honorarium.

As usual, we have included a statement of financial standing in this Newsletter. However, do not be alarmed if you did not receive one, as it means you are financial to 2020 or beyond. Members are reminded that the annual subscription is currently \$10 per year (including spouse) and covers the financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. Subscriptions can be paid in advance and would be most welcome.

Please make cheques/money orders payable to Old Fairbridgians Association-Molong Inc.

And post to: Sandra Moriarty  
46 Holborn Street  
BERKELEY NSW 2506

Receipts will be mailed out in the next Newsletter to defray costs.

**Sandra Moriarty**  
**Treasurer**

## **WEBSITE UPDATE: oldfairbridgians.org**

Hi to everyone.

As you know, the website crashed in 2017. As a consequence, all Vale data entries from 2013 to 2017 were lost. Russell, our server in the UK, however, has installed a saved copy from 2013 and added additional information.

However, entries in that time period have only basic information on the passing of the Old Fairbridgian. Please assist here if you can in providing more information.

I have the sailing dates and the arrival dates at Molong FFS together with the brothers and sisters of the OFs but that is all.

The Vale section is up to date as of May 2019 with all KNOWN deceased Old Fairbridgians.

All current information on the Ex Gratia payment is detailed on the website.

Please submit comments and information to [kirkby@senet.com.au](mailto:kirkby@senet.com.au) or post to my home address as shown on the Newsletter. I think that we should all remember past Old Fairbridgians.

They will not be forgotten.

Many Thanks.

**Brian Kirkby**  
**Webmaster**

## **MARY O'BRIEN**

### **60th Anniversary of our arrival at Fairbridge.**

June 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 will be the sixtieth anniversary of my arrival at Fairbridge as a 13 year old, along with eleven other children including my 15 year old brother Pat and 11 year old sister Myrtle.

We sailed in luxury on the SS Strathaird, a grand old P&O liner. Whilst the Strathaird had been converted to a one-class ship, our accommodation had previously been two large 'state cabins' in what had been the first class section of the ship. The six older boys were in one large cabin while an escort and the five girls occupied the other large cabin, with young Paul Harris and the second escort in a small 2-berth cabin.

We had never seen such luxury before, especially being served orange juice in bed in the morning, ice cream every day on the deck and fabulous meals and afternoon tea in the dining room. The

dining tables were covered with crisp white table cloths and set with lovely silver cutlery and meals were served by smartly dressed, and extremely polite, waiters. It was "posh" and I had never experienced anything so classy in my life. I loved it. It opened my eyes to a world that I just didn't know existed, and being treated like little lords and ladies. It was just incredibly wonderful.

After more than five weeks, stopping at Port Said, Aden, Colombo, Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne, the Strathaird reached Sydney on June 4<sup>th</sup> where we were met by Mr. Woods, who's no nonsense manner signalled to us that the fun was over. We spent the morning being ordered through medical checks, then marched around Taronga Zoo all afternoon and taken to Sydney's Central railway station. Then, like hundreds of Fairbridge kids before us and many more after us, we were given a meal of baked beans on toast in the Railway Refreshment Rooms before boarding second class compartments of the steam hauled, unheated, Forbes Mail train for the 300 kilometre overnight journey across the Blue Mountains.

Arriving in the pre-dawn darkness we stood huddled in the freezing cold outside Molong station, each with our cardboard suitcases, waiting for Mr. Woods' wife, Ruth, to come and take us back to Fairbridge Farm. When she arrived we were herded into the back of the canvas covered tray of the truck to sit on a couple of wooden benches.

My siblings and I had, only a few weeks prior, left a bustling area of London, to arrive in the desolation of this isolated train station in the tiny town of Molong. Travelling in the back of the truck was miserable. It was a dark and cold wintry morning and we were tired. Along the road from Molong to Fairbridge Farm, looking out in the darkness was like looking into nothingness. To me it was as if we had landed on the dark side of the moon.

Arriving at Fairbridge, we were taken into the kitchen of the Principal's House where trainee girls had heated up a giant saucepan of hot cocoa. Standing in a large circle, apprehensive and quiet, we sipped our cocoa from big mugs while waiting for a knock at the back door where a child would come from their assigned cottage to take us away. My sister and I were taken to Rose Cottage, Beryl Daglish and Wendy Harris were taken to Molong Cottage and Frances Ratcliffe to Lilac Cottage. Wendy Harris's little brother Paul was separated from her and taken with Pat O'Brien to Blue Cottage, John Ponting to Gowrie

and Billy King to Orange. The three Hill boys, twins Richard and David and fourteen year old Dudley were the last to leave, to be taken to Canonbar Cottage.

Our introduction to breakfast in the Nuffield Hall left me aghast. Each cottage had a big table with benches along each side rather than chairs. There were no table cloths and the top of each table was covered with linoleum. There were no china dishes, rather, just ugly plates, bowls and cups made of stainless steel. Breakfast consisted of a bowl of porridge, a slice of bread with butter and honey and a mug of milk. Worse was that our family would never again sit together at a meal table for many years.

In barely a day, we had left the luxury of being treated like royalty and entered a world more akin to that of Oliver Twist.

It was a rude introduction to life in Australia. For me, I was to experience even worse times at Fairbridge. However, in hindsight, I'm grateful for the opportunity immigrate to Australia. In later life, when I lived in rural Australia, I even learned to appreciate the quiet, dark and lonely back roads of the bush. Australia is now a country, a way of life and a people that I have truly grown to love.

### **WENDY ALGIE (HARRIS)**

It's unbelievable to think 60 years ago my seven year old brother and myself at ten were sailing from England with a small group of children to the other side of the world - the unknown - Australia. For Paul and I the six weeks on the ship were spent mostly in a children's nursery where I wrote my priceless diary and made gifts for my mother who I hoped I would see one day.

My diary's contents (with its very poor spelling) clearly reflects how young, naive and vulnerable I was. It tells of my highlights of every day being an ice cream and the excitement of playing in the children's swimming pool. I write with enthusiasm too of the ports we visited, such as Aden, a day at the Zoo in Colombo, passing through the Suez Canal and seeing whales in the Indian Ocean.

Those were the good days but there were the lonely dark nights when I missed my mum and granny who had recently died and brother Paul who slept in another cabin. I hoped he would be alright. I wish this article to be in memory of Paul who suffered too many losses and abuse for such a young soul and to others in our group who are no longer with us.



All Fairbridgians can feel proud. We were brave children, adaptable, resilient and with tremendous strength.

(From her diary, as written by ten year old Wendy. Ed.)

"Friday May 1st 1959

We are in the Bay of Biscay the sea is calm but the boat is very rocky and making me feel a bit sick. Beryl and Frances washed there Dolls hairs and I washed my Teddy. Beryls dolls do look a bit cleaner. We didn't see land at all until 9pm, we saw a light house and part of the coast of Spain. When I went down to tea I had some lovely chicken soup and then an audenry meal and then some nice and cool ice-cream. The sun is going down now and I'll soon have to go to bed. Paul is not feeling very well and has got a tummy-ake and is feeling a bit strange.

May 4th Monday 1959

The sea is quit calm and the boat is a bit rocky. For breakfast I had fish and mashed potatoes it was lovely. I have been sun-bathing this morning. All to-day we will be passing land, we will be passing Egypt. This afternoon I played for two hours in the swimming pool, I can float with a rubber-ring on but not without one on. The sea is very blue and you can see through it if you look very cearfully. Just before I had tea I changed from my shorts into my frock. For tea I had some small sauges with potatoe and then some lovely ice-cream. I am in bed now and I am going to sleep.

Saturday 9th Mary 1959

This morning when I got up I looked out of the port hole and saw just sea but know land at all. At half past nine we went into the nursery. we have to play there for at least an hour we all get an ice - cream each. I did trasing and so did Frances, Myrtle, Beryl and Paul. After dinner Paul went into the swimming pool for the under seven's. Paul likes it very much but he says it is very shallow water. I went with Miss Lane to a room where some men were playing introments very gay the music was. While I was there I saw a sand bank and a light house. Now I am going to go to sleep."

### IAN "SMILEY" BAYLIFF

We all remember having to work at Fairbridge before and after school. Some of the older school kids were assigned to work outside, including going to the girls' cottages to light the boiler, chop wood for the heating and cooking and any other work required by the cottage mother. But I

reckon the best job – which I had twice for about six months each – was bringing the milk down to the village from the dairy on the horse-drawn cart after the morning and afternoon milking.

The job was seven days a week, morning and afternoon. It started each day getting out of bed at six o'clock as everyone else did in the village, off up near the dairy, catch and harness the cart horse and drive him over to the dairy where the milking was already underway. The horse was named Spanner because he had a dark coat with a blaze the shape of a spanner on his face. The cart was a two wheeler, like a chariot. By the time I got there the trainee boys at the dairy had been milking for several hours, having started at 3am. When I arrived, one of the team would help me load a number of big ten gallon and five gallon cans of milk, which together, we would take down and deliver to the village.

On the way, we would stop and deliver a billy can of milk to each of the houses of staff and their families on the way down to the village. The first stop was the house of the dairyman Ted Begley and his family, followed by the houses of farm hands Jim Cooper and Henry McFarlane. Henry had been a Fairbridge boy himself, having come out from England in the very first party of Fairbridge kids to Molong in 1938. As an adult, he came back and worked as a farm supervisor for many years. At the top of the village we would deliver milk to the staff quarters if anyone was staying there, then across the road to the home of Deputy Principal Harry Harrop. After that we went to the village kitchens with most of the big cans of milk before delivering to the village hospital, then Gloucester House where the After Care officer and his family lived and finally the Principal's house. At the end of deliveries we would then take the horse and cart around to the front of the dining hall, where still in harness, the horse was left to graze while we all had breakfast. After breakfast I had to go to school, but the dairy trainee boy would load up the cart with the village kitchen food scraps and take them up to the piggery, which was next to the dairy.

After school and a change of clothes, it was off to the dairy again, catch the horse, harness up and start over again delivering the milk after the afternoon milking which started at 3pm.

The dairy cart was a lot of fun and I was given an extra sixpence pocket money each week. It also allowed me to escape for lots of the time from our cottage which had an awful cottage mother we all detested. The weekends were the best. After

delivering the morning milk and having breakfast, I would go back up with the trainee taking the pig bins and stay all morning helping at the dairy, before coming down to the village for lunch. On Saturday mornings that meant I had a good excuse for skipping the big village work muster which went all morning and was very boring. On Sundays, it meant I could skip church, which was even more boring.

### **ALF & MIRRIAN SULLIVAN**

Hello to all, Once again I am sure we will have missed the boat regarding the OFA newsletter, sorry. I just want to let you know that my husband Alf Sullivan has been battling with COPD lung disease for quite a few years. He has struggled to continue to play golf until two months ago, with the help of two great and patient mates who took him in their golf cart (with his portable oxygen machine). He had permission from the club to drive right up to the green, hit his ball, then struggle back to the cart and recover, ready for his next drive. Alf has very few days when he can get onto his motorised scooter and take our dog for a walk, our cocker dog is almost 16 years old, so we are all pretty slow. We had our last trip away last July, going to Boyne Island in Queensland. We now have our caravan for sale. We feel blessed at living here in Corindi Beach, walking distance from the beach and drift off to sleep to the sound of the ocean. Alf is still at home and I am caring for him with some help from a wonderful palliative care nurse. Alf will be 84 in July and I turned eighty in February. Alf with the help of our daughters, gave me a delightful surprise party.

Our regards to all. Alf and Mirrian Sullivan.  
(You made it on time Alf & Mirrian! Ed.)

### **LIZ SHARP**

I was recently lucky enough to receive a gift from one of my daughters; she gave me a week away at a Retreat - 'Living Valley Health and Wellness Retreat' in 'Kin Kin', a pretty hinterland area in the Noosa Shire.

While I was there, not only did I learn how to help my health in regards to what I consumed and

what that was doing to my overall wellbeing, but I learnt that I was carrying around with me (for over 50+ years) one of the most lethal elements known to man – in my mouth - my mercury dental fillings.

I am sure many of you will already know what it is that I learnt there. Mercury dental fillings are making thousands of people terribly ill and of course sugar, gluten and lactose causes the PH in your body to be totally out of balance.

I think though the most important fact to start with is the dental fillings. If you have any fillings in your teeth and have ill health, try getting them removed and see the major difference that will make to your health.

Just letting you know, if you do decide to have them removed, do seek a Biocompatible Dentistry Practitioner who understands how lethal the mercury still is even 50+ years down the track and how lethal it can be when removing the fillings and then make sure you replace them with porcelain, not resin materials as (BPA) Bondings Bishpenol A, is a controversial chemical found in plastics which has also been linked to ill health/illnesses. Dental resin materials like composite fillings and bondings contain BPA. Porcelain is the only safe replacement.

By the way, for those who can afford it and want to take a break, Living Valley Health and Wellness Retreat is a real treat. The food is to die for, the staff (all of them) are helpful, considerate and genuinely nice people and are a real credit to the Retreat. The facilities are terrific and you get to choose how much you wish to do or not do. Well worth the trip and money. They even meet you at the airport and take you back to the airport at the end of your stay. Check it out for yourselves at: [lvs.com.au](http://lvs.com.au)

That's it from me. I hope this information helps some of you that are suffering from ill health or those who are just not feeling as well as you feel you should be. Take care and stay well.

Sincerely - Liz Sharp



**JIM NAPPER & MARGARET McLAUCHLAN**  
2019 Old Fairbridgian's AGM 9th March.

A luncheon cruise on the Nepean Belle had been organised so we travelled down to the Nepean River and waited to see who else would arrive. Soon after, Derek and Sandra came down the path, followed by Dennis and June Piercy, but sadly we were the only ones to enjoy this trip.

This turned out to be very enjoyable but we missed so much of the river's sights and charm because we were so busy trying to catch up on so many years apart.

The lunch was great and plenty of it and we were all sorry when the trip ended and we made arrangements to meet for dinner that night at the Gaels club. This turned into a very pleasant night with much laughter and some sad moments when thinking of those we have lost. All too soon it was time to go, as the meeting was on next day.

We made our way into the club next morning, to meet our friends from yesterday and after lunch when we were making our way up to the meeting room, we found other members of our family on their way up. It turned out in the end there were 26 of us, which was so much better and made for a better meeting. It is so sad that our numbers are getting so low and we can see the day there will be no one left, but hopefully our stories will not be forgotten and the torment and pain of so many children's lives will never be repeated. Hopefully the end result of this very pleasant weekend, which we thoroughly enjoyed, may awaken the need for others, to attend next year's meeting and

any other activity that may be organised. Our best wishes to all of the Fairbridge family.

Regards Maggie and Jimmy



L to R, June & Dennis Piercy, Sandra & Derek Moriarty, Maggie McLauchlan & Jim Napper.

## JIM NAPPER

### NEPEAN CRUISE

A lovely day, and family friends to meet  
For a luncheon cruise on the Nepean Belle.  
How many will come as we find us a seat,  
Hoping we will still know them, time will tell.

Derrick and Sandra came down the hill.  
Others we are hoping will be here soon,  
Derrick just said, I am sure that they will,  
Then they arrived, Dennis and June,

Maggie and Jimmie the time was now;  
To meet their friends, after the years  
They had been apart, and find out how,  
They were, thru the laughter and tears.

Only six of us had made the trip,  
It would have been great had more,  
But it was time to board the ship  
And leave the river shore.

The singing river slides slowly by  
Dappled by the bright sun's rays,  
Now and then a bird's shrill cry.  
The sights and sounds of nature's days.

Rocks and tall trees clad the steep cliffs  
Ring from the edge of the stream.  
Here no stairs, steps or kindly lifts,  
A chance to relax, and quietly dream.

A lunch time cruise with old friends,  
Reliving memories from the past.  
But like all good times it slowly ends,  
But leave us memories, we trust will last.

This river trip on the Nepean Belle  
We will remember for so many things.  
By the captain and crew treating us so well,  
How the time flew by on happy wings.

**MIKE WALKER**

**“AT 75 AND HEADING FOR THE EXIT”**

Before I go I'd like to say  
It's been an interesting stay  
And though the start was pretty rough  
Through ups and downs  
There's some good stuff.

In 1943 it all began  
The start of my exclusive plan  
When mother who was seventeen  
Was treated like a beauty queen.

But her king was no cavalier  
And her bulging body made it clear  
That soon she'd cease to be a girl  
With a child born into a war-torn world.

The king a married father of four  
Still trod the path to her bedroom door  
Whispered sweet words to this juvenile mother  
And nine months on she bears another.

She so young with two small boys  
Still wanted her fair share of joy  
So these young lads were oft neglected  
And their poor health was soon detected.

And a doctor said he'd waive his fee  
If it changed the boys' destiny  
Then a social worker appeared at the door  
So the boys would see their mother no more.

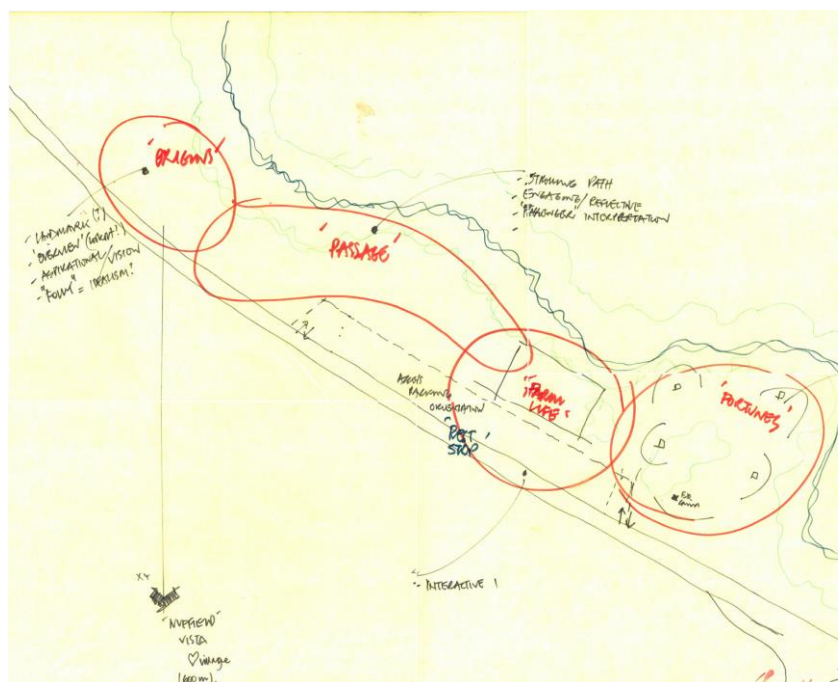
Yes our first young lad and his brother  
Are prised away from their mother  
Sent many miles to The Babies Home  
Part of one man's plan they can't have known.

For he had seen vast open spaces  
And thought to fill it with white faces  
Of children from dark deprivation  
Who would build his bright future in a faraway nation.

For eighteen months they were measured and weighed  
'Til ready for export like the live sheep trade  
Along with others they left England's shore  
Unaware they would see it no more.

**END PART ONE**

## PROGRESS REPORT ON THE FAIRBRIDGE CHILDRENS PARK



### PLAN OF THE FAIRBRIDGE CHILDRENS PARK

The design and planning for the park is going well. We now have confirmed we have the minimum amount of money we need for it to go ahead. Former Fairbridge kids kicked off the fundraising by donating a total of more than \$20,000. The NSW Government has granted us \$500,000 and landscape architect Leonard Lynch and other professionals like Michael Georgeson are donating their services for free. We are still taking to other organisations about donating additional money.

The park will be quite large, more than five times bigger than the current rest area at the bottom of Amaroo Rd. It will run along the Molong Creek in what we called the Lucerne Paddock, opposite the row of poplar trees on the Mitchell Highway. The park will have four parts:

The park will start at the Molong end and will tell the story of the Fairbridge children from the beginning, in England. We hope this part will include a statue (or some other art installation) representing the children with their suitcases before sailing to Australia.



**FAIRBRIDGE KIDS READY TO LEAVE THE UK FOR MOLONG IN 1938**

The second part of the park will describe the voyage of the Fairbridge kids to Australia. We are looking at it including an honour roll listing the names of all the child migrants who came to Fairbridge, their age at the time and ship they came on.

The third part will describe aspects of life at Fairbridge. It will include the village bell and other features of the village and farm, including a full size floor plan, or 'floorscape' of one of the children's cottages. We are currently discussing the possibility of the cost of the 'floorscape' being donated by the family of former Fairbridge girl Eileen Foakes.



**RINGING THE VILLAGE BELL**

The fourth part will be the where the current rest area is and will describe something of the outcomes of kids when they left Fairbridge. This part of the park will also have picnic tables for visitors to relax and contemplate their visit.

### **Management of the Park**

The whole project is controlled by the Old Fairbridgians Association chaired by Derek Moriarty. The detailed work is being done by a management committee chaired by David Hill. The Project Director is Michael Georgeson and when the construction starts, the park's Project Manager will be Dudley Hill. Everyone is unpaid and donating their time free.

**Timetable**

We hope to let tenders for construction of the park by June. Building should be finished by the end of the year.

**Official Opening**

We should be able to have a grand official opening of the park at the time of the next Old Fairbridgians reunion on the weekend of March 14 - 15 next year.

**VALE****It is with deep sadness that we record the passing of:**

Malcolm Orringe passed away on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Malcolm arrived at Fairbridge in 1948. He resided in Molong.

Mavis Appleyard (nee Nolden) passed away 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Mavis arrived at Fairbridge 1<sup>st</sup> June 1938, in the second party of eight girls and 21 boys.

John Wolvey, passed away on the evening of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019. John arrived at Fairbridge in 1939. The following story appeared in the 1991 Fairbridge Newsletter: "Veteran Orange hockey player John was the 11<sup>th</sup> recipient of a monthly award in the Orange Mutual Credit Union sportsperson of the year competition. John was nominated after gaining selection in the NSW over 55 men's hockey side which recently contested the Australian Championships in Melbourne – not bad for someone entering their 62<sup>nd</sup> year and having heart surgery not that long ago. At the championships, NSW put up a creditable performance to eventually run third. John said his selection in the NSW side was 'a dream come true' after almost 50 years dedication to the sport. As well as playing, John has been actively involved in coaching."

**Our sincere condolences are extended to their families and friends**



## National Redress Scheme

For people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

## Application for Redress

Use this form to apply for redress under the National Redress Scheme

### What is Redress?

Redress means to acknowledge harm done. The National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) seeks to acknowledge harm done to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

### What redress is available through the Scheme?

- 1 Access to counselling and psychological services.
- 2 A direct personal response from the institution(s) responsible for the abuse, for example an apology.
- 3 A redress payment.

### Application support

Redress Support Services can offer you information and support to complete your application. They are specialist community based services available to people applying for redress under the Scheme. Most Redress Support Services operate during business hours.

Find more information at [nationalredress.gov.au](http://nationalredress.gov.au)

For help to find Redress Support Services contact us on **1800 737 377**.

**Call charges may apply when calling a 1800 number please check with your phone service provider.**

### 24/7 support

If you need immediate help to manage the emotional impact of applying for redress, 24 hour telephone assistance is available through:

- beyondblue **1300 224 636**
- MensLine Australia **1300 789 978**
- Suicide Call Back Service **1300 659 467**
- 1800RESPECT **1800 737 732**
- Lifeline **13 11 14**

### Contact us

- Visit [nationalredress.gov.au](http://nationalredress.gov.au)
- Phone **1800 737 377**  
Contact us 8.00 am – 5.00 pm local time Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.
- If you are calling from overseas, please call +61 3 6222 3455 and ask to speak to someone from the National Redress Scheme.

Interpreter services are available when calling the Scheme.

### Return your completed application to

NRS  
Reply Paid 7750  
Canberra BC ACT 2610  
Australia

**It is important to keep a copy of your completed application.**

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