

Newsletter #38

Stan Bakker.

I'll start this newsletter with an apology and a link. The apology is because Stan received a box of rowing and art class slides from Nigel Murray-Harvey's partner Jennie. My wife scanned them and Barry Ballard got them up on to the website but I forgot to tell you about it. You will find the pictures [here](#). I welcome your help in identifying the students pictured. Stan also sent me [this link](#) to Mildenhall's early photographs of Canberra. Be patient, it can take a while to load but worth the effort.

Mr March.

I'll continue with another apology. I received this letter from Mick in response to [this article](#) and photo from the Narrabundah 50th anniversary reunion.

Better late than never:

Hi Brett,

The group in the photo in the Canberra Times were from the first group to complete their High School education at Narrabundah High School which they did in 1964.

I had taught them when they were in their second year of high school education (or year 8) when Narrabundah first opened in 1961 and many of that year kept in touch even though I moved on to other schools. They invited me to come along to their celebration to recall the early days of the school opening even though I had only been with them for one year. It seemed a special year as it was spent establishing a brand new school. Yes Roland Scollay was among the group and yes I later taught his brother Clive and sister Moira during the time I was at Telopea as Maths Master from 1963 to 1969. Roland had done his first year at TPHS but moved to the new school when it opened. I think that, as they had been the senior students at Narrabundah throughout their time there and thus helped establish traditions that later endured, they felt a special affection for the place and wanted to celebrate the 50 years since they had completed their secondary education there and to catch up and have a yarn about old times. I returned to Narrabundah in 1970 and spent the next 19 years there during which time we changed it from being a high school to a college.

Mick

An example of coincidences in this small town - Bev Carron is now working part time for the [Churchill Trust](#). Mick, a fellow in 1969, is a frequent visitor.

Good deeds and Jan Nelson.

Jan, in her role as a keen dragon boater, has received this request for old unwanted spectacles.

I hope you do not mind receiving this email. My daughter, Mariana who is a doctor at the Eye Hospital in Melbourne, is volunteering to work at a hospital in Ghana. As part of this "opportunity" she is expected to take along 600 pair of eye glasses!!! Yes, you guessed it: if you have any eye glasses that you do not use anymore, could you please bring them to paddling and give to me or Frances or phone me and I will arrange to collect them. I need them by Saturday 21.

Can you help?

If the answer is yes, please contact me via yeatsb@iinet.net.au or on 6281 7684 or contact Jan on 6241 8061 or at jan.skorich@internode.on.net

Bill Andrews and the Nusa Tenggara Association (NTA).

The NTA is an organisation that received some of the money raised from the wine sales. Jenny and I have also supported it in the past. You may be interested in making a donation after reading what Bill writes below:

Brett has asked me to write a few words about my association with the NTA, a Not For Profit organisation which undertakes community work in West Timor, Indonesia.

My interest in the NTA originated in 2006 when a colleague introduced me to Dr Colin Barlow and scientists from the ANU who had formed a Not for Profit association, the main object of which is was to fund, organise and administer small infra-structure projects in remote communities in West Timor (a largely Christian part of western Indonesia – not East Timor which is quite distinct). This is one of the poorest communities in our region.

The overall ambition is to improve the standard of living of thousands of villagers who live in areas around Kupang (Captain Bligh's destination 1773), islands like Samau, and the communities on Flores (think Hobbit man and spice islands).

Over the ensuing years I have had the privilege of travelling to these places on several occasions with Colin and his wife Ria, to essentially "check" that work we had planned and funded is carried out effectively, to ensure villagers do "their bit" with some labouring and repay small loans. An important task is to develop co-operative working relations with the local NGOs who we engage to act as "foremen" to co-ordinate the work and order supplies such as steel (for new concrete water tanks), cement, book shelves and books for school, arrange training of librarians, as well and classes for teaching dyeing skills to the village women involved in traditional crafts. Incidentally, Ian Hill helped me with the engineering drawings for the water tanks. They are very strong! The NGOs order the ceramic toilets and associated hardware for toilet blocks at schools and in central locations in some villages. The results have been amazing. I travelled to Flores in November last year and every village I visited expressed overwhelming gratitude and respect for the Australian efforts especially in relation to the water tanks they were improving to capture the monsoon rains, and to irrigate vegetable gardens to areas adjacent to the tanks, to reticulate water to a toilet blocks (which I have to say are usually immaculately clean). I visited about four schools which now have small libraries, met teachers who have been trained by the NTA in librarian techniques, and checked the new school toilet blocks. Amazingly, the central government is happy to build schools, however no toilet blocks are part of their plans – the jungle will suffice?

The most visible impact of the programmes has been on the lives of children and especially young girls. Previously, it was the girls' daily chore to walk 2 or 3 kms each morning and evening to collect a few containers of water from a well or river. In one case it was an 8 km round trip. The result was that many girls were either very late for school or didn't go at all. Now water is in the village, the girls and boys have more time and go to school to gain the same benefits of education as we hope all children should enjoy. It has been a most rewarding experience, and one I will carry on with into retirement.

Telopeans visiting Canberra.

Michael Cassin has been in town this week on business. He and I cycled around the lake this morning. He enjoyed it and is keen to do it again tomorrow (Saturday 14th). We will make our way to [38 Espresso](#) in Kingston for coffee. Interested in joining us for the ride or the coffee? Meet at my place in Yarralumla at 9.00 or at Kingston (ring Michael 0431 156 036 for estimated time there).

Ian Barnes is coming to my place for a barbecue on Sunday night (15 March). Room for one or two more - let me know if you would like to join us.

Last week John Pumpurs and his wife Meredith were in town (from near Murwillumbah). They joined Jenny and I and a few other Telopeans for a pleasant nostalgic evening. And also last week I had the pleasure of meeting Yvonne Pomroy (from Lismore) for the first time. Yvonne's mother lives nearby in Yarralumla and dropped in for coffee. Sara Brown was another Telopean who dropped in for coffee recently.

And Jan Aitkin came to my place for an afternoon in January. Len Whyte, John Walsh and Bev Carron joined us for a glass or two of moscato.

Mr Chorik.

In the last [newsletter](#) I passed on a request for news of Mr Chorik. As far as I know, no one could help with whereabouts but Yvonne Pomroy wrote this (which I passed on).

I remember Mr Chorik. I thought he was a very approachable teacher and seemed to be very community minded. He was really into pen friends and in one of our classes he asked if anyone was interested in having a pen friend. As I already wrote to several people from various countries I confirmed my interest and he gave me the address of a girl who lived in Rochester, New York. We corresponded for many years. I lost contact with her a long time ago but I think the people he put us in touch with were from the school he taught at in New York .

Anyone else with similar memories?

Telopeans and animals.

We have some very talented and knowledgeable people with interesting track records in this field.

[John Pumpurs](#) and [frogs](#).

[Michael Guppy](#) came to Canberra from Moruya this week to give a talk to the Canberra Ornithologists Group on his study of nest predators. I think Muriel Story might have been in the audience.

[Peter Odekerken](#).

How's this?

Recognised internationally as a specialist lory/lorikeet breeder, Peter Odekerken is perhaps best known for his superb photography of which he probably has the most definitive collection of lory/lorikeet photographic studies in the world today. This exemplifies Peter's great love and understanding of these unique and colourful, brush-tongued psittacines.

You can see his 39 second video of a Black-billed Mountain-Toucan [here](#).

[Kaye Hargreaves](#) is the founder of [Wagging School](#) and its Principal Instructor.

Kaye is one of Australia's foremost behavioural dog trainers and authors who specialises in training unruly adolescents and difficult dogs with the use of positive reinforcement. Her methods are humane, sensible, practical and effective. They show her deep understanding of dogs, her life-long love for dogs, as well as a lifetime of learning in behavioural science.

Peter Thompson is still running about a thousand merino sheep on his thousand acres out near Boorowa. Peter was kind enough to recently take some of my English friends out on the property on quad bikes. Jenny too, all for the first time and they loved the experience.

Sue Cranston is beef farming in Warragul South.

Jude Smith's love of horses has led her to this [website](#), Ethical Equitation. If you have any interest in horses you should contact Jude. You won't regret it.

And of course, as I mentioned in the last newsletter, **Maureen Dee** (now Tindale) has all sorts of animals at her home, the [National Zoo and Aquarium](#).

Here is news of some Telopeans and people associated with Telopeans.

Nina Kavunenکو

<http://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/A22969>

Sandra Whichelo

<http://www.cas.asn.au/Documents/Sandra-Whichelo-and-Brian-Blundell-The-%20Shumack-Blundell-site-of-Riverview-July-2013.pdf>

Sandra Whichelo (nee Shumack) was born in Canberra, graduated from ANU and taught at Telopea Park School and Lake Ginninderra College until retirement in 1994. After

voluntary work at the National Capital Exhibition, she became interested in her own Canberra ancestry and realised that the locations of many of the 10 homesteads occupied by members of the Shumack family were not generally known. After 6 years of intermittent research and a great deal of help from others, she has now pinpointed most of the locations. These include the ruins of Riverview, the home of Isaac Blundell and his wife Emily (nee Shumack), who is Sandra's great aunt.

Peter Thompson's wife Morna Whiting (who co started the Old Bus Depot Markets 20 years ago).

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/old-bus-depot-markets-in-kingston-turns-20-years-old-20140912-zt6yw.html>

John Walsh's daughter Sophie

<http://forums.auscelebs.net/viewtopic.php?p=505710>

Phil Freeman's daughter Angela

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/sport/uc-sends-freeman-off-with-a-strong-win-20120527-1zdan.html>

My son Tristan Yeats, Urban-Space Explorer

<https://www.facebook.com/inthecitymag/notes>

Next reunion.

It is hard to believe that our October 2011 reunion in Canberra was 41 months ago. I said I would start to canvass interest for the next one.

So, please tell me what you think.

October 2016 would be five years - should we go earlier or later?

Would we want a different season - thinking about the weather?

Are you likely to attend - yes, no maybe?

Would we arrange a similar format - what changes would you like to see?

Would you like to be involved on an organising committee?

All for now? What have I forgotten this time?

Please keep me informed about what you are up to. Let me know if you are visiting.

Time for another get together in Sydney and/ or Melbourne?

Who wants to put their hand up for that?

All the best,

Brett

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