

## Newsletter #39 – 6 November 2015

### [Weddings Parties Anything.](#)

WPA was a good Australian band I can remember seeing in Kings Cross in the 1980s. I thought of them as I started to write this newsletter full of various events, the 39<sup>th</sup> newsletter [since October 2010](#). It has been over seven months since the last one so let's get started.

### WEDDING - PHIL FREEMAN

I can announce that we have a recent engagement. Phil will wed Gai Jones on 20 February 2016. I have always found Phil to be a positive and cheerful person and now he is even more cheerful. Phil tells me that he is still very content at the Australian Communications and Media Authority. He just got another job there in October so will remain happily for some while yet. He is keen as always on his cars and motorsport. Subject to the usual Facebook rules you can find Gai and Phil and even Loris Capirossi [here](#).

### PARTIES.....

It is more than four years since our big October 2011 reunion. We have had small get-togethers both at private homes and at restaurants/ cafes since then but not recently. I am proposing three mini-reunions in January in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne to start planning for another big reunion in 2016. I'm thinking casual BYOG and bring-a-plate type of events but I'm happy to listen to alternative suggestions.

I'm happy to have a barbecue here in Yarralumla – daytime or night-time. If we make it between January 14 - 17 this may coincide with visits from Christine Harris (a Verona, Italy resident) and Ian Barnes (from London). Please let me know if you might be interested and what dates/ times suit you best.

Ian and Jill Hill have agreed to host a group at their Turramurra, Sydney home – but not on a Monday and not between 9 – 16 January. Email me or Ian ([ianhill1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ianhill1@bigpond.net.au)) with your interest and availability.

Is anyone in Melbourne able to host a group? If not, you have a wealth of good eating places to choose from. Again, let me know of your interest and availability. I also extend this invitation to teachers.

### FETE/ PARTY AT TELOPEA PARK HIGH SCHOOL. THIS SATURDAY.

The annual [TPHS fete](#) is happening on the school oval this Saturday, 7 November, from 2.30 until 7.00 pm. I'll get along, I'll look out for you.

### KEITH MUNDY

Sadly, this newsletter records the death of Keith Mundy, son of Fire Commissioner Jack Mundy, who died back in March. His funeral notice is attached. Google has supplied this history of [ACT FIRE & RESCUE 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ACT COMMUNITY](#). An interesting history, you can read about Jack on page 49.

I mentioned that we had two Keith Mundys at TPHS in our year in [Newsletter 31](#). I can happily tell you that Keith the horticulturist is fit and well after recovering from a heart attack and still running his nursery in Tilba Tilba. He has written a beautiful letter about the confusion of two Keith Mundys, plus an invitation for people to drop in and say hello (see below).

ROBERTO RUBBI

Back to good news. This isn't quite as miraculous as the resurrection of our [Valda Krastins](#). (You may remember that we had Valda listed as deceased for almost a year based on two separate 'confirmations' before we found her and she made a last-minute dash to our October 2011 reunion).

Roberto is the son of an Italian diplomat and was at Telopea in 1963 - 65. He lived in Deakin near John Pumpurs who remembers skateboarding with Robert. In this [photo](#), Robert is front row fifth from the left between John Pumpurs and Peter Murphy.

Roberto has written this in response to my request for news:

*So here I am with my half-century summary! I must warn you, nothing particularly glamorous ...*

*As I mentioned previously, my dad was a diplomat stationed in Australia for 13 years, between the 50s and 60s. After returning to Italy in August of 1965, I completed school in Rome and then went to the University of Rome, where I graduated in mechanical engineering. I initially moved to northern Italy, nearby Genoa, to work in the aeronautical industry, but then moved back to Rome to enter the pharmaceutical industry and have basically been in that ever since. I got married in 1985 with my current wife Silvana and have 2 daughters: Francesca, who is an architect, and Ilaria, soon to be an architect. My work has taken us to different places - Livorno (close to Pisa) just after being married and then in France, nearby Lyon, for roughly 5 years. We came back from France in 1992, as I took the responsibility of a manufacturing facility, originally Wyeth and now a part of Pfizer. It's now 23 years that I am in charge of that site, which is now employing close to 500 colleagues, but as you'll realise, I'm getting closer and closer to retirement.*

*That's it, in a nutshell!*

*Lastly, I just wanted to acknowledge the incredible work you have been doing to bring all this together. It was a wonderful surprise for me to open this archive and find so much of those days, bringing back so many memories. I am very thankful for this, as I am sure are also many of our common school mates. I have brothers who went to Canberra High School and they haven't been that lucky and really envy me for this.*

*When you have time I would appreciate hearing more about those that are on my class photos of 1963, 1964 and 1965.*

*Thanks again Brett!*

*Roberto*

We have added Roberto's Story and some recent photos to his entry on the website.

VALDA KRASTINS (now Valda Lavoipierre)

Talking about Valda, she will be in Canberra briefly next week because she has an appointment with the University of Canberra relating to a philanthropic venture commemorating her parents.

She has written the following news:

*"The Telopea reunion celebration in 2011 was a catalyst event for me. This and the publication of the book '100 Canberra Houses' to mark Canberra's centenary 2 years ago, which includes my father's work, has resulted in a serious piece of research to discover more about my parents and my Latvian heritage. More excitement as my husband Guy and I travelled to Latvia in June/July this year. Riga is one of the most beautiful cities I*

*have ever visited".*

Valda has shared with me her plans to create an enduring legacy for her parents. Commencing in 2016 she is sponsoring the "Rudy and Vilma Krastins Scholarship" for a first year Masters of Architecture student at the University of Canberra. As she says, it's a tangible way of demonstrating her appreciation for all that her parents achieved and their contribution to Canberra society. I'm sure we will hear more about the Scholarship next year as the process gets under way.

#### FILM PARTY - CIFF

I attended the opening night of the annual [Canberra International Film Festival](#) on Thursday night (5 November). It runs until Sunday 15 November. Interesting program of films unlikely to be screened at Dendy with many Q&A/ Meet the director events. All 28 films will be shown in the lovely Arc Cinema at the National Film and Sound Archives. Free membership (last year this cost \$40) at the [website](#). I'm volunteering again, look for me and say hello.

#### PARTY ON WHEELS

I'm still cycling regularly with John Walsh (gently) around the lake often on a Monday and sometimes on a Friday. Wife Jenny often joins us, Michael Cassin and Deborah Macfarlane have joined us when visiting Canberra (I can supply a bike) and Robert Redfern has now joined our peloton. Good coffee at Kingston Foreshore is part of the deal. Anyone else like to come along for a ride?

#### TPHS 1961-65

I've had contact with Tom Wharton and Rowan Rafferty from the 1965-66 Graduate NSW Leaving Certificate Class.

They have [this Facebook website](#) going, which is certainly worth a look. They are planning a reunion in Canberra on 12/13 March 2016. If you have siblings from that year and/ or know of others perhaps you might check to see that they know about the event.

Emails can be sent to [tphs.65.66@gmail.com](mailto:tphs.65.66@gmail.com)

#### NEWS OF OTHER TELOPEANS.

#### PETER THOMPSON

Peter has been in the social columns . He tried to disguise it by giving a false name but I recognised him [here](#) (picture #10). Looking pretty good, don't you think?

#### MR MARCH

In this [Canberra Times story](#) about a 50th anniversary of Narrabundah High School. Some may not be surprised to read a mention of a split cane.

#### ROS WOODYER

You might remember Ros as a quiet, diligent student. Well, she is now a community activist featured in [this Canberra Times article](#) protesting about the rezoning of rural CSIRO land in Ginninderra. She also formed a German singing group a year ago and will soon be singing at a couple of concerts.

#### WENDY CRAIK

Wendy is from the year ahead of us but she has had a most illustrious and varied career as you can see [here](#). [This item](#) from the SMH tells of her latest appointment as the head of the Climate Change Authority replacing Bernie Fraser.

## MONTAGUE ISLAND.

Why [Montague Island](#)? Well, recently Jenny and I spent two nights there with a group of friends. From these photographs you will understand why we enjoyed it and why we recommend the idea to others. The Telopea connection is that SARA BROWN has also visited (happily according to her comments in the visitors' book) and PRESTON COPE (not our year) is in charge of the NPWS rangers that look after the island.

## FUN FACTS.

I was told by two separate people that one Telopean was married to the brother of [Jackie Chan](#). It is true that Jackie had a strong connection to Canberra and visited frequently but that information turned out to be false. However, the person referred to is a leader of the [Ukulele Republic of Canberra](#) orchestra who I have seen perform at the National Folk Festival and at a Red Cross Blood Bank function. Who is the man in the black shirt with the white cap? URoC will be performing for me in Curtin next Thursday (12 November) at 11.00 - I would be thrilled if some of you could come along.

Which Telopean is a practising Buddhist?

Which Telopean has recently returned from a humanitarian visit to Kenya?

Which Telopean bicycled the Underground Railway from Alabama to Canada?

No prizes but I'm looking for more interesting news on what you've been up to. Please send me a fun fact about you or some other Telopean.

And I'm still looking for 'now' photos and more stories like the lovely news from Roberto in Italy.

I hope to see some of you in January,

Best wishes,

Brett

---

Brett Yeats 9/127 Hopetoun Circ. Yarralumla ACT 2600 02 6281 7684

## KEITH ALEXANDER MUNDY

Aged 64 years

Loved father of Leanne, Erin and Adam.

Poppy Keith to William, Charlie, Jack, Millie, Jett, Mieke, Dax and Denham.

'Rest in Peace Dad'

The funeral service for Keith will be held in the Tobin Brothers Chapel, 101 Nettlefold St, Belconnen on TUESDAY March 31, 2015 commencing at 1.00pm.

A burial will follow at Hall Cemetery.

---

Hi Brett

Great to hear from you.

I had heard the other Keith had died. That was a great shock and very sad.

On the lighter side though, I had several Canberra friends ring me to say that they had seen his death notice in the paper with his family names mentioned and presumed that

because he had a daughter mentioned that is Leanne and I also having a daughter named Leanne that it was me.

They had turned up to the funeral and the photo of Keith on the coffin didn't look like me so I received several phone calls just to check up.

A bit funny but also a bit sad.

I am still going OK although I had a heart attack in July but had a stent put in, and am going along really good now.

We are still here at the nursery but with our lease to expire in November 2016, I am looking forward to getting out of the 7 days a week and probably expanding on our other business which Desiree my wife runs. This is a really successful garden maintenance business where she only works for women who are on their own or have sick husbands. This is bigger than Ben Hur down here.

Travel, after working for 50 plus years is also an option. Desiree has family in the UK so a trip over there and probably Europe is also high on the agenda. I think that working in the one industry for so long, I need a medal.

Still looking forward to catching up with anyone who might be down this way.

Until then, all the best.

Keith

The Spires Nursery  
Corkhill Drive  
TILBA TILBA NSW 2546  
Tel: 02 4473 7196