

## Newsletter July 2013

### 1. ADDITIONS/ TEACHERS.

Some big news in this newsletter. Let me start with the teachers. As I mentioned at the end of the last newsletter, Steve Maitland has done a massive job researching our teachers. Using the six year books from our time at Telopea Steve has compiled a spreadsheet listing 140 teachers alphabetically and recording their years at Telopea and department. I have been working my way through the list and now have contact with 38 of them. See the attached list. Sadly, but I guess inevitably, many (23?) are no longer with us.

I invite any of you to help me with this task - I welcome leads, additions and corrections. Perhaps a student (or two) might like to write something of their memories of a particular teacher. For example, Tony Rossiter from the year ahead of us has given me permission to reprint [this story](#) <http://www.telopea67.org/FirstLevelMaths.php> about Mr March.



Teachers -  
distribution.xlsx

Check [this link](#) to the Staff list. Soon we will have the 140 teachers listed and many 'then' photos. Check it again later when we have added the 'now' photos and biographies that many of the recently found people have promised me. Mrs Bergin - we don't have your story yet. Mr Street - we don't even have a 'now' photo of you and you've been on board for about two years.

### 2. SUBTRACTIONS.

I have lost touch with Kathleen Belgrove, Paul Berry, Beryl Keeley and Grant Smith. If anyone can tell me any news I will be grateful. Reminder - if you do change contact details please let me know. The [Telopeans 63 - 68](#) page hasn't changed a lot lately but I again encourage you to help me fill in missing cells by contributing a photo or a story or news. Please.

### 3. MELBOURNE GET TOGETHER - SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER.

Alan and Libby Hamilton have kindly offered to host a barbecue lunch at their house in North Balwyn on Sunday 10 November.

This is still almost four months away but we would like an indication of how many might attend. Please email me (Brett, at [yeatsb@inet.net.au](mailto:yeatsb@inet.net.au)) if you might attend. You might indicate either maybe/ probably or something like that.

When we know numbers and when we get a bit closer to the event we can invite offers to bring salads and nibbles etc.

It has been a while since we last saw each other, it should be fun.

All Victorians and non Victorians invited.

#### 4. FOUNDERS' DAY AFTERNOON TEA

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WAS AT TELOPEA PARK SCHOOL ON OR BEFORE 1938?

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September Telopea Park School will be hosting an afternoon tea for those students enrolled in the school on or before December, 1938. If you know of someone who fits into this category and would like to receive an invitation, please write to the following address:

*"Founders' Day Afternoon Tea"*

*Att. Mrs Esther Davies*

*Telopea Park School, Lycee Franco-Australien de Canberra*

*NSW Cres. Barton ACT, 2600*

Alternatively, you can contact the school by telephone 6205 5599 and ask to have their name and address added to the *"Founders' Day"* invitation list.

#### 5. TELOPEA PARK SCHOOL 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY OPEN DAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

It is currently envisaged, that the school will have an Open Day for visitors on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September. However, at present, this is dependent on the announcement of the date of the Federal Election, as an Open Day would not be compatible with the use of the Telopea Park School Hall as a polling station.

WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

#### 6. NEWS .....

OF NIGEL MURRAY-HARVEY (from his partner Jennie):

Hi Brett, Thanks for your brilliant piece in the last newsletter about Nigel and the naming ceremony. It brought tears to Nigel's eyes. Nigel is happy to update everyone through me on what is happening with his health and life at the moment. Here goes ... Nigel was diagnosed with cancer in early March but it wasn't until April that the primary source, the descending colon, was identified through a colonoscopy. He had by this stage been through high levels of pain, particularly after eating and/or drinking and had decided not to do either, hence a massive 20+ kg weight loss. He tolerated the first 3 rounds of chemo really well and the oncologist decided to add another drug into the mix, they called it a turbo charge. We expected that there would be some changes from this but all was OK after Chemo 4 and 5. A second CT scan was given in early June which showed some pulmonary embolisms (clots in the lungs) and daily injections of a blood thinning medication was started. Although he had the option of injecting himself, he opted to let me do the task, especially as he has a 'fear of needles' and I have a nursing background. The second scan and the current blood pictures (blood is taken for testing before each chemo) seemed to be fairly positive according to the oncologist.

After chemo 7 (June 26) Nigel hit a bit of a wall and was spending most of his time in bed and started to eat and drink less. Fortunately Peter Pollard and Jack Taylor and their partners were in Adelaide early July and visited us twice. Seeing some of his 'rowing boys'

(Nigel forgets that they are in their 60s) really lifted his spirits and even got him taking the dust cover off one of his pride and joys, a Morris 8/40 tourer he has restored. It was a really wet weekend when the boys were in Adelaide, but even so, they kindly mowed the back lawn for us and sawed a tree trunk into small pieces for the green garbage (I had got rid of some of my built up frustrations and anger about what was happening to Nigel on the tree a few weeks earlier by cutting off most of its branches and levering it out of the ground).

Nigel has now completed his eighth round of chemo. and is trying to eat light foods but is still very weak and does not have much energy for anything. He tries to get out to the local shopping centre a couple of times a week (with me driving, Nigel has not driven a car since February) but usually can't wait to get home and back to his cosy bed.

I have put photos that I took of the boat naming ceremony and others that have been sent to us or I got of the internet, on a USB in it lives permanently in the TV. Any visitors get a viewing of that memorable day and they marvel at the beauty of that part of Canberra and of course and the elegant 'racing 8'. Thank you for your concern and caring, it really does mean a lot to us. Jennie and Nigel.

FROM JAN AITKIN:

Hi Brett, great newsletter as usual - the stories keep rolling in. We are at Bawley Point Bush Cottages for a family reunion - Pip James and Bill Powell own the cottages. Bill is also an old Telopean, possibly the same year as Tina Arndt, and Pip and Bill are parents of Tim who is married to our daughter, Lesley. She has just finished an MBA - now 3 of our kids have Masters and one has a PhD. Definitely a cause for celebration, Don and I are very proud of them all. They all went to Forrest Primary but only one to Telopea. Hope all 7 grandies will be there. Wonderful to see the four younger ones racing round the beaches and today climbing Pigeon House.

By the way they can all sing La Marseillaise !

Best wishes to all, Jan Aitkin.

FROM HELEN WALKER:

Hi Brett,

It is so sad to hear former school mates passing but I guess we are at that age where it is happening more often than we like.

Patrick has beaten me as far as his eldest child goes. My daughter Kylie is 42 and living in sunny Brisbane. I also have a son Matthew 27 at the Gold Coast. Matthew is in first year Medicine after completing a Biomedical Science Degree and then First Class Honours. I am so proud of my kids and what they are achieving. I didn't get the chance to go to Uni so I am chuffed at what Matthew has achieved to date. it doesn't matter what my circumstances were, I had to live with it, but I have given my kids the opportunity to follow their dreams. It is going to be so nice to have a doctor on call in my golden years.

Cheers, Helen Walker

FROM RICHARD SWAN:

Brett,

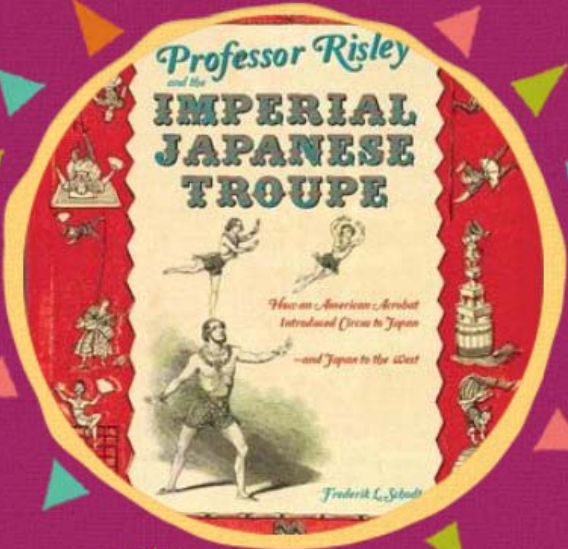


I thought that you might like to see an update on one of those Telopea kids who came good. Claudia and I went to the San Francisco Library yesterday for a Lecture from the estimable Frederick Schodt.

It was a fascinating history held together by the antics of an American "Professor" Risley who managed to lead a troupe of Japanese circus performers around the US, Europe and even Australia in the mid nineteenth century.

Hope you and Jenny are doing well. Richard

FREDERIK L. SCHODT'S LECTURE



HOST:  
Frederik L. Schodt

WHEN:  
Saturday, June 15 from 3:00 PM  
to 5:00 PM

WHERE:  
Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library, Main Branch,  
100 Larkin St. San Francisco, CA 94102

STEVE HILLS has been in Europe for quite a while. He was following the Tour de France and has been getting to lots of interesting places as you can see if you visit his [Facebook page](#). <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1592735972> .

After reading his blog I found [this story](#) about his daughter Georgie. <http://www.hinterlandtimes.com.au/2013/07/04/georgie-hills-is-off-to-the-hamburg-ballet-school-and-its-a-life-long-dream-come-true/>

## 7. CATCHING UP.

I do like hearing about how many of you have reconnected after a long, long break. I know John Walsh is going to Italy with his wife Judi (for her World Masters rowing regatta) and that he has a dinner date with Steve Hills and his wife. I will be staying with Ian Barnes and his wife Ali in London soon. One teacher I found asked about a teacher he used to share a flat with over 40 years ago and had lost contact with - I've passed on an email address and someone is going to get a big surprise. Another teacher was asked a difficult question in class by a student that was not resolved until the student found the answer in a university class. That student wanted to share this, he just might do that in 2013. (That teacher is someone who I've been playing bridge against for years without knowing of the TPHS connection). Keep it happening.

## 8. DEREK WEISE.

I attended Derek's funeral, as did Judy Bullock and Elizabeth Martin. Gary Dowthwaite was intending to but was unwell. The [photo](#) from his service is now on the website. A touching memory of Derek can be found in [this video](#). The film of Derek diving at a swimming carnival was taken by Judy's father. Derek almost established a record at Clare Holland Hospice - he was there for nearly six months, only one person has lasted there more than that.

## 9. ANUFG SEMESTER 2.

Starts on Thursday with The Great Gatsby. Another reminder that this film society is open to anyone.

[http://www.anufg.org.au/docs/ANUFG\\_2013\\_Sem2\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.anufg.org.au/docs/ANUFG_2013_Sem2_Programme.pdf)

See as many of these 77 films on offer for just \$40 (and you get three free guest passes too).

## 10. TPHS 1963 - 2013.

Another reunion is happening in November - 50 years since these people completed high school in 1963: <http://tphs1963.blogspot.com.au/>

Some interesting news here, and some of you will know some of these people through siblings. Pass on the news to anyone who is part of that group but out of touch with the organisers.

## 11. LAWYERS.

I mentioned one of our lawyers in the last newsletter (Ian Deane). How many others are there? Bill Andrews, Bill Williams, Michael Cassin, Peter Olliffe, Deborah Macfarlane, Kaye Hargreaves, Roger Brown, Robert Somosi, Geoff Harders - have I left anyone out? Maybe one of you might be able to explain to me how in 2013 when it is not the done thing to make jokes about a person's religion, gender, age, shape, sexual orientation (and more) that people are able to publish a joke like this ([SMH on July 7](#)).

*An old man is on his death bed, and wants to be buried with his money. He calls his priest, his doctor and his lawyer to his bedside.*

*"Here's \$30,000 cash to be held by each of you. I trust you to put this in my coffin when I die so I can take all my money with me."*

*At the funeral, each man puts an envelope in the coffin. Riding away in a limousine, the priest breaks down and confesses, "I only put \$20,000 into the envelope because I needed \$10,000 to repair the roof of the church." "Well, since we're confiding in each other," the doctor says, "I only put \$10,000 in the envelope because we needed a new X-ray machine for the paediatrics ward at the hospital that cost \$20,000." The lawyer is aghast. "I'm ashamed of both of you," he exclaims. "I want it known that when I put my envelope in that coffin, I enclosed a cheque for the full \$30,000."*

Another newsletter comes to an end, rushed again as I prepare to leave Canberra. On Friday I will be in Paris, not home until September 3, but I will have email access so stay in touch,

Brett

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