

20 September 2011

news email #13

I believe a lot of you people have been thinking these thoughts:

"It's been a bit confronting to work out what to write about my life since the happy eighteen months I spent at Telopea in 1964-65, as I am still struggling to succeed as a playwright - 'just a kid (of 60) with a crazy dream' - and I feel as if many of my old Forrest Primary and Telopea High friends have made better use of their talents than I've managed to do so far - but I do have some happy highlights of my life to report, and the great thing is, it's not over yet".

Well, substitute six years for eighteen months and Yarralumla (or Griffith) Primary for Forrest Primary and you get what I mean. "Other people have led more interesting/ exciting/ successful lives than me and my story is boring in comparison". Not true. Every story is interesting. There are people out there who want to know what has happened to you since they last saw you. You were friends then and life took you in different directions which doesn't mean that you don't have shared memories and fun in front of you when you meet again. As far as I know none of us has won a Nobel Peace Prize or a Pulitzer Prize, an Oscar or even played first grade AFL/ NRL. The stories that have brought the best responses have been the personal ones, the ones where we have learnt of tragedies and triumphs dealing with what life has thrown at us. Just think, when we do get together at the Methodist Hall or at the Forrest Bowling Club we won't have the time to tell each person all these details. How boring would it be to tell that story fifteen times? Better to put it out there now and deal with the questions on the night.

So, do you understand what I am saying? Get your story in now. And come on, don't be shy, because we're all 60 (or more) and we all look older (except Danielle) and we're all mature so send me a recent photo. It will help your old friends recognise you. They might not be able to read the name badges (because some will be too vain to wear their spectacles).

That initial paragraph is the first paragraph in Jane Rose's wonderful contribution. Read it [here](#). Terry Woolcott and Robert Willoughby have also sent in beauties. We now have 37 contributed stories plus 29 other entries (mostly Googled).

Now on to other business. Who is coming? When are you going to confirm your attendance by filling in the form and paying?

I might have panicked a bit in suggesting that we might be too many for the Forrest Bowling Club. One student who should be there, who wants to be there, told me that she might skip Saturday night to leave room for someone else if we're stretched. No, that is not what I was trying to say. At one stage, because of the enthusiasm and feedback that I was getting, I thought we might hit the 150 mark with partners. That would be tight. Since then I have had some people telling me that though they wanted to come they could no longer make it. At last count we have 44 people confirmed for the Saturday night, less for the Friday and Sunday events.

We need to know if you are coming so that we can cater for you.

When you do send your payment please make it clear who is paying - if paying via the internet put in a reference. I've heard that paying cash at a bank you can't do that but you can nominate a reference number - pass that on to us, please.

You may be interested in where everyone is. I've analysed the distribution according to what I know, what I've been told. Please check the Location information on [Telopeans 63 - 68](#) - have I got you, have I got you correct?

I counted 199 people/ locations tonight. 95 (47.7%) are in Canberra or Queanbeyan. Then I have 53 in NSW including 13 in Sydney, 14 in Victoria including 9 in Melbourne, 15 in Queensland with only 2 in Brisbane, 4 in WA all in Perth except one in Bunbury. Then one in rural Tasmania, one in Adelaide and two (one of three married couples where both partners are of our cohort) in Darwin. The other 14 are overseas - 8 in the US (four are Americans), 2 in Malaysia, and one each in NZ, UK, Italy and South Africa. Interesting?

Finally, I am aware of some people with special dietary needs/ preferences/ restrictions. We would like to cater for you, please tell me about them.

Till the next email,

Best wishes,

Brett