

Newsletter August 2012

Hello after a long break. Some news to catch up on.

We have all been asked "which do you want first - the good news or the bad news?"

I've decided to go with three bad items first, but luckily there are lots more good to follow.

1. ROD PLOWS.

Sadly, we have lost another Telocean. Rodney had been living at Mt. Cotton in Brisbane but had been ill for quite a while with diabetes and other problems. Many of you will know that my wife Jennifer and I owned the Garran Newsagency for almost ten years between 1978 and 1987. Rodney was the person we would call to fix our newspaper wrapping machines when they broke down. He was always prompt when we needed him and always cheerful. I didn't know that he was a Telocean until this reunion business. I found Rod's name in a class in Mr March's marking records. After some difficulty in finding him we had quite a discussion. He was one of the last people with knowledge of the old machines and was still being flown to Sydney to do maintenance in newsagencies there. Despite his problems he was still a cheerful bloke, and was pleased to hear news of the reunion.

2. DEREK WEISE

I have known for quite a while that Derek is suffering from mesothelioma. I had offered to let people know about this but Derek has not been well enough for visitors. However, I was contacted by Derek's lawyers for information for an action that they are taking on his behalf. Below is an excerpt from their email.

Maurice Blackburn lawyers is assisting Derek and Julie with their legal affairs after Derek's diagnosis with an asbestos-related disease.

Derek has expressed a desire to talk publicly about his illness and we are making a video of him talking about his life since his diagnosis, its impact and his advice to others.

There was a big item in the Canberra Times in May, those of you who live in Canberra may have read it. For those who live outside Canberra, and for those who missed, and for those who want to re read it you [can find it here](#).

There is a very moving [interview with Derek here](#), including some beautiful footage of Derek diving at Manuka Pool during a swimming carnival.

If you would like to contact Derek he is at 82 Maribyrnong Ave, Kaleen, ACT 2617 or on 02 6241 6301. We all wish Derek and his family the best in these difficult circumstances, that the pain can be minimised by the heavy medication he is receiving.

3. GARY DOWTHWAITE

I've received news that Gary Dowthwaite is ill and in Batemans Bay Hospital. I spoke with Gary and he tells me that he went into hospital about August 23. It is a very serious heart problem which is proving hard to stabilise. He has very low blood pressure and is sleeping a lot. The heart problem has been around for quite a while and prevented Gary from participating in the reunion, which he had hoped to enjoy. He did make a massive effort to get from Cairns to Canberra (last flight to Sydney then an early morning drive) for our gathering in Yarralumla on 31 March. Gary's life is a very interesting story which he is gradually writing down. He moved from Cairns to Batemans Bay earlier this year with plans to buy a yacht in USA and sail it back, single handed, but these plans are now on hold! He is likely to be in hospital for a while. He is able to take phone calls (02 4475 1500) and receive emails (garydowthwaite2@bigpond.com) and a visit or two will help time pass.

And now something brighter.

4. BARBARA MCGANN

Barbara didn't get to our reunion last October but has recently contacted me via Facebook. Barbara visited me in Yarralumla and I showed her some of the documents I have and took her through our website. Again, another example of how small this world is, Barbara owned a newsagency in Canberra at the same time as me. She was teaching at the time and helping in the business when she could. I remember her husband Ken. I never made the connection as we didn't intersect at TPHS. By the time that I arrived in 1966 Barbara had moved with her family (her father Earl was deputy principal at TPHS) to Young. Barbara found us while researching the deaths of Earl and her uncle. They were tragically killed in 1969 when a young driver ran a red light. Barbara is living in Canberra and is keen to catch up with people who remember her from our school days. She would particularly like to hear from anyone with memories/ stories of her father. Her email address is bkempaperart@hotmail.com

5. VIDEOS FROM THE REUNION

Following 'the better late than never' principle we can bring you videos from all of the events from last October. Roslyn Woodyer's husband Charlie was behind the camera and Len Whyte has edited them into bite sized chunks:

<http://www.telopea68.org/Videos.html>

These are the low resolution versions, there are medium and high resolutions versions if you want them. Just ask me for them.

Thank you Charlie and Len.

6. TPHS 40th REUNION - CLASS OF 1967/1972

I've been contacted by Vicki Byrnes, one of the organisers of this reunion happening on 6/ 7 October 2012 (at Brassey House/ picnic at Telopea Park).

If you have a sibling or if you know someone else who might be interested please get them to contact Vicki at vickib@grapevine.net.au

Vicki is also trying to contact these teachers: Bill White (Science), Tony Hurst and Di Mildern. If you can help please email Vicki.

7. TPHS CLASS OF 1959 - 1963.

These people still have a wonderful blog going.

If you go to this link and scroll down you will find some terrific newspaper clippings about the retirement of Mr and Mrs Thompson (Peter's parents) in 1982 and Mr Gamble in 1987, and more.

There is also a contribution from Barbara McGann.

<http://tphs1963.blogspot.com.au/>

8. JAN NELSON

The website hasn't been changed much recently for lots of reasons. Some of you have promised me that you will send in your story and/ or a recent photo but I'm still waiting. It's never too late to do that. Please.

Jan has been representing the ACT in the 2012 World Club Crew Championships "a colourful and boisterous event, with around 400,000 spectators and 4,700 athletes representing 180 clubs and 20 countries. The week-long event included the legendary Hong Kong International Boat Races and the prestigious Lee Kum Kee 8th IDBF Club Crew World Championships. It's not only the serious sporting action that drew the crowds, but also the carnival atmosphere and the food, beers and tunes at the San Miguel BeerFest." Jan tells me that her crew went very well and she and husband Alek had a wonderful time. Already planning for the next one in Ravenna, Italy in 2014. [More here](#) if you want to know more.

My excuse is that I was in South America for three weeks - some [photos here](#) if you are curious.

9. IAN KERR (and IAN HILL) AT THE BASEMENT

You Sydney people should try to get along to this, read this note from Ian Kerr:

Just a quick note to let you know my two choirs, JONAH & THE WAILERS and THE ELEMENTALS are performing at THE BASEMENT in Sydney, Sunday Sept 16.

THE BASEMENT is up for sale at the moment, so this may be the last time we are able to perform there as a venue in its current format - but an extra point of interest in this performance is that IAN HILL is also gracing us with his presence in the choir. I'm actually thinking of re-naming the night "The 2 Ians" - kind of catchy don't you think?

As one never knows what will happen to THE BASEMENT once it's sold, I thought I might canvass as much support as possible.

Flyer for the night is attached to this email.

Website is <http://www.thebasement.com.au/gigs/jonah-the-wailers>

Bookings for dinner & show are: 9251 2797.

(I noticed this warning on the website. It might not apply to us:

"Please ensure you bring photo ID as proof of age").

10. OTHER TRAVEL NEWS

John Walsh has caught up with Ian Barnes in London.

Stephen Maitland stayed with Ian in London.

Ian visited Christine Harris in Italy.

Kaye Hargreaves and Deborah Macfarlane have been to Canberra. That Deborah is a fiend on a bicycle, you should see her go.

Bill Williams was a wonderful host to me in Rosedale for lunch in July.

Barry Ballard and I combined brilliantly in a bridge competition at the RACV Club in Melbourne recently and then celebrated by watching the Essendon/ Richmond AFL game at the MCG from the Members Stand. Handy man to know. (Thanks, Barry).

Terry Woollcott and Judy Smith visited Dana Breese in Colorado.

Robert Nicholls caught up with John Bouchier in Perth.

You can find photos from some of these events can be found [here](#).

And I know there must be much more.

11. MISSING PEOPLE

In preparing this newsletter I went through our list of [Telopeans 63 - 68](#). One thing I noticed was that I was the 3000th visitor to the site. Good to see. I also noticed that there are still many people who we know nothing about. I thought I would pick out ten names and ask if anyone can help with any news of them:

Elwyn Mathias, Greg Rees, Carla Markus, Susan Cuthbert, Gabrielle Prindl, Matti Pylvanainen, Robert Rubbi, Jewel Harriett, Fred Sly and Vanda Stenborg. Alternatively you could go down the list and see if you have any leads.

12. FREE TRIP TO CANBERRA

Have you heard of The Human Brochure? <https://500humans.com.au/>

You have until September 21 to apply.

13. CANBERRA CENTENARY

Big things planned for 2013, you can read all about it here:

<http://www.canberra100.com.au/>

If you are feeling at all nostalgic about Canberra you might enjoy this video from the National Film and Sound Archives:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42cw_9Fyvqw&list=UUBEwcP6rsQSGJ3G869i8-IQ&index=1&feature=plcp

In its graceful setting, Canberra uniquely sums up the character of Australia and Australians as the nation's capital. This program was originally intended to provide information to public servants transferring to Canberra. The intended use changed several times and some reshooting/reediting occurred before its release in 1958.

(Thank you Stan Bakker for being the first person to tell me about this).

14. ROWING REUNION

Craig Clayton is another person who has found us recently. He divides his time between the Philippines and USA ([you can read more here](#)). There is (was?) a possibility of him visiting Canberra for a wedding and Craig raised the possibility of bringing together the rowing four for a blast from the past. The others in this boat were Bill Andrews, Andrew Wright and Guenther Ploy. I'll let you know if anything eventuates.

15. TPHS TOUR OF TIBET WITH CHRISTINE HARRIS

Christine has been teaching English to medical students in Verona, Italy since 1975. She also leads tours to Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan. I've been investigating the possibility of her leading a group of Telopeans. I'm keen to go - is there anyone else? Early days at the moment, but we are thinking something like three weeks or a little less, probably July/August or early September, when the weather is good. Tours this year were a price range between 3,500 and 4,500 Euros including flights from Italy (more from Australia). It will be a cultural tour, with no pretensions to hiking or trekking but there is always quite a bit of walking up steps and around quite large monastery precincts and up hills to catch the best view, etc, even in a cultural tour. More details re accommodation, food, numbers available on request.

All for now. I promise that the next one won't be as long or as delayed.

Best wishes to you all,
Brett