

Newsletter #27 – 23 December 2012

It has been a big year for me, the Telopea reunion still provides me with lots of lovely moments. I keep learning that many people are rediscovering friends and sharing memories from that important part of our lives together in the 1960s. I wish there was a way of sharing all the feedback about the interesting things that people are doing.

For example, I'm receiving written and photographic tastes from Andrew Wright in London on his way to Christmas in Salzburg, Austria. He (and Margo) will later spend eight weeks in Malmo, Sweden. They will see many other parts of Europe during six months away. Simon Downie returns from Lombok today but earlier spent months in France and Italy including staying with Christine Harris in Verona, Italy. In a charming note from Robert Redfern he told me that he has been living in Paris since February. Robert spent time walking in July with Geoff Cannock through England's Lakes district and the Yorkshire dales. Valda has regularly been working in New Zealand.

A fortnight ago Jenny and I had a wonderful lunch at Rosedale with Bill Williams. He is looking terrific after walking 800 kms of the camino in Spain to Santiago de Compostela. Bill Andrews continues to do good things in Flores and West Timor. Barbara McGann and Terry Woollcott are still hoping to see you at their gallery soon. And Fred Schodt, a fellow I had never heard of until the reunion, has sent me news of his latest book. A good place to launch into this newsletter, our 27th issue.

1. **From Fred Schodt.**

Hi, Brett

Many thanks for all the hard work you have done to link so many old friends together and to revive old memories.

I actually have some news. I have a new book out, finally, and it even has a short section on both New Zealand and Australia.

It's called "Professor Risley and the Imperial Japanese Troupe - How an American Acrobat Introduced circus to Japan, and Japan to the West."

It's a non-fiction, documentary book, but Risley actually spent a couple of years, between 1857 and 1860 in Australia, performing in Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, and the gold rush towns of Ballarat and Back Creek. When I came to the reunion a year ago, I was able to do some research in both Canberra and Sydney, and found some old posters, one of which is included in the book. Fiammetta also went to Tasmania (which you had recommended highly)

and shot a picture of the Royal Theatre in Hobart, which is exactly as it was when Professor Risley performed there.

Here's some information on the book, in case you or anyone is interested.

<http://www.cbsdtoolkit.com/microsites/?id=641>

<http://www.amazon.com/Professor-Risley-Imperial-Japanese-Japan/dp/1611720095>

Best,

Fred

WEBSITE www.jai2.com

This caused me to go to Mr Google to learn more about Fred. Look what I found. Here is a televised interview with Fred:

<http://www.examiner.com/video/a-talk-with-frederik-l-schodt-part-two>

Another find but there's lots more if you want to search further.

<http://www.samehat.com/2009/07/fred-schodt-award-reception-with-gold.html>

He has to be the most photographed Telopean from our year.

2. Christine Harris.

Christine has arrived in Sydney and will be there until January 25 - except for January 1 - 6. During that period Christine will be staying with Jenny and I in Yarralumla. Don't forget to let me (or her) know if you want to catch up while she is here. Christine's email address is crihar@gmail.com or you can contact me for a mobile phone number.

Re the Tibet trip - see the next item.

3. TPHS Tour of Tibet.

Christine has given me this background:

I have been interested in Tibetan Buddhism since the 1980s. I first visited Nepal in the 90s and Tibet (via Kathmandu) in 2007. During this trip the tour leader, a person I knew, was constantly unwell – he thought his illness might be altitude-related but it turned out not to be – so I ended up doing most of what he was supposed to do, and taking over as tour leader on the next tour to Tibet after doctors in Kathmandu told him to stay in bed for a week. So I

did two slightly different tours of central Tibet in 2007, another trip starting in Lhasa and including the Kailash trek and western Tibet in 2009, and a different tour including areas east and northeast of Lhasa in 2010. In 2011 I took groups to Bhutan at Easter and in August. In 2012 I went to Kham and Amdo, northeastern parts of what was traditionally Tibet but is not now included in the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

Christine and I have exchanged many emails about this (crazy?) idea of mine to put together a personalised Telopea tour. Christine has put many, many hours into it and thousands of words. We now have an itinerary, dates (July 13 - 27) and an approximate cost (A\$3400 within Tibet plus fares to/ from Australia. We need a minimum of six starters.

Please read a separate email with all the details.

If you have any interest, any questions please contact me. No commitment required yet.

4. Sydney reunion.

Elizabeth Martin is organising a lunch on January 12.

Time: from midday.

Venue: 6/ 1 Oswald Street, Mosman (home of Ian and Monique Kerr).

Cost is \$20 per head, just byo alcohol (if you want to, not compulsory of course).

Definitely attending will be Ian and Monique, Christine Harris, Elizabeth Martin and Gary Dowthwaite.

Good news is that Gary continues to recover from his heart problems, and more good news is that Elizabeth and Gary are moving to Canberra in a few weeks. They will be sharing a house in Narrabundah after a tumultuous year for both of them.

Please RSVP to Elizabeth at lizziehow@gmail.com or on 0407 688 422.

I hope that many more of you will be there. You could talk to Christine about Tibet (or Bhutan, Nepal).

5. Pete Thompson

We are still planning to put something together at his farm next year. Peter Odekerken is an authority on parrots and has been in touch with Pete re our nesting habitat project for the Superb Parrot.

If you haven't read Peter O's story here it is:

<http://www.telozea68.org/Biographies/PeterOdekerken.html>

6. **Robert Somosi**

As a result of a chat with Robert I will be catching up with him at the Old Bus Depot markets in Kingston tomorrow. Each year Robert travels to Turkey to buy pottery and to Uzbekistan to buy fabrics. He sells these once a month in Canberra (at the OBDM) and at other markets around the southern highlands where he now lives. An interesting coincidence is that Robert knows Morna Whiting. The Old Bus Depot Markets grew out of an idea that Morna, together with Diane Hinds, had back in 1992 and is now an award winning institution in Canberra.

<http://www.obdm.com.au/about/the-obdm-story/>

Morna is married to Peter Thompson. Unsurprisingly neither Morna nor Robert knew of this connection.

7. **Email addresses.**

A reminder that if you want to contact any of the Telozeans you can easily do that by going to the Telozeans 63 - 68 tab on our website:

<http://www.telozea68.org/Telozeans63-68.html>

If I have an email address it is next to the name and Jan Nelson has set it up so that it automatically commences an email when you click on it.

Try it now - find someone that you remember who you haven't contacted since school!

Please keep me informed of any changes to any of your contact details.

Remember, I won't disclose phone numbers or postal addresses without your permission.

8. **Nostalgia, courtesy of Stan Bakker.**

Stan has provided me with this link to a wonderful website with William Mildenhall's photographic record of the birth of Canberra.

<http://mildenhall.moadoph.gov.au/>

Beware: you could get stuck there for hours. A wonderful record.

9. Spotify.

There are so many things at 62 that I would never have conceived when I was at Telopea. The computer age has given us so many amazing results. For example Skype is so much fun with granddaughters aged 2 and 4 in Melbourne. This Telopea venture would be almost impossible without the internet. And now I've discovered Spotify. I had never heard of it until this week when two separate people mentioned it to me. Try it.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spotify>

https://www.spotify.com/au/signup/open/?promo=1&ref=Google_adwords&utm_source=Google&utm_medium=paid&utm_campaign=Branded_desktop_ES&utm_content=Millions&gclid=CICGms3mrLQCFURLpgodZ2UA1g

We reach the end for 2012. We have Christmas Day in Canberra with my mother followed by a quick trip down the highway to my daughter and family now living in Yarraville, Melbourne. Back to Canberra to share Canberra with Christine. Then the day that Christine leaves we fly to Auckland where my elder son now lives with his fiancée to meet his future family in law. Back to Canberra on January 27 (so, sorry, I will miss the Sydney lunch). My other son arrived in Vietnam yesterday.

I hope you are all well and I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you in 2013,

Brett

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