

July 2013 - Newsletter 31

Today's newsletter starts with sad news, then we can celebrate a new life followed by news and other bits and pieces.

DEREK WEISE.

It is exactly three months since the last email. This one is prompted by the passing of another of our fellow students. Yesterday's Canberra Times has a [death notice](#) for Derek Weise. As I have previously reported, Derek has been suffering from mesothelioma. He went in to Clare Holland House in early January.

His struggle ended on July 4. His funeral will be at Norwood Park Crematorium in Mitchell, ACT at 3.00 pm today (Thursday).

Derek was born on 24 February 1950. He was the cherished husband of Julie and the beloved father of Robert, Matthew and Kayla. Our condolences go out to all of Derek's family.

STEVE BISSET - NEW TELOPEA WORLD RECORD.

In a direct contrast, we can celebrate the news that Steve has become a father again. Many of us know the delights of young children in our lives. Hardly a month goes past without one of us becoming a grandparent. I know how delightful these little people are. Recently I had the pleasure of five nights (and six days) with my 2 y.o. and 4 y.o. granddaughters. Steve has informed me that at the age of 62 he and his wife Mei-Yee welcomed Kai-Ming Ian Lee Bisset on 9th January 2013. Steve hasn't written his story for the website (yet) but I do know that this is his second marriage. Steve is obviously enjoying young Kai-Ming. Steve says that he is "more fun than a bucket of monkeys". I've passed on my congratulations. You can too to steve@bisset.us

Steve is busy with his new venture, Terrajoule Corporation. Learn more about this here:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/Terrajoule-Unstealths-Distributed-Power-via-Solar-And-Energy-Storage>

Steve adds:

"There aren't any better links to Terrajoule yet. I have dual Australian/US citizenship, like all four of my kids. Trevor at 26 is happy to finally have a brother. Alison at 23 seems to have reverse migrated and is living in Manly. Lai-Ling at 9 is thrilled to have a sibling in the house who she can play with, take care of, and perform scientific experiments on. And Kai-Ming at 4 months is, as aforementioned, more fun than a bucket of anything."

CLASS RECORDS.

Steve asks "Do I have the class record?" This leads me to explore the subject. I am aware that one person informed me that our reunion weekend was during school holidays (I had no idea). How many of us have become a mother or father later in life? Any other males after the age of 50? Any females after 40? I will share this news in the next newsletter - with your permission. (Without your permission I won't pass on the news).

And what about the other end? While having a coffee recently with Patrick Britten he mentioned that he has a 44 y.o. son. Jan Nelson has a son born on 17 September 1968. Any advance on those?

IAN DEANE.

Congratulations also go out to Ian Deane.

Ian has been awarded the Public Service Medal in the recent [Queen's Birthday Honours](#).

Here is the citation.

PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL (PSM)

Mr Ian Ross DEANE, Narrabundah ACT 2604

For outstanding public service in providing legal advice and other assistance to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Mr Deane is Special Counsel for the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). Although employed by the Australian Government Solicitor, he has worked exclusively for the DIAC since 2001. His role involves the provision of high level strategic legal advice to the DIAC, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship and a range of other Commonwealth agencies on immigration law and related legal matters. He has consistently provided high quality legal advice on a broad range of highly sensitive legal matters to the Minister and the DIAC including involvement in all of the major legal cases and legislation relating to the Immigration portfolio. Mr Deane's outstanding service relates to the high quality of his legal advice and the consistency with which it has been provided, despite the complexity, volume and sensitivity of the subject matter. His work was pivotal to the Department's ability to implement many of the recommendations of the Report of the Expert Panel on Asylum Seekers that was released in August 2012.

NIGEL MURRAY-HARVEY



A number of us attended the naming of a new rowing eight in honour of Nigel.

Sadly, Nigel had recently been diagnosed with cancer. He had not been eating or drinking for weeks before the launch. We were shocked to notice a massive weight loss (20 kg). Nigel's partner Jennie wrote this after the event *"Home safe and sound after an amazing 4 days in Canberra. Nigel was so delighted to meet so many 'old' friends, students, teachers and to hearing their memories of those years. He arrived in Canberra very unwell as many will have noticed and am pleased to say was in a much better 'place' when we left with promises that we will be back soon."* Here is a recent update *"Good to hear from you again. Will pass on your news to Nigel. His chemo is continuing and at the moment seems to be making him very low on energy, thus he spends most of his time in bed, which with the current cold and wet (by Adelaide standards) weather is not such a bad thing to be doing. Latest scan held some promising news that the chemo is working so we just soldier on. Love to all the 'Telopea' guys, Jennie".*

Emails can be sent to jenfent@hotmail.com

COLIN MCNAB.

Another CT notice informed us of the passing of Mr McNab earlier this year. I had reunion dealings with Colin's daughter Heather. Heather was one of the main organisers of the Telopea 1966 - 71 group's 40th reunion in 2011. Their website is <http://michelehall.wix.com/tphsreunion40years1971#!>

KEVIN MONTGOMERY.

As a result of a broken arm Susanna Price has recently been catching a lot of taxis. One of her drivers was the son of Mr Montgomery.

From Susanna, read on:

Here's my note about that encounter with Dave Montgomery, one of Kevin Montgomery's four sons. He told me an amazing story about his father.

Kevin was a drover's son. Somewhere outback, the young Kevin's drover father introduced him, as a young boy, to Banjo Patterson. Kevin was hugely impressed, especially when Banjo took a special interest in him and gave him a book of his own poetry autographed with a personal message. Kevin developed his love of literature as a result, and flew through Teacher's College. Ending up, of course at TPHS as Deputy Head.

We as students all benefitted from that wonderful love of Eng. Lit. He died of what sounds like a pulmonary embolism at 47 years. Dave was 18. Tragic. One of the boys still has the book.

I am sure one of the boys would be able to round out this story for the website.

Dave told me he lives in Griffith, but I can't find the number.

Good luck finding him!

I have been trying to contact Dave, so far without success. I might have to enlist our own illustrious retired cab driver Phil McAppion if I don't get a result soon. If you do find yourself in an Elite taxi in Canberra see if your driver is Dave. Tell him I want to speak to him.

NEWS FROM OTHERS.

JOHN EWING.

Hi Brett,

After living in Canberra for about 55 years, Janice and I decided that we needed a sea change. After looking at many northern NSW towns e.g. Pottsville, Kingscliffe, etc. we decided to move to the Gold Coast. There is just so much more to do here than in the smaller places and if you live in the suburbs and not in Surfers Paradise, life can be just as

quiet as you wish . We are only 2 kms as the crow flies from the beach , surf clubs and 10 minute drive to Broadbeach. We just love it here and have spent a very busy 9 months getting the house as we like it. Next we have to do the garden. The last 15 months have been very traumatic for other reasons: starting in January 2012 my mother had a fall. She was in hospital for 4 weeks. Then, as she had dementia, we had to put her into a nursing home. This was a difficult period, we also had to sell her house. Then Janice's mother had a fall, 6 weeks in hospital ,went into a nursing home, sold her house. Then we sold our house in Canberra and bought the house on the Gold Coast. Unfortunately then my beautiful mother passed away after a short illness. Also my daughter got married last month, they also live up here. So it's been a ridiculous last 15 months, have also made some new friends and we are enjoying every day , it's a very different life up here.....John

KEITH MUNDY

Hi Brett,

I thought I might drop you a line or two and thank you for your interesting newsletters and updates about all the old Teleopeans who are still out there and what interesting lives they all lead.

As you are well aware, there were two Keith Mundys at Telopea. One was the son of the then Fire Chief and there was me from Kintore Circuit in Yarralumla. My cousins were the Mundy girls from Hutchins St in Yarralumla (Anne, Denise and Catherine) and the Webb Family from Gipps St in Barton (Rodney, Daryl, Warren, Narelle and Noeline). All old Telopeans.

I completed a Degree in Horticulture in Canberra and worked for many years in ACT Government until I left and managed Rodney's Nursery at Pialligo. On a trip to the South Coast in 1999 with my new partner we spotted a small retail nursery here at Tilba Tilba and purchased itand we are still here and loving every day of it.

Hopefully through your newsletters, old school friends will hear where I am and call in one day for a yarn and catch up.

The only one I am in contact with these days is Howard Groeneveld who is in Tasmania.

Anyway I must be off and do a bit, until next time,

Kindest regards,

Keith

www.thespiresnursery.com.au

thespiresnursery@tilba.com.au

JOHN WALSH.

In between visits to Alice Springs with wife Judi for her six months per year job with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and to his kids in Brisbane and London, John managed to engineer this story in the Canberra Times.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/thief-steals-90yo-diggers-bike-20130416-2hxc4.html>

John is the son in law mentioned in the story. The bike wasn't found but there was a happy ending:

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/thanks-but-les-is-back-on-a-bike-20130418-2i27c.html>

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

Dr Sarah Engledow isn't one of our year but is the younger sister of John (who is so we can claim a connection). She is the Historian and a Curator at the NPG. You will find some of her work [here](#).

Her most recent exhibition is Paris to Monaro: Pleasures from the studio of Hilda Rix Nicholas.

http://www.portrait.gov.au/site/exhibition_subsite_hildarix.php

You have until August 11 to see it. Very highly recommended, and it deserves multiple visits because there is so much to see. For those who can't make it to the gallery the online version is also excellent. Don't miss one of Sarah's lectures if you get a chance because they are always entertaining, enthusiastic and illuminating.

NPG - PAUL KELLY.

If you do go to Sarah's exhibition allow extra time to see the Paul Kelly and the Portraits exhibition:

http://www.portrait.gov.au/site/exhibition_subsite_paulkelly.php

You can also see a lot of this online (including 73 minutes of interviews with the photographers).

In conjunction with the exhibition the gallery is showing the film Stories of Me:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnhYma2Jfpc>

There are two versions of Stories of Me. The schools (with less of the sex and drugs but still with all the rock'n'roll) is being screened every day until July 21 at 11.00. The full version will be screened on 27 July, and 3, 10 and 17 August.

We saw it on the plane to NZ in January and it is the film I have enjoyed most this year.

Disclaimer: I'm a huge fan of Paul Kelly. His biography (<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2010/10/18/3040983.htm>) was a Christmas present in 2011. A beaut book which I'm happy to lend to you. I saw all four of his concerts at the Playhouse on consecutive nights early last year. I rate him up there with Bob Dylan, a little below Loudon Wainwright.

This one runs till September 1.

TELOPEA 67.

This website was offline for a while but it is back up on the web. Jim Gillespie has done a wonderful job. Lots of news and lots of beaut stories, well worth a visit:

www.telopea67.org

Well done if you have reached the end of another newsletter, this the 31st.

Steve Maitland has sent me a comprehensive summary of all the teachers from our era at TPHS. I am updating that with the help of some of the 16 teachers who now get this newsletter. As I will be away from Canberra for about six weeks from July 23 I will try to get this out to you with Newsletter 32 before then. I would love to hear from you with news I can pass on. Maybe even news of another Melbourne and/ or a Sydney get together?

All the best,

Brett

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