

OVERSEAS BAG – AUTUMN 2012

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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A big thank you for another bumper crop of correspondence from far and wide. As always there are some new writers and plenty of correspondence from familiar friends. Its always great to hear from anyone. These xx pages are the full version – an abbreviated version will appeared in the 2012 Yearbook. You will notice that we are very short on photos so do please send them in.

As always I would strongly encourage everyone to ensure that they register their e-mail address on the website, so that we can keep in touch. Please keep your messages and news flooding in, especially with your photos and don't be shy to let me know if you think you or someone else should be included in the Distinguished section of the SOF website.

AUSTRALIA

Chris Bartlett (K60-66) confirmed that he was happy still to be shown as the organiser of an OF Supper in Perth, for the Yearbook. His work at a salt mine 1000 miles away in the Pilbara region meant that he was only in Perth one in every three weeks. I provided him with a list of around 10 OFs in the Perth area and he promised to see what he could do about organising a supper.

David Bonner (G62-66) was tracked down by **Mike Garnett (R53-55)** so I got in touch with him. He thought the UK had done a brilliant job on organising the Olympics. He did however have the following comments on the Aussie TV coverage “*Unfortunately the TV presenters assumed that we were only interested in Australians in the games as I am sure was the case across the world in their own team. We are looking forward to our trip for our youngest son's wedding in Scotland and to hopefully get up to Fram after many years.*”

I offer to help put him in touch with Leigh at the College if he was interested in a guided tour while over. Unfortunately they ran out of time while they were in the UK and were only able to do a slight detour to have a look at the college briefly from the outside on their way through further north. A proper visit will have to wait till next time!

Phil Bower (G65-74) in August asked how my brother-in-law was getting on, but sadly the news I had for him was not good, as he had recently died after a long battle against liver disease and cancer. He went on “Anyway, just a quickie to let you know that the Auld Fram Loony spirit is alive and well. Thoroughly outspoken and obnoxious, ranting without malice (well, perhaps a little every now and then?!). Definitely irreverent and hopefully with a degree of humour..... You can read Phil's Blog here <http://kamikaze-observer.blogspot.com.au/>

He was deeply sad to learn of the deaths of Rimmer & Broad “*Both were my 2nd HM's at Fram & Brandeston respectively. Both brought in changes that confused me and signalled the "new*

way" of doing things. Whilst both had their own characters, I always felt that there was a distinction between the "donat's" of the world (Kittermaster & Porter) & the new wave but, strangely, I always preferred the Donat days!"

For health reasons Phil had had to give up most of his box humping and had instead taken to driving. In a subsequent e-mail he gave an update *"I love driving trucks. Dunno why but should've taken it up years ago! I've done a number of interstate trips but never westwards - hopefully I'll get a few of those in the coming year. The money's good and I do so enjoy being paid to do things I actually enjoy! The band is in limbo because the bloody Olympics took my drummer! He's working in the UK somewhere and I doubt he'll be back to drum again – he left a green eyed but competent youngster and he will return a complete human. Good for him. Wish I'd had that opportunity when I was his age. That said, I have a recording set up at home and am busy putting everything down as time allows.*

I'm sure there will be much decapitating in Oz when the losers return from the Olympics. It's rather inevitable when there's so much ego at stake. Bottom line - they just weren't good enough on the day and, in any case, I always thought the games were about being there? For me the real winners are those who kept going when they'd lost before the starting gun went off. They're the real medal winners!

So, they're reforming the spliced grills are they? Well, I can tell you what I really, really want but there isn't a cliff high enough in the UK! "

In September he was in touch with more info on his truck driving *"Have pretty much ceased humping boxes now - arthritis of the osteo variety makes for a bad situation if I were to suffer in the back of a truck and dropped a box - that would injure 3 other people and I don't want that! So I'm pretty much eking out a living driving trucks instead. Last year I drove the set location trucks for the Great Gatsby (DiCaprio is not as tall as he looks on the big screen!) and this year I've been on the xxxxxxxx production (but I'm not allowed to say that because of confidentiality agreements yadda yadda). Otherwise, I just truck whatever needs to go to whatever show my clients are doing at the time."*

Finally in October Phil was in touch with a new address [I pointed out that as a registered user on the website he could update his details whenever necessary] Apart from an update on his driving he had news of hair variety!! *"Due to a flash of brain activity (almost unheard in me these days!) I am now sporting some rather groovy tints on the old bonce - having discovered a hair dye called "Corvette" - essentially, it's a red and I'm happy to say that there have been numerous stunned mullet looks from the civilians who are utterly bemused by it! I went for streaks - so it kinda looks as though I've been bathing in the blood of mine enemies!! What fun! Other than that, we just had snow in the hills outside Sydney - in spring! Not unheard of but certainly unusual. Today, of course, it's bright sunshine!"* We definitely need a photo!!

Nick Carlton (G63-70) was home in Perth when I contacted him in September to say that we were shortly going on a cruise in the Med and where was he guiding a huge ship safely to? Nick had this news *"great to hear from you. Currently at home in Australia ... having a longish leave until 26 Oct when I rejoin Sapphire Princess in Honolulu. Will be on her through Christmas to*

24 January. Next year programmed to stay with Sapphire Princess and my tour dates are 9 March to 11 May, 22 June to 21 Sept and 6 Dec to March 2014. Based out of LA in the winter to Hawai'i, Mexico and California coast and in the summer out of Vancouver to Alaska.

You will have to make it on a Princess cruise when I am there one of these days so I can take care of you. Turned 60 in July but don't plan on retiring for a few more years ..

I received my newsletter last week which is an interesting read ... see Bryan put me in for a mention!

*Have been getting a few emails from **Martin Hogg (S63-71)** and co ... guess this significant birthday year has brought a few of our contemporaries out of the woodwork.*

Enjoying my leave ... keeping busy as always. My son growing up fast ... now 8. We just got back from water-skiing as we are now into the spring weather. Still manage to keep active with slalom skiing at the nearby ski park. We had a week in Bali just after I returned home in July which was a pleasant break after Alaska.”

Mike Garnett (R53-55) in August had managed to get in touch with **David Bonner (G62-66)** and obtain a current e-mail address. As you will have read elsewhere he also let me know that David was heading to the UK shortly.

I had a lot of e-mail exchanges with Mike and **Chris Shaw (K50-56)** over an idea that they had hatched about an ambitious plan to try and organise an Australian wide supper. After much discussion they decided to canvas all OFs in Australia as to their interest or otherwise. The suggested timing was to coincide with the school's 150th anniversary in 2015. Clearly there would be a lot of traveling involved for some! See an update under Chris Shaw later on.

John Gates (S44-48) was interested to hear that a contemporary of his, David Scarff (R46-49), had recently been in touch with an e-mail address and lives not too far away on the Gold Coast. Hopefully he will become a regular at future Brisbane OF lunches.

John had sad news that his eldest daughter, aged 53, had suffered a major stroke on 9 July 2012. Since then there had been a slight improvement in her speech, she was still totally paralysed on her right hand side, so a very worrying and difficult road ahead for both Ruth & John. Our thoughts are with them.

Neville Marsh (S53-61) responded to an e-mail I had also sent to him concerning David Scarff. He said “*We met David nearly 20 years ago and haven't managed to hook up since then. We will renew efforts to get him along to our next gathering. I have yet to read the Newsletter word-for-word, but have checked that our latest photo was in place!*” Unlike the UK, Neville said they desperately need rain and none had fallen in the last 2 months. He also reported that **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** had had a spell in hospital with heart problems. He had also spoken at length to John Gates about their daughter Jill.

Subsequently he told me that Peter Bailey was now home from hospital. His son Brett has come up from Canberra to be with him (Brett and Neville overlapped at Fram by a year or so). We shall make sure to stay in touch.

Chris Shaw (K50-56) , as you will have read under Mike Garnett, has been in touch a number of times about organising an Australian wide OF Supper in 2015. He has been in touch a number of times about organising an Australia-wide OF Supper in 2015. He and Mike have done a great job in contacting OFs to find out their enthusiasm for the idea. By the end of October the latest responses from the e-mailed invitations were 20 affirmatives already out of 58 invitations and only one decline. Chris has just sent out 43 hard-copy invitations.

As you would expect from a published writer, Chris went on to very eloquently say what keeps OFs together *“We are a band of brother and sisters who continue to communicate and help each other. Although OF's come from so many different backgrounds, we have more in common than we do to separate us.”*

Any Australian or NZ OFs who would like to attend this event in 2015, please get in touch with Chris (cjrshaw@bigbond.com) or Mike (garnettm@bigpond.net.au) . A huge thank you to Chris and Mike for taking this on. Attached here is a photo of the two of them when Mike visited Cairns earlier in the year.



Apart from organising this OF event, Chris is keeping busy *“We have a lunch for 12 family and friends on the yellow veranda this weekend, next weekend is a book fair and a wedding on the same day on the Tablelands at a small village that delights in the name of Yungaburra. The following weekend we have the Cairns Book Festival, then we drive to Brisbane to see the Spanish Prado exhibition and some family and friends. The end of November we go on a cruise out in to the Pacific for 10 days or so. Today, we're re-building the garage, and the back garden will be landscaped in early November. Oh and I've got two books to finish and get published, otherwise it's a nice gentle rural pace.”* He had also been in touch with Richard Rowe about the proximity of Hurricane Isaac to him in Florida, but Richard was *“a cool cat, quite sanguine about the whole thing”*.

CANADA

Richard Green (M71-78) go in touch in September with revised contact details, saying that he had moved from the UK to live in Canada permanently. He now lives just outside Ontario. We exchanged a number of subsequent e-mails as Ontario is somewhere I am familiar with, as my oldest friend, pre dating Fram, is a Canadian living in Ontario. Richard had recently been in the village my friend lives.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Christina Johnston-Myachina (V2001-06) confirmed that she was debuting as the Queen of the Night in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* at The State Opera House Prague on 22 December. As mentioned previously, she will be the youngest singer ever to sing the role which is a huge honour. She will start touring round Germany from 26 December till 2 January 2013.

FRANCE

Bruce Micklewright (S48-51) was interested to hear that he was not the only OF to own a Moth biplane. At a West of England OF Supper in July 2012 I had discovered that Andrew Baker (xx) also shares this interest.

HONG KONG

Chris Hall (G62-69) held a 2nd OF Supper in Hong Kong on 18 August 2012 at his wonderful new home. The following OFs were present and are shown in the photo **John Ting (G2002-09)**, **Ian Tsang (K2002-09)**, **Andrew Ma (K2009-10)**, **Henry Tang (K2003-2010)** and **Tom Chan (K2002-11)**.



Ian Howard (S57-62) dropped Norman Porter a line after receiving the Newsletter to say

“Much enjoyed, as ever, the latest Newsletter and I should be most grateful for your help on a particular item. Page 19 reports on Jon Bonfiglio and the Clipperton Project. For several years - actually ever since I overflowed the atoll in the 1970s - I have harboured an interest in the extraordinary history of this place. Partly because I spent a number of years on atolls in the SW Pacific and partly because of the violent and tragic events that took place there. A couple of years ago I resolved to write a film script about the Clipperton story and I'm still researching it!

The published literature is very thin - I have only managed to procure 2 books (Rossfelder's "L'Ile Tragique", in French, and an English translation of Laura Restrepo's "La Isla de la Pasion".

I should very much appreciate being put in touch with Joe and to find out if he can direct me towards any other material. Joe may also be amused to know that I actually have a location for filming: an atoll in the Northern Kiribati islands that even manages to look a bit like Clipperton. I also have a friend advising me on script-writing techniques and tricks: he wrote the scripts for "Aliens 1, 2 and 3". Anyone who has more information please get in touch with Ian

ian.ianhoward@gmail.com

Ian was back in touch to say that the next Hong Kong OF Supper would be on 21 March 2013 in the Windsor Room of the Hong Kong Club. Further details in due course.

Moira Theulier (nee Anderson) (M91-93) has continued her good work supporting the Facebook page she created for Overseas OFs or those wanting to visit Overseas. All overseas OFs were e-mailed about the page and encouraged to join <http://www.facebook.com/groups/OldFramlinghamians.Overseas> To date around 70 have joined and I would encourage others to do so.

NEW ZEALAND

Richard Bearne (K59-62) has posted some photos on the Overseas Facebook page.

UGANDA

Brian Pretty (S52-56) you will read elsewhere in the 2012 Yearbook about Brian's continuing work in Uganda which he spoke about the West of England Supper.

USA

Ivor Noel Hume (37-39) read about the proposed trip to the battlefields of Northern France in 2014 and wished he was still young enough to travel "*I went several times on Holt's Battlefields Tours. They used a tape of my father's Scots Guards recollections. On one occasion I was detailed off to read the prayer of remembrance at the Passchendaele memorial. While I was doing so there came a sudden gust of wind and a splatter of rain, perhaps a reminder of the rain and the mud in the autumn of 1917. It was over before I said the "Amen". I hope you have enough people who want to go. For them it will be an unforgettable page of our history.*"

Alfred Molson (K38-43) balance problems since surgery in 2010 recently caused him to fall at his home and break 2 ribs and to cap it all someone stole his walking stick from his car!

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) has once again been in regular contact on a number of subjects. He had just received his Newsletter and noted that it may be the last one by mail. He hoped this wouldn't be the case as he read his from cover to cover and filed them for reference. He was also sorry to hear of the passing of **John Waddell (R39-46)**, who he remembered vividly as a prefect, with curly blond hair. He also found the story of W.E. Winstanley very entertaining, again the memories come flooding back "*....the florid face and ever present air force blue trousers. His nickname was Foof, and he joins C.E. Thomas (Toffee), Mr Parsons (Ducks) and R. Kirkman (Slubber) in my memory bank. Perhaps others of my generation can remember more?*"

Later he was in touch to ask if I knew of any other OF who had had a lead role in the West End before him (Saville Theatre 1951), or acted on BBC TV prior to 1952 (Kaleidoscope). He said “*It seems to me that show business was rather infra dig back in the 1950's.*”. I replied saying we have produced very few actors/actresses for some reason and certainly I've come across no one before him. There did appear to be one OF who was at the BBC before him, but not in an acting role. That was Douglas Brown (27-31) who was the BBC's first religious affairs correspondence. This page of Distinguished Section, which includes Bryan, shows all those with an artistic flare <http://www.oldframlinghamian.com/staticpages/index.php?page=20070222160759583#Music>

Finally he said that they have booked an 11 day cruise from Papeete to Honolulu, sailing February 18th next year. He had heard from **Nick Carlton (G63-70)** – as you will read elsewhere he will be joining the Sapphire Princess here in Honolulu on the 26th October. He arrives on the 25th and hopes to get together with Celestine and Bryan that evening. I've asked for a photo!

Richard Rowe (S65-74) was pleased to hear that Chris Shaw was thinking about him during Hurricane Isaac. Richard felt the officials were “*over-reacting in our area with cancelled schools and mandatory evacuations. All this for a storm that is passing fast along our coast (so not direct at us and quite a way offshore), and barely making hurricane grade. Now it will be more interesting for New Orleans - they have an intensifying storm coming straight towards them that is crossing over water for several days. So it has the chance of pushing a big wave of water ahead of the storm. And with New Orleans being below water level, I might be nervous. We shall see!*”. As it was everything was OK although there was some disruption to the Republican National Convention, which had just started in New Orleans.