

December 2002

NEWSLETTER

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS EX-RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS SERVICES

Tardun Mates Get Together in Tassie

The 50th Anniversary of the arrival in Australia of 40 child migrants on board the SS Ormonde was celebrated with a barbeque in the lush green landscape of Tasmania on 12 October 2002.

When the SS Ormonde docked in Australia in 1952 most of the boys on board were sent to Glenorchy Boys Town in Hobart. Some, including one of the reunion organizers, John Merrigan, were subsequently sent on to Tardun in WA.

One hundred people, representing 25 of the original 40 child migrants, turned out for the celebratory barbecue. Five old Tardun boys took part, with four of them, traveling from WA. Ex Tardun boy, John Merrigan who took the photo at right, is now a permanent resident on the Apple Isle.

If the photo featured is anything to go by, much fun was had by all at an occasion which provided an opportunity, not only to catch up with old friends, but also to touch base with the green, green grass of a first Australian home.

(Continued page 2).



Representing Tardun at the Reunion: (L-R): Des Wright, John Glynn, Betty Morrison and husband Frank Morrison. Also present but not pictured was Mick Monaghan and his wife Edna, plus photographer, John Merrigan.

This December newsletter brings with it Christmas greetings and well wishes to all our readers from the Management and Staff of C-BERS Services.

As it arrives in your mailbox, hopefully it will be one of a number of heartfelt Christmas well wishes extended to you and yours this year.

Traditionally, this is a time of year when most of us make a special effort, not only to acknowledge those to whom we feel closest, but also to extend the hand of friendship and goodwill to all humankind.

Christmas get togethers of friends and family offer an opportunity to share companionship, and often food, and to offer our wishes of love, appreciation and care.

To think that the historical origins of this time of celebration, sharing and goodwill date back to an event that occurred more than 2000 years is quite mind boggling.

If nothing else, the fact that these traditions are maintained to this day, gives us reason to hope that our care and concern for humanity will triumph over the ignorance and fears that lead us to harm each other.

Christmas: A Time to Celebrate Hope

A message from C-BERS Chairperson, Maria Harries

It is this theme of "hope" that I want to reinforce in my C-BERS Christmas message this year.

In essence, Christmas celebrates the birth of a child, and the realized potential of who that child became.

As most parents would attest, the birth of a child, particularly a first born, is a momentous occasion.

Vested in that new life lies all the possibility of a future life well lived, but yet to unfold.

It could be said that the birth of any child symbolizes our own individual and collective hope that this child's future may be better and brighter than that which we may have lived through ourselves. It embodies our heartfelt responsibility, as parents, and as a community, to do all within our power to make this possibility a reality.

Christmas then, is both a celebration of new life, and the possibility of a

better life, founded in our love and care for each other.

This possibility is further reinforced in our willingness to embrace the start of a new year as a time for making resolutions for the future, many of which involve a letting go of those habits and practices that may have held us back in the past. Typically, our New Year's Resolutions are forward looking, invariably positive, and usually characterized by a determination to do better.

These Christmas themes of love, care, hope and renewal could not be better illustrated than in the story of Tony Pavia's relationship with his family which is featured in this newsletter.

Despite a less than happy childhood, first within his own family of origin in Malta, and subsequently as a child migrant in Australia, Tony resolved to create a better life for his own children and now, in latter life, has found a renewed lease of life in the regular care of his young grandchildren.

Tony's story is indeed a story of hope, one that illustrates the true spirit of Christmas... reminding us all that the creation of a new and better life is always possible.



**WE'RE OPEN
FOR BUSINESS**

**between 8.30 a.m.
and 4.30 p.m.
Monday to Friday**

ON STAFF

Administration

Manager— Mary Kearns
(Monday to Thursday)

Clinical Psychologist

Patrick Howard
(Monday, Tuesday)

Counsellors

Michael Anderson
(Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday)

Sjoukje Tarbox

(Monday, half day
Wednesday, half day
Thursday)

Administration

Lorraine Hipkins
(Monday, Tuesday)

Sue Fullerton

(Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday)

**MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

Maria Harries

(Chairperson)

Dr Debra Rosser

George Horton

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Tasmanian Child Migrants 50th Anniversary Reunion Continued from page 1

John Merrigan (Boys Town Glenorchy and Tardun WA) has had his work cut out for him over the past year helping to organise the 50th anniversary reunion of former child migrants who arrived in 1952 on board the SS Ormonde.

Many of the former child migrants who were placed at the Glenorchy Boys Town in Hobart still lived in Tasmania, but others, including those who were subsequently sent to Tardun in WA were scattered as far afield as Western Australia, New South Wales, Queensland and even the United Kingdom.

The Tasmanian Government donated \$6,500 towards the costs of former child migrants travelling to the reunion from distant places, for which the organisers express their appreciation.

John Merrigan tells us the reunion was a great success.

Many old friendships were renewed, stories told, and memories relived (both joyful and sad) while historic photos on display helped to fuel the memory process. The reunion photo below shows the same lads 50 years later perhaps a little less trim around the middle and maybe a little less crop on top!



The presence of one of the original child migrants, Michael Daley, who had flown in from the UK, was especially welcome. Michael said he would dearly love to find his brother David (ex Tardun) with whom he has lost contact (see notice on back page).

After the weekend, those who were able to stay on played an "Ambrose" round of golf before the finale of what was a treasured weekend of friendships renewed before heading home again.

**MONEY ...
MONEY...
MONEY!!!**

Is it possible that you may have unclaimed money buried in an account somewhere?

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission has a web-site for anyone wanting to check whether they may have a stash hidden somewhere in a forgotten bank account or as part of a superannuation contribution.

The web-site address is www.fido.asic.gov.au

Thanks to Brian for this very useful information.

An Open Letter to C-BERS EX-PRESS
from the former Province Leader of the Christian Brothers
Brother Tony Shanahan

As many readers of the 'C-BERS Ex-Press' may know, I have recently finished my six years as Province Leader of the Christian Brothers.

In the preceding six years I was Br Gerry Faulkner's deputy, so, over 12 years, I have met many men who were residents of Clontarf, Castledare, Bindoon and Tardun.

Some of these meetings were enjoyable, some were hard work, and some were very difficult experiences - and usually even more difficult for the men involved.

I want to say how much I have valued the opportunity to meet so many of you, whether or not the meetings were enjoyable or easy at the time. I have been deeply impressed by the courage, honesty, humour and compassion that I have seen in so many men.

These contacts have enriched me and been of great benefit to the Christian Brothers in helping us understand you and your concerns. I hope that these meetings have in some way helped you as well. Thank you to all who have taken the time to meet and share your stories with me. I wish you every blessing of peace and happiness.

Br Tony Shanahan

Friends for Life

Tony Pavia talks to C-BERS Counsellor Michael Anderson about the very special relationship he shares with his grandchildren Tom and Kayley



Tony Pavia spends a lot of time caring for his three year old grandson Tom. It is time he relishes and probably more than he spent with his own two children, Sharyn and Jason, when they were youngsters, and he was in the workforce. It is certainly much more time than his own father spent with him in his childhood days growing up as one of 17 children in Malta.

“Poppy” Tony looks after his young grandson Tom for three days a week from breakfast till about 2.30, while Tom’s Mum Sharyn, and Grandma Judy are both out working.

With the boys alone together, this is indeed “quality time”. Starting with breakfast, (Tom’s favorites are spaghetti and chips) through to swings at the local playground or following “Poppy” round as he does his gardening and other chores, Tom is happy just to be taking part in shared activity with his much loved grandfather whom he describes as “his best friend.”

Tony’s close and loving relationship both with young Tom and Tom’s sister, Kayley, (who these days is off at school during the day) is a far cry from his own childhood experiences back in Malta.

Of Christmases Past and Present

For Tony Pavia, Christmas Day in Malta was the one day of the year his father seemed to relax and enjoy himself. After the family of 19!!! sat down to a meal of “really good food” against a backdrop of Christmas decorations which had been made and put up by the children, Mr Pavia Senior allowed himself the indulgence of smoking a single cigarette. In hindsight, Tony thinks his father may have preferred a cigar, but the family was too poor to afford such luxuries. Too poor also to afford any Christmas presents for the children.

A highlight of the day for Tony was the family’s attendance at the local church’s Christmas evening service where the singing and joyful atmosphere still bring back happy memories.

By the time he was 11, Tony was living in Australia as a child migrant. His first Australian Christmas was in 1953, spent at Clontarf and, to Tony’s recollection, was “nothing very special” except that he got a, donated, Christmas present. In the years following, Tony celebrated Christmases with families in either Collie or Bridgetown who opened their homes to provide some Christmas cheer to children like him. He remembers these times with gratitude to the kind families who did their best to make him feel welcome.

But even the happiest of memories from Christmases past pale into insignificance when Tony speaks of Christmas celebrations spent with his own family.

Once again this year, Tony will play Father Christmas donning his red suit and beard, laden with Christmas presents to pay a “surprise” visit first thing in the morning to the home of his young grandchildren. (This year, however, he suspects the canny youngsters may realise that it is really their grandpa camouflaged behind the disguise!). Later in the day the Pavia family - Tony and Judy, Jason and wife Carol, Sharyn and husband Byron with children Kayley and Tom, plus Judy’s nephews and young cousins, will gather at the family home in Mahogany Creek for a traditional roast turkey with all the trimmings. To conclude the celebration, fun and games for the children, courtesy of the adults.

All in all, a traditional Aussie Christmas for the enjoyment of the entire family, but most especially, for the children.

Tony remembers his own father as a cold and violent man. While his father attended church, without fail, every morning and evening, he would also beat his children, at the slightest indiscretion, without mercy. All in all, Tony says he remembers being petrified of his father and his violent ways.

At the age of 11, Tony volunteered to migrate to Australia as part of the child migration scheme, if only to escape the regular beatings he saw as scarring his family’s life. It was 1953.

Tony was placed at Clontarf where he lived for the next four years, leaving in 1957.

Eleven years later, in 1968, he married Australian-born Judy. The birth of his own two children provided the opportunity for Tony to create the kind of family life he had missed out on himself. He resolved that no child of his would ever be “petrified” of him as he had been of his own father.

But the demands of earning a living, which included working unsocial split shifts at BP, meant that Tony could not spend as much time with his children as he would have liked.

Retirement has given him the time and opportunity to focus his attention on the next generation of his family.

Reflecting on his role as grandfather, Tony says Kayley and Tom have brought great joy into his life. His grandfatherly role, which includes lots of fun and “playing a bit”, has, in Tony’s words, “made me feel young again”. Except, perhaps, that this time round, his youthfulness is expressed through more loving relationships and much happier experiences.

Travel Fund for Maltese and UK former Child Migrants

International Social Services (ISS) Australian Branch has been appointed as Administrator of this Travel Fund.

The Travel Fund will assist eligible former child migrants from Malta and the UK to travel to their country of origin.

Application forms are available from C-BERS (toll free 1800 621 805) or ISS (1300 657 843).

C-BERS’ counsellors are happy to assist you prepare your application.



TARDUN OLD BOYS

REUNION AND AGM 15-16 February 2003

At Tuppin House, Guilderton (Moore River)

This reunion weekend is open to all Tardun Old Boys and their families

If you're interested in taking part, please contact Secretary Judith Marshall on 9457 7936 **before** 20 January 2003

WANTING CONTACT

Castledare 1954—1960s

Jim and Connie Egan wish to make contact with any of the Castledare boys they took on Sunday outings from the mid 1950s into the 1960s. Jim has just celebrated his 89th birthday and would love to hear from the boys again. As a memory prompt, the Egan's drove a 1924 Swift vintage car that had a timber frame and a soft top. **CONTACT: c/- E and R Price, 20 Cayman Place Kenwick 6107 Ph: 9452 8326, Mobile: 0412 207 222 Email: robertp@icenet.com.au.**

CLONTARF OLD BOYS (1950s)

Tony Ryan writes:

I am in the process of writing a book on my days at Clontarf and would appreciate any help I can get from the lads of the '50s. I have read a book on the boys of Tardun who each put in a chapter of their experience of the fun times they had with their mates and the Brothers. I would like to (write of) the brighter side of life that the lads had while at Clontarf. Anyone interested in supporting the book please contact me via email or letter of their time at Clontarf on the brighter side of life. Also your suggestions of a name for the book are needed and would be appreciated. My address is P O Box 540, Northampton 6535, phone 08-9934 1801 and email is okryan62@hotmail.com.

Regards Tony Ryan

David Daley (SS Ormonde 1952, St John Bosco, Hobart 1952-55, Tardun WA 1955-62)

Michael Daley (living in UK) is seeking information on his brother David Daley who, as an 8 year old, was sent to Australia from the UK. If anyone has any information about David, please contact C-BERS or John Merrigan in Tasmania on 03-6273 0057

Joseph Mizzi (St Mary's Agricultural School Tardun 1962)

The Tardun Old Boys Association is wanting to make contact with Joseph. Anyone knowing his whereabouts, please contact TOBA on 08-9457 7936.

Brian Deere (Tardun)

Former Tardun resident, Patrick (Paddy) Travers would like very much to renew contact with his old friend. If you have any information on Brian, please contact C-BERS.

FAREWELL

C-BERS notes, with sadness, the passing of the following ex-residents, former child migrants and/or family members.

Recent Obituaries

We extend our deepest sympathy to their families and friends on the loss of these valuable people.



Daniel Joseph Carroll
17 May 1941 – 12 October 2002

We note with much sadness the passing of Daniel Joseph Carroll. Dan arrived in WA in 1947 and was resident at Bindoon. In 2001, Dan was able to fulfil a long-held dream of spending a Christmas holiday with his sisters and their families in England. He is sadly missed

by his wife, Wendy, their son and daughter and their grandchildren, and by Dan's many friends.

Oliver Winters (Tardun 1947) passed away in July 2002

Ollie completed his schooling at St Mary's Agricultural School then assisted with work on the farm before being granted land at Tardun. He continued to live in the Mullewa district until his recent passing. (Inserted in his memory by *Tardun Old Boys' Association*).

CONFERENCE

UK Conference on Child Migration London, 24 March 2003

The UK organisations that sent children to Australia have been working together for many years to share experiences and learn from mistakes in the past. These organisations have organised a one day conference to explore how they can improve services to former Child Migrants and their families to-day.

Any Child Migrant who will be in the UK at the time and their family members would be very welcome to attend the conference.

For further details, please contact Joan Kerry, CCWC, St Gerards, Coventry Road, COLESHILL Birmingham B46 3EB UK.
Email: joankerry@fatherhudsons.org.uk