

- Bindoon
- Castledare
- Clontarf
- Tardun
- Nazareth House
- St Joseph's
- CBERS

## MEMORIAL DEDICATED TO FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS

The memorial to 'Forgotten Australians' at the Perth Cultural Centre is dedicated to all West Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care during childhood. At the memorial unveiling in December last year, MC Dr Debbi Rosser paid tribute to some 56,000 West Australian children who spent part or all of their childhoods in out-of-home care.

Dr Rosser asked Forgotten Australians to accept the memorial *"as recognition that childhood for you was harder than it should have been and that not all of you are here"*,

*"This is an important memorial and you should be proud that you caused it to come about. We have memorials to soldiers, to politicians, to sporting heroes. But there are very few memorials to the people who are the lifeblood of our nation – our children, Dr Rosser said.*

*Your journeys, painful though some of them have been, have put children on the map. In this memorial, we have a rallying point for the importance of care for children"*.

The unveiling ceremony commenced with a Welcome to Country by Rev. Sealin Garlett and a traditional Noongar dance by Justina Truscott and Ian Wallam-Hill, with Josh Whitehead on the didgeridoo.

Distinguished speakers included FACT Inc. Chairperson Laurie Humphreys JP, a former child migrant and ex-resident of Bindoon; and Andrew Murray, who was born in England and was sent to Rhodesia under the Fairbridge child migration scheme. Andrew Murray is also a former Senator, and initiated the Senate Inquiries that brought Forgotten Australians to public awareness, and prompted Government action on their behalf.



Other distinguished speakers included Elaine Smith, an ex-resident of Parkerville; Dr Sue Gordon AM, who was removed from her mother and taken to Sister Kate's at four years of age; and Clontarf ex-resident Paul Thomas Irvine, who read his poem 'My Childhood Shame' (on page 2).

The Forgotten Australians memorial, which is funded by the State and Commonwealth

*Continued on page 2*

## UNFOLDING LIVES

Designed by local artist Judith Forrest, the Forgotten Australians memorial is in the shape of a 'chatterbox' - a folded paper toy used by schoolchildren.

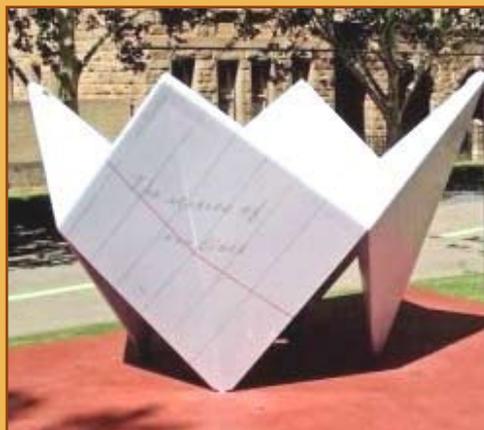
Ms Forrest said that at first she felt daunted by the task of creating a memorial for people who had been in care, as the effect on each person is different, but then she recalled the fortune telling toy from schoolyard days, and selected this design as something familiar from childhood that also symbolises unfolding lives.

Ms Forrest said *"I hope children will continue to enjoy the simple toys that can be made in the schoolyard and that when they see*

*this memorial they will think about the different fortunes of children, past and present."*

Ms Forrest worked closely with a committee of Forgotten Australians and local writer Terri-Anne White, who created the text on the memorial. Ms White said she wanted to activate empathy and understanding in the viewer by asking them the question: *'How would you feel?'*

The Forgotten Australians memorial is located on the grassed area in front of the Jubilee Building of the WA Museum, near the corner of Roe and Beaufort Streets, Perth.



# Memorial Launch

*Continued from page 1*

Governments, was unveiled by Child Protection Minister Robyn McSweeney MLC and the Governor of WA, Dr Ken Michael AC. The ceremony concluded with a moving performance by talented songwriter and musician Rose Parker, who was also in care as a child. Rose sang 'A Long Way Home', which she wrote for the occasion.



## My Childhood Shame

Lost was my childhood in shame

Which even today brings me shame  
Based on those given credit and fame,  
by name  
Their names today are today the core  
of my shame

I sincerely hope it will never happen  
again  
To others of today and the future  
That shame, that shame, that endless  
shame  
Under carers of any name

A childhood is like a game  
Embracing happiness, confidence and  
some pain  
But never being embraced with shame  
Such a childhood has nothing to gain

Some say the past should be forgotten  
But your childhood of shame  
Is what made you what you are today  
Give every child their childhood  
Without shame or unjust pain

**Paul Thomas Irvine**



*At the unveiling of the Forgotten Australians memorial*

The words on the Forgotten Australians memorial plaque pay tribute to yesterday's care leavers and also emphasise the lessons to be learned about caring for children now and in the future:

"This memorial brings the 'Forgotten Australians' out of the shadows and into the light. Their most enduring legacy

will be that the people now and in the future will know their stories and build upon them a platform for better care.

There is a strong thread that links the way a child is raised with the person they become in adulthood. This memorial stands as a reminder of that thread to all who create policies that affect children".



*Siobhan Clemons, Carol Roper & Pip White*

## A Visit to CCS Westminster

Carol Roper of Catholic Childrens Services Westminster and Siobhan Clemons of Fr Hudson's Society in Coleshill have helped CBERS to locate records and family history for many child migrants over the years, and it was wonderful to finally meet Carol and Siobhan in person when I was in England in March this year.

It was also very helpful to visit the CCS archives and gain a greater understanding of where various records are stored and what type of information might still be available for former child migrants.

Carol is the contact person for the former Caritas child migrant project for people who came to Australia from Nazareth House homes in the UK. This project closed in 2005/6 and all records were transferred to CCS Westminster.

Welcome to the eleventh edition of *CBERS Network*, a newsletter produced by CBERS and former residents of Castledare, Clontarf, Tardun, Bindoon, St Joseph's and Nazareth House.

In this issue we report on events over the last six months, including the unveiling of the Forgotten Australians memorial at the Perth Cultural Centre, and the opening of *On their own - Britain's Child Migrants*, a travelling exhibition prepared by the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

We also bring you progress reports on the winding-down phase of the Redress scheme; and the planning of a new resource centre for care leavers in WA.

From the outset, the resource centre project has been led by Laurie Humphreys, a former resident of Bindoon and the Chairperson of FACT Inc. (Forgotten Australians Coming Together). Laurie has worked towards this goal for a number of years, and now has substantial support for his vision of a drop-in centre open to anyone who was in care during childhood.

In January this year FACT secured *Lotterywest* funding, and contracted independent consultant Dr Liz Pattison to work on the resource centre project. In addition to considerable skills and expertise, Liz brings a real warmth and personal commitment to her role.

CBERS has been active in supporting FACT over the last 12 months, and we would particularly like to thank all those who responded to the resource centre survey. We received over 250 replies to the 961 surveys posted out in April, which is a great result. Receiving your feedback will ensure that the planning and design process reflects the things that you feel are important in a resource centre. Thanks are also due to the FACT committee; to Dr Maria Harries for her ongoing assistance and support; and to Caroline Carroll of *Open Place*, who travelled from Melbourne to speak at a Care Leavers' Workshop at CBERS in March.

Membership of FACT is open to all those who experienced any type of out-of-home care during childhood, and to their families, friends and supporters. If you would like to join FACT, please use the application form enclosed with this newsletter.

If you would like to know more about FACT, you can contact the Chairperson Laurie Humphreys on (08) 9337-4850, or email FACT at [fact.inc@iinet.net.au](mailto:fact.inc@iinet.net.au)

We hope you all enjoy this issue of the *Network* newsletter.

*Pip*

Dr Philippa White  
Coordinator, CBERS Consultancy

CCS also holds the records of the former 'Crusade of Rescue', which operated St Joseph's Boys Home in Enfield; and three Homes in Feltham: St Anthony's Girls Home, St Vincent's Boys Home and St Theresa's Nursery. Ninety child migrants were sent from these Homes to Australia.

As we so often discover in the search for records, often very little documentation still exists. However, even the smallest bit of information can sometimes be helpful in piecing together the past, and we are happy to make enquiries on behalf of former child migrants and other ex-residents of out-of-home care in the UK and in Australia.

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CBERS Consultancy is funded by the Christian Brothers, Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of Nazareth. It is a confidential service, and no identifying information is disclosed without express consent of the individual.

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# ST JOSEPH'S

## Luncheon at Parliament House

By Ann McVeigh

On 25<sup>th</sup> February this year myself and five school friends went to Parliament House for lunch. The invitation came as a result of us girls having a chat with Minister Robyn McSweeney at the opening of the memorial for Forgotten Australians, outside the WA museum on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2010.

The memorial is in the shape of a chatterbox, and we were telling the

Minister about all the games we used to play, including chatterboxes. We also told her about the tricks we used to play on the nuns, and how very apt and meaningful we thought the words on the chatterbox memorial were.

The Minister then invited us to join her for lunch at Parliament House. On the day, we were greeted by the Minister and her Secretary, who escorted us to our table in the beautiful dining room, where drinks were served.

The menu was very impressive, which made it hard to choose, but I decided on a prawn entrée, barramundi for the main course, and pavlova for sweets. We all enjoyed our meals very much.

It was a lovely visit to Parliament House and a very memorable experience. We would like to thank Mrs McSweeney for her invitation.



A good time was had by all at a reunion of St Joseph's girls on 19th March this year. The event was organised by Ann McVeigh at the Perth Cultural Centre, near the new 'Forgotten Australians' memorial.

## HAPPY REUNIONS

Joan Tuff (nee McCloskey) and her husband Dalby travelled from their home in England last year to visit Joan's sisters Debbie (in Sydney) and Mary (in Perth).

While in Australia, Joan also caught up with her good friend from St Joseph's days, Bernadette Murray (nee Martin), who now lives in Victoria. Joan and Bernadette had lost contact for many years, only reconnecting in 2008, after Joan placed a notice in the *CBERS Network* newsletter.

Joan's visit to Australia was filled with happy reunions with family and dear friends, including many of the St Joseph's ladies living here in Perth.



Bernadette and Joan



Mary and Joan

## NAZARETH NEWS

By Bernadette Bowey Hills

It has been a busy time, first of all we had a shock to hear of the passing of Vincent Evert on 7th March. Vin, we thank you for your generosity along with Eileen in opening your home to all the ex-Nazareth Girls over the years. May you Rest in Peace.

Our condolences go out to Margareth Marinovic on the passing of her husband in Victoria. Margareth came from Malta and spent some years at Nazareth Geraldton.

On the brighter side, a surprise 70th birthday party for Margaret Ingram was held at La Vela Restaurant, and was put on by her family. Margaret looked beautiful and made a grand entrance with her grandchildren. Some of the ex-Nazareth Girls attended and by all accounts it was a great day. Margaret Gibson and Margaret Wilde came over from Melbourne, and also caught up with their many school friends on the day. We all wish Margaret Ingram many more years of happiness.

The news coming from the UK is that Pat

Springett's brother Tim is much improved, and Pat, accompanied by friend Eileen, spent quality time with her big family and they both enjoyed meeting each other's families.

We do hope Maureen Holland is recuperating and will be in top form soon.

Bernadette had a letter from Cathy Wallace in Utah, she has had a few health problems, but is much better. We wish her well.

We hear Kathleen and Maureen have had family out from England, enjoying the beautiful Perth weather.

We were all glued to the TV watching the wedding of Prince William and Catherine. It was beautiful.

Maureen McCloud had Easter with her family and her granddaughter came to Geraldton for a few days.

Les and Bernadette are well.

*Cheers to all Child Migrants and Nazareth Girls*

## BINDOON CORNER

By Laurie Humphreys

I start this corner with the sad news of the passing away of two Bindoon ex-residents:

to Bindoon. His obituary is elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you to those who supported Maurice in his later years and for making the funeral arrangements.

Brian Hoare and Maurice Kilcoyne.

**Brian** was at Bindoon in 1953 and was an advocate for child migrants and indeed, all care leavers, for many years. I first met Brian at a meeting of the Migrant Friendship Society and more recently he was a strong supporter and member of FACT Inc and attended his last meeting in March. He will be sadly missed and our condolences go out to his wife Maureen and his family.

**Maurice** came from Belfast on the Strathnaver in 1957 and went first to Castledare then in 1959 went

I have previously mentioned in this column, and have been asked verbally, about a reunion of Bindoon old boys. However, before I can do that all interested people would need to register with me so I can ascertain numbers, or, better still, come to the annual get-together in November and we can see what we can organise. If you are without transport to get to there, and you live in the Metropolitan area, we will try to arrange for you to be picked up.

Remember, if you plan to visit Bindoon it is necessary to ring them first to make arrangements.



**Brian Hoare**  
1941 - 2011  
Rest in Peace

## THE STRUGGLES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF TARDUN FARM SCHOOL

As a follow-up to a previous article, which reported the closure of the Tardun Farm School, located 540 kilometres northeast of Perth in Western Australia, we continue to share with you the highlights of its history, hardships and achievements.

### Part 3 – 1940's

#### CHILD MIGRATION FROM GREAT BRITAIN

Child migration was the despatch of poor, abandoned, often illegitimate youth from orphanages, institutions and workhouses throughout the United Kingdom to overseas British colonies – later Dominions. Convinced British imperialists wished to 'invest in the Empire' through the settlement of untenanted land throughout the Dominions with immigrants of British stock. It was to be an irony that the Catholic Church was a major

player in sponsoring child migration only in its last phase – after the Second World War.

After years of discussion and months of planning, three groups of British child migrants -114 boys in all were brought to Christian Brothers' orphanages in Western Australia in the late 1930's. The St. Mary's Agricultural School, Tardun, was the principal focus for the experiment and the venture called 'The Tardun Scheme'.

Problems would arise for the Australian Government, but these should not be permitted to hinder 'a determined attempt to improve our population position'. In light of these considerations a target of 17,000 a year for three years was recommended and endorsed by the Cabinet in December 1945.

At the British end, Catholic emigrants to Australia, concerned principally – but not exclusively – with child migrants, was handled through the Father Hudson Homes, Coleshill, Birmingham. The 1947 intake had filled orphanages in Australia and there was very little actual movement of child migrants again until 1950. Malta was to supply many of the youthful immigrants that came to Australia. Overall, only some 3,000 children came during the twenty years after 1947. The main group, 334 from the United Kingdom, came during 1947. It is from this group that most of the sternest critics of child migration have come.

By the mid 1950s there was a sense in Britain that its child care practice was in advance of Australia's and there was nothing special that Australia had to offer the youngsters. Economic conditions had improved in the UK; the gloomy post-war years were over. Fostering was the norm in Britain for children in care; institutions were passé. Catholic child care was mainly institutional in character.

#### CHILD MIGRATION FROM MALTA

In 1938 an agreement had been drawn up governing the migration of Maltese children to Western Australia. Some of the more interesting provisions contained in the agreement were:

- In general, it required they be of good character and ability and possess good average intelligence and be physically strong.
- Only boys who are over eight and under twelve years of age be eligible for migration.
- Parents were

made to sign an agreement with the Government of Malta that they will not influence or remove the migrants from the control of the Christian Brothers in WA.

- That the Christian Brothers undertake to extend all advantages to the Maltese migrants which the Australian-born children enjoy in their institutions in WA.
- Only a limited number of boys to be admitted to Tardun.
- In the event Malta decides to migrate girls to WA, the Bishops there were required to guarantee to admit them under the same conditions extended to the boys. It was conceded that a lack of knowledge of the English language should not stand in the way of Maltese children being admitted to the many advantages which the scheme offered.

The first group of Maltese migrants arrived in Fremantle aboard the "Ocean Triumph" on 21 April 1950.



Group of migrant boys arriving at Tardun Farm School

#### SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR WARDS OF THE STATE

The key point was that Tardun would become a small secondary school as part of its farm school agricultural missionary endeavour. Secondary education would open all sorts of possibilities for the boys recruited from the orphanages. If a boy secured his Junior Certificate he could compete for a whole range of white collar jobs. For Tardun trainees with their junior certificate and an aptitude for further studies, the Brothers' boarding school at Geraldton could take the boys on scholarship for their Leaving Certificate; with further scholarships available they could attend the University of Western Australia.

#### THE WAR YEARS

In December 1941 the war came to Australia with the Japanese attacking the northern Australian towns of Broome, Derby, Wyndham and Darwin. These events were to impact severely on the remote agricultural school at Tardun. Following the RAAF occupation of Clontarf during that year 100 of its boys were transported to Tardun for safety. Also the senior students from St Patricks College were evacuated to Tardun. There were neither buildings nor amenities to cater for almost 250 people. However, there was a war raging and one of the safest places on the planet in 1942 was the remote Tardun farm school. Tardun experienced numerous problems during the war but shortage of food was not one of them. It should be added that in 1942 there were worse places for British boys to be than in a remote area of Western Australia.

By early 1945 the Clontarf and Geraldton groups returned home and normality was restored to Tardun and the land settlement scheme brought to fruition. In 1944 the Deputy British High Commissioner, W Garnett, undertook a major study of all the institutions in Western Australia that had, or would possibly take, British child migrants after the conclusion of hostilities. His report contained a number of short comings identified at Tardun, especially the lack of after care of boys when they had left the school which is problem that remained as long as child migration continued.

1945 saw three immediate past students at the University of WA following courses in engineering, forestry and agricultural science. Two additional students had completed their Leaving Certificate at St Patrick's College, Geraldton and the six students presented for the junior examination had all passed.

#### A CHANCE ON THE LAND

When the Tardun trainees reached the age of 21 years, the Brothers found farms for those graduates whom they considered likely to make good on the land on their own account. The graduates were placed on probation, and given charge of their prospective farms, and paid at the rate of £75.00 per year and provided with food. They were given the necessary equipment, seed and superphosphate for sowing and technical guidance by the Brothers. It was hoped that once the trainee had taken over the farm he

would cease to be any further encumbrance on the parent body or school, but should unforeseen circumstances occur the brothers would be on hand to assist.

#### THE CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

St Mary's, Tardun, was 540 kilometres from Perth and received fewer inspections than the orphanages nearer the city. In 1949 the WA Inspector of State Schools visited Tardun and had been impressed with the education offered, the spirit of co-operation and the general air of well-being and happiness of the boys. The only cautionary note concerned the age at which the boys should graduate, which was linked to the vexed issue of payment of award wages due for work accomplished. This issue was addressed and bank accounts opened for each working boy into which his weekly wages were paid. The arrangement gave the boys a sense of security and safely relief for the Brothers against censure by the Government. Numerous other visits by government officials were made to the school, and subsequent reports issued, which generally expressed satisfaction with the way the school was being conducted. A separate issue raised concerned the isolation of the school and the limited contact for its residents with the outside world.

#### TO BE CONTINUED

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to the authors of the publications used as a reference to compile this article about the school and its struggle to survive. Copies can be viewed at various local libraries.

Tardun: Golden Jubilee 1928-1978, Brother M H Crouch  
The Scheme: The Christian Brothers and Childcare in Western Australia, Barry M Couldrey  
Our Home in the Bush: Tales of Tardun, David H Plowman  
Enduring Struggle: St Mary's Tardun Farm School, David H Plowman

## TOBA Notices

### TOBA Reunion

TOBA's next reunion will be held at Tuppin House (Moore River), Guilderton over the weekend of 30-31st July 2011. Enquiries (08) 9457 7936.

### VALE

Condolences are extended to the family of Tardun old boy Peter Jenvey (1939er) passed away on 6 April 2011. RIP

## Thinking of You

Our best wishes to Paul Bradshaw for a speedy recovery.  
Get well soon Paul - we need you at the Markets!  
From your co-workers at the Clontarf Markets.

# THE CLONTARF NETWORK

## Promoting the Heritage Trail

The Leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott MHR, and the Federal Member for Swan, Steve Irons MP were presented with a book on Clontarf at an Open Forum at Belmont Council in December last year.

Steve is Patron of FACT (Forgotten Australians Coming Together) Inc., and also visits Clontarf as part of his constituency. As a keen supporter of the Clontarf Heritage Project, Steve invited Heritage Committee members to attend the Forum, where the COBHC Secretary took the opportunity to promote the Heritage Trail and presented Mr Abbott with a book on the history of Clontarf.



## A Surprise Visitor at the Markets

By Dennis McNerney

The Clontarf Saturday morning market had an unexpected visitor in April.

Joan Kerry and her husband Nigel were in Perth for a friend's 80th birthday and called in to see what was happening with regards to the Clontarf Heritage Trail.

Many will remember Joan and the work she did in the UK to reunite former child migrants with their families.

Joan first worked with the Child Migrants Trust and later with the UK Catholic Child Migrant Project,

working closely with CBERS at their Subiaco office up until 2005.

Many of us will always remember Joan meeting us on arrival at Heathrow airport and accompanying us to meet our families for the first time.

Some of our members were pleased to show Joan and Nigel around the proposed heritage trail and they showed great interest in the project, hoping to return again one day to see the finished results.



Standing L to R: Dennis McNerney, Hughie McConnell, Joan Kerry, Peter Bent, Mike Carroll, Nigel Kerry  
Seated: Anthony Brennan and John O'Flanagan

## Happy Birthday Peter!



Peter Bent, although he doesn't look a day over 60, reached the ripe old age of 70 on the 3rd May 2011. A party was held to celebrate the occasion at the home of Arthur and Carol O'Hare.

'Hosts with the most' best describes these friends, with their warm and friendly welcome which was enjoyed by all in attendance. What a great day! There was wonderful food including a magnificent cake made by Jerry Moore, karaoke supplied by Kevin Lynch, and not forgetting the brilliantly attired Wally Kirkhoff, who played his accordion.

Everyone joined in with the singing and dancing and even the birthday boy Peter surprised us with his soft shoe shuffle around the floor.

Many Happy Returns Peter! Now looking forward to your 80<sup>th</sup>

By Yvonne



## Australia Day Award

Congratulations to Clontarf ex-resident Patrick Delaney (Paddy Walsh) on his Australia Day award.

Patrick was recognised for his outstanding and continuing support to Harmony Village residents and many activities during the past few years.

Patrick is shown here with his wife Margaret at the Awards Ceremony on Australia Day 2011.

Thanks to Paddy Cannon for providing this photo



## VALE

### JOHN RUSH 1935 - 2011

John Rush was born in Enniskillen in Ireland, and was sent to Australia under the child migration scheme when he was 12. John arrived in Australia aboard the *Asturias* in September 1947, along with his sisters Bridget and Margaret and his brother Patrick.

John was at Clontarf from 1947 to 1952. He later moved to Hopetoun, WA, where he passed away in February 2011.

Sincere condolences to Patrick and family.

### Michael Bowman Commemoration

*This year's commemoration for Michael Bowman will be held at Michael Bowman Park in Serpentine on Sunday 9th October, starting at 11.00am. BBQ provided. Please bring a gold coin donation.*

# NOTICEBOARD

## A Chance Meeting in Sydney

A number of CLAN (Care Leavers Australia Network) members were among the guests at a morning tea and guided tour of the exhibition *On their Own – Britain's child migrants*, held in February this year at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

CLAN's Executive Officer Leonie Sheedy took the opportunity to introduce two ladies she thought might know each other – Jacquie McKechnie (nee Murphy) and Debbie Biscotto (nee McCloskey). Jacquie and Debbie remembered each other from childhood days in Perth, and Jacquie was in the same year at St Joseph's as Debbie's sister Mary.

It was a great chance to catch up on all the news, and Debbie and Jacquie have remained in contact since meeting up in February.

The child migration exhibition opens at the WA Maritime Museum in May 2012.



L-R Jacqueline McKechnie, Debbie Biscotto, Leonie Sheedy, and CLAN member Sharkey

Thanks to Debbie's niece Anna Biscotto and to CLAN for their assistance with photos for this story.

## FAMILY RESTORATION FUND UPDATE

The Family Restoration Fund covers the practical costs of travel and accommodation for former child migrants from the UK who wish to reunite with family members.

The Fund was launched by the British Government

in July 2010, and will run for a three-year period, so there's plenty of time to book.

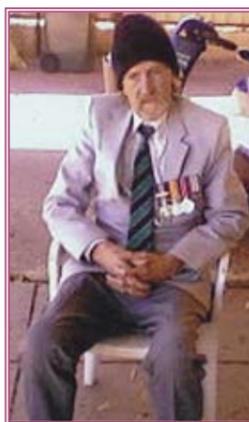
Travel can be taken at any time of the year, and it is possible to visit several different locations on one trip.

Applications can be made over the phone or by filling in a form.

For further details, call the Child Migrants Trust on (08) 9472 7582 (Perth) or (03) 9815 2022 (Melbourne).

## VALE

### MAURICE KILCOYNE 1947 - 2011



Maurice Kilcoyne arrived at Fremantle with thirteen other boys from Belfast Northern Ireland in January 1957 on the ship *Strathnaver*.

Maurice went to Castledare and to Bindoon from whence he commenced his working life as hospital orderly.

He was conscripted into National Service and served in Vietnam.

On return to civilian life Maurice worked mostly in various hospitals in Perth. He later moved to Northam and worked in the Northam Hospital.

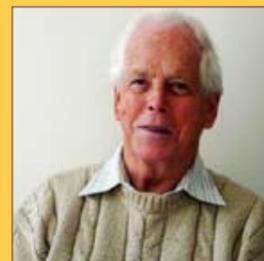
His latter years saw him decline in health and he passed away on Saturday 2nd May 2011 in Northam, and is interred in the Northam Cemetery.

Rest in Peace Maurice.

**Brendan McCloot**

## The FACT File

with FACT Chairperson  
Laurie Humphreys, JP



FACT Inc has been increasingly active since its incorporation in October 2009, and in recent times we have run some well-attended forums on Find and Connect, the Oral History

Project, and Aged Care services. In January this year FACT was awarded funding by Lotterywest to develop plans for a Resource Centre in WA. This funding enabled us to contract the services of independent consultant Dr Liz Pattison, who has made great progress with the Resource Centre project.

Our Care Leaver workshop in March was attended by approximately 40 people who enthusiastically filled the

white board several times over with ideas for the Resource Centre. Caroline Carroll travelled over from Melbourne to address the gathering about the lessons learned during the first year of operation at *Open Place* – a Resource Centre funded by the Victorian State Government. In addition to her role with *Open Place*, Caroline is also Chairperson of AFA - the National Alliance for Forgotten Australians.

After the Care Leaver Workshop we distributed a questionnaire on services and activities that should be offered at a WA Resource Centre. We received 250 responses to this survey, so a big thank-you to all those who took part. The feedback was very positive and shows a high level of support for the project.

If you would like to become a member of FACT Inc, please use the Membership Form enclosed in this newsletter. Membership is free for anyone who has been in care, and for their supporters.

If you would like to make a donation to FACT, or a bequest in your Will, please post your donation to FACT Inc., 24 High Street, Fremantle 6160. All donations and bequests will be publicly acknowledged by FACT Inc. and reported in the newsletter, so please advise us if you do not wish your donation to be acknowledged in this way.



FACT Committee members and supporters in May 2011

## CBERS Redress Service Update

### Support groups go from strength to strength

Weekly support groups have been running at 24 High Street Fremantle since November 2009, and continue to grow in strength and popularity.

Redress applicants who join the groups say they find it really helpful to spend time with other people with shared experiences, and that it helps break down feelings of being 'different' and 'alone'.

Many people feel nervous about coming to their first group and think they might have to talk about painful memories. This is not the case! Group participants don't have to say anything unless they want to, and they certainly aren't asked to relive bad experiences.

Our support groups focus on the 'here and now' and professional group leader Susy Vaughan covers topics such as building self-esteem, improving relationships, and dealing with anger.

The groups are also about meeting others and socialising. People often comment on how relaxed and accepted they feel in the group, and also how much fun they have!

The support groups run on Wednesdays from 10am to 12 noon at 24 High Street Fremantle. New members are always welcome – whether your Redress application has been finalised or not.

### LATE BREAKING NEWS:

Support groups will now operate after the Redress scheme closes and will be open to anyone who was in out-of-home care - regardless of whether they took part in the redress scheme.

Stay tuned for further details...

CBERS Redress Service is funded by the Department for Communities to provide individual counselling and support groups to Redress applicants.



Photo published with the kind permission of group members

## *Do you know anyone in this photo?*

Thanks to Michael Gormley for sending in this photo, which shows a group of boys about to depart from St Mary's Gravesend in 1953.

Michael emailed us the photo after reading a *Can You Help?* notice placed by Mick Monaghan in our last newsletter. Mick was seeking contact with fellow former child migrants who were at St Mary's before leaving England.

Mick was searching for a photo he remembered being taken just before he and the other boys left St Mary's in Parrock Rd, Gravesend, Kent.

Not only did Michael Gormley depart from St Mary's with this group of boys, he also had a copy of the elusive photo Mick was seeking!

Mick and Michael can identify some of the boys in the photo but are keen to hear from others who might also recognise themselves in this picture.

### **Accessing records from St Mary's Gravesend**

Teresa Downy of Cabrini Children's Society is the contact person for records held on behalf of ex-residents of St Mary's Gravesend. Teresa says she is always pleased to hear from former residents, and is happy to help with the search for personal records.



Like many collections of historic records, those held by Cabrini often contain far less information than people might hope. However, if you were a resident of St Mary's and would like to enquire about your records, please contact CBERS or write to Teresa at this address:

Teresa Downy, Team Manager  
Post-Adoption & Care Services  
Cabrini Children's Society  
49 Russell Hill Road  
Purley CR8 2XB  
ENGLAND

### **Calling for Memorabilia**

The National Orphanage Museum is collecting memorabilia from the former orphanages across Australia and needs more items from WA.

The museum welcomes all photos and memorabilia – they even have a 'dunny brush' from the Good Shepherd

Home in Abbotsford Victoria.

Leonie of CLAN says very special care is taken of all items, and donors are publicly thanked in the CLAN newsletter and website. Leonie says a special thank you to Peter Bent who donated a blazer to the collection.

*Thank you...*



Sincere thanks to the volunteers who give their time so generously to help with CBERS mail-outs. Shown here are (L-R) Jack Amata, Gerald Reardon, Laurie Humphreys, Wally Anderson, Mike Hogan, Gordon Grant, Peter Bent, Paul Irvine, Dennis McNerney, John O'Flanagan, Eddie Butler and Ann McVeigh.

*A date for the diary...*

## **2011 Get-together**

This year's annual picnic at Trinity Playing Fields will be held on Sunday 13th November between 12 noon and 4.00pm. A reminder notice will be posted out a few weeks before the event.