

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

## British Government Apology to Child Migrants

by Maureen Briggs Trewin, Mary Mason, Pat Springett & Eileen Evert

On 24th February 2010 British Prime Minister Gordon Brown officially apologised to all child migrants sent overseas under the

British Government's child migration scheme.

His opening words were: *It is with humility that I address you here this afternoon and address the many others watching and listening around the world. Your presence here today is a demonstration of your endurance against pain, your courage in the face of rejection, your bravery even in the face of betrayal. You are heroes, and your presence here today sends a message to the world that no injustice should last forever and that no one should ever again journey in sorrow without hope.*

*Now, most of you here today are from Australia and I welcome you. But we have with us also men and women who were sent as children to Canada, to Zimbabwe, to South Africa and to New Zealand, and let us not forget there are people all over the world who were sent from the United Kingdom under child-migrant schemes. And let us also remember those child migrants who are no longer with us, those for whom the events*

*today come too late, some of whom died fighting for freedom in the great wars of the last century.*

We were very pleased to witness Prime Minister Brown's apology, having travelled to the UK for the event. We all agreed the apology given by Mr Brown on behalf of the British Government was unconditional, and we accepted his deeply moving words:

*On behalf of this nation, to all former child migrants and to all families, we are truly sorry you were let down. We are sorry that you were allowed to be sent away when you were at your most vulnerable. We are sorry that instead of caring for you, your*



Maureen Briggs Trewin with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown

Picture: Manchester Evening News

Continued on page 2

## APOLOGIES BY MALTESE GOVERNMENT & CHURCH

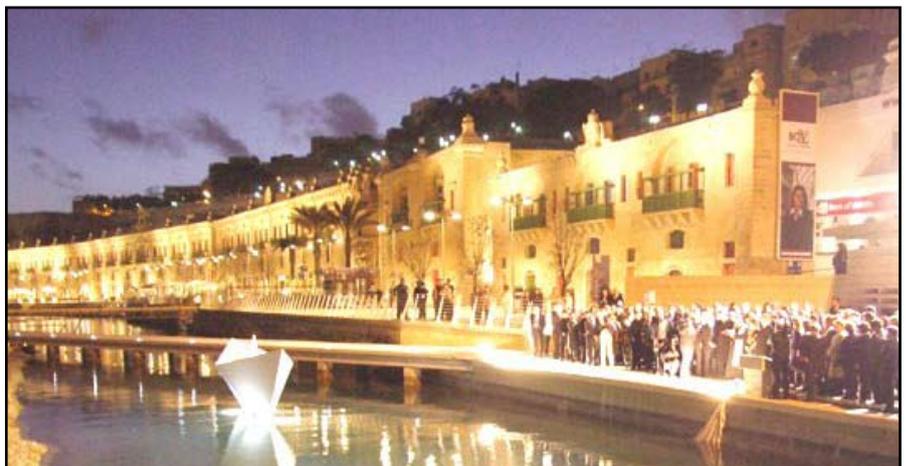
The Maltese Government and Maltese Church both issued apologies to former child migrants in March 2010. Firstly Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi offered a Parliamentary apology to the Maltese child migrants who suffered after they migrated to Australia. Days later, Archbishop Paul Cremona made a formal apology on behalf of the Maltese Church to Maltese child migrants for the hardship they suffered when they were transferred to Australia under a government scheme between 1950 and 1965.

About 310 child migrants were sent to Australia through the efforts of Maltese political and ecclesiastical authorities.

Two years ago a monument to child migrants was established at the Valletta waterfront, close to where many of the children had left Malta.

In issuing the Government's apology, Dr Gonzi reiterated a commitment to promote Maltese language and culture among Maltese emigrants, and other initiatives such as

the introduction of dual citizenship for Maltese living abroad. "As a mature society, we recognise that despite good intentions, there were many of these child migrants who underwent hardship. The government feels this is an appropriate moment for Parliament to apologise for the hardship which these Maltese brethren endured. We also wish to assure them of our respect for their achievements, and we rejoice at their successes," Dr Gonzi said.



The memorial for child migrants at the Valletta Waterfront

## The British Government Apology Continued from page 1

country did turn its back on you. We are sorry that it's taken so long for this important day to come round and for you to receive the apology that you so richly deserve. And we are sorry that, as children, your voices were not always heard, your cries for help not always heeded. Today we hear you.

The Prime Minister said in the House of Commons that he was pleased to announce "a new £6 million family restoration fund to support travel and other costs for former child migrants who wish to be reunited with their families".

We hope that the new fund will also look more broadly at the needs of former child migrants, many of whom do not have surviving family members in the UK or are unable to travel the long distance. In particular, aged care support will become a pressing need for many child migrants living in Australia.



*Eileen Evert, Pat Springett, Andy Burnham MP & Mary Mason*

### **Eileen Evert writes:**

I felt very honored to be selected to go to England for the apology of Prime Minister Gordon Brown. I know many others would have been disappointed not being selected.

I found the Prime Minister's apology to Child Migrants both moving and emotional, and so very sincere. He said sorry for all the pain and suffering we endured and the traumatic experiences of the past.

My sister Liz was invited as a special guest and was also moved by the Prime Minister's words, and to know we have been heard and our stories



*Mary Mason at the UK apology with a photograph of her mother*

accepted as the truth. I have a loving family in England but sad to know they missed out on a caring sister.

I wish to say thank you to Margaret Humphreys and Ian Thwaites and all the staff at the Child Migrant Trust who have sacrificed their families lives so that we could have a chance to know our families.

I now have a loving family both in England and Australia and want to live my life and be happy.



*Flying Emirates...*

### **Maureen Briggs Trewin writes:**

It was lovely to catch up with my brother John and his family in England and even nicer that John and I got to talk with the Prime Minister, Mr Brown. We were very impressed with his sincerity and genuine interest in our story.

I was also reunited with Monica Crane (nee Blendell) after 51 years. Monica travelled to Australia with me in 1953 and returned to England at her mother's request in 1961. It was like meeting up with a long lost sister. We had three days together and talked non-stop. It was wonderful! However, the return trip to the UK was one that none of us would wish to repeat due to lack of organisation and consideration of our own personal needs and care.

Now that we have heard and accepted Prime



*Maureen with Monica Crane*

Minister Brown's very heartfelt and moving apology, it is time to turn our attention to individual recompense. This

issue has been on the agenda for the past 20 years and I do hope and pray that it eventuates, to ease the pain and suffering that many child migrants still endure.

I urge you all to write to:  
Hon Andy Burnham MP  
Secretary of State for Health  
Richmond House  
79 Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2NS

for help and assistance with making applications to the family restoration fund. Please also take the time to read Prime Minister Brown's statement to the House of Commons on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010, which is available on the internet.

May peace full your hearts.

Welcome to Issue #9 of the *Network*, a newsletter produced by CBERS and ex-residents of Castledare, Clontarf, Tardun, Bindoon, St Joseph's and Nazareth House.

Public apologies have been making news in the last six months, since the Australian Government apologised to 'Forgotten Australians' in November last year. In February 2010 the British Government apologised to UK child migrants, and a month later the Maltese Government and Church both offered apologies to former child migrants sent to Australia under their migration scheme.

These recent apologies reflect earlier ones issued by religious orders and governments. After the Christian Brothers apologised in 1993 to people harmed in their institutions, in 1996 the Australian Catholic Church offered a public apology to victims of abuse and introduced 'Towards Healing'. The same year, the Christian Brothers and the Sisters of Mercy and Nazareth launched PHIND – a personal history index to assist with the location of records and family tracing. Since then, a number of other religious orders and government authorities have also offered apologies and set up services for care leavers. In 2005 the WA Government offered its apology to people harmed in institutional care in this State.

Many people have reported positive reactions to these apologies, but say that the events themselves stir up strong emotions and very sad memories.

For others the apologies have been less meaningful, or unacceptable, but most people seem to agree that formal apologies raise public awareness about care leavers' issues, which is helpful to the wider group.

In this issue of *CBERS Network* we bring you some personal reflections on the British apology, as well as news from closer to home. News about the Redress WA scheme is provided in a separate four-page publication, which has been mailed to people on our 'Redress' mailing list. Contact CBERS if you haven't received our *Redress Update* and wish to join the mailing list.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter, and best wishes for the second half of 2010. See you at the end-of-year picnic, if not before!

*Pip*

Dr Philippa White  
Coordinator, CBERS Consultancy

## Network Representatives

### **Bindoon**

Laurie Humphreys Ph: 9337-4850  
Email: lhu1153@tadaust.org.au  
Eddie Butler Ph: 9349-4541  
Email: gdbut@bigpond.com

### **Clontarf**

Michael Hogan Ph: 9297-3684  
Peter Bent Ph: 9458-4495  
Email: pj\_bent@yahoo.com  
Dennis McNerney  
Clontarf Management Office  
Ph: 9458-1774  
Email: phann@iinet.net.au

### **Nazareth House**

Bernadette Bowey Hills Ph: 9921-8256

### **St Joseph's**

Barbara Jean Costello Ph: 9304-1353  
Email: nolcos@optusnet.com.au

### **Tardun**

Keith Spencer Ph: 9276-7073  
Frank Marshall Ph: 9457-7936

### **CBERS Consultancy**

Philippa White Ph: 9433-3644  
Email: welcome@cbers.org

### **FACT (Forgotten Australians Coming Together)**

PO Box 9052, Subiaco WA 6008

## CBERS Consultancy

The Edmund Rice Institute  
24 High Street  
Fremantle WA 6160

Freecall 1800 621 805  
Phone (08) 9433-3644  
Facsimile (08) 9382-4114  
Email welcome@cbers.org  
Website www.cbbers.org

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 the express consent of the client.

## The British Government Apology



*Clontarf ex-resident Patrick O'Flaherty in Canberra with the Rt Hon Baroness Valerie Amos, British High Commissioner to Australia, on the occasion of the British apology to former child migrants*

**The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA)** welcomes the UK Government's national apology to British child migrants, and welcomes the continued international attention this apology brings to those harmed by the child migration scheme.

Caroline Carroll, Chair of AFA, said: 'Apologies to victims are important developments in the social and political histories of our countries as well as being vital steps towards personal recovery and healing.

'However a much bigger effort is still required. AFA calls on the British and Australian Governments to ensure that the survivors of child migration schemes have improved access to targeted support programs, family information and personal records, and mechanisms for access to redress to enable them to make decisions about their own paths of healing.'

# NAZARETH NEWS

with *Bernadette Bowey Hills*

The news from Geraldton is mixed, with hospital visits and holidays on the calendar since December 09.

Pauline Brown's brother passed away early in the New Year - our sympathy to Pauline and family.

Maureen and Marie spent a few days with Kath White at Busselton. Kath is now touring the world for six months.

Eileen Evert is finally getting over the painful feet and plaster on her leg for six months. Keep going girl!

Les, Bernadette and Bridget attended the Country Music Festival at Boyup Brook on 16th February, staying at Bridget's daughter Caroline and Peter's home for four days. We enjoyed our stay.

Maureen Macleod's health has been troubling her for the last six months. She is slowly getting her strength back.

Margaret Gibson's husband passed away on the 14th February. Our condolences to Margaret and family, who live in East Doncaster, Victoria.

June and Joe had a holiday in New South Wales in early April, visiting family and friends. Margaret and

Terry have just taken off flying to Darwin for a few days, then home on the Ghan to Adelaide, Perth and Geraldton

Diana Bennett is on six week's holiday, we hope you enjoy your well-earned rest.

Exciting news arrived at the Bowey Hills' residence on 6th May - Les has now got permanent residency to stay in Australia. We are celebrating with friends.

Shirley Moore is off to Perth for medical treatment, and we wish her luck for the 14th May.

Peggy Johnson won the triples league championship, and won the pennants at Geraldton Bowling Club.

Marion Lukosius' youngest daughter Catherine is expecting her first baby towards the end of the year. Our congratulations from Geraldton.

Val Standen's 15-year-old granddaughter Teisha had a knee operation. We hope she recovers soon and gets back to netball and basketball. Teisha is coaching young players in Geraldton, and Val lives in Northampton. We hope all Child Migrants are well and happy.

From all in Geraldton xxxx

# ST JOSEPH'S

St Joseph's representative Barbara Jean Costello (nee Lithgow) is also a committee member of FACT (Forgotten Australians Coming Together), which was launched in October last year.

Please register your name and address if you are interested in joining the committee or would like to be on the FACT mailing list. This information will not be given out or used for any purpose other than FACT correspondence.

**Barbara Jean Costello**

Ph: 9304-1353 Email: [nolcos@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nolcos@optusnet.com.au)



Betty Polglaze (nee Johnson) with Frank, her husband of 54 years. Betty and Frank were dressed in period costume to celebrate Foundation Day in May last year.

Mary Cooper (nee Patton) and Rosie Kruger (nee McGourty) share a Devonshire tea with King Henry VIII in London Court



**VALE**  
Our sincere condolences to the family of Freda Senini (nee Holland), who passed away on 11th May 2010. With fond memories and love from *The Girls*

## NOTICEBOARD

### *Vale Phillip McNamara*

I was truly saddened to read in the last newsletter of the passing of Phillip McNamara.

I remember Phil with affection. He was blessed with an ability to impart to his mates through facial expression alone, an assurance that all was fine. When I was down in the dumps, I know that it was Phil McNamara that I sought out; he would lift my spirits. I cannot visualise his face without it having a smile. God take care of you Phil.

If indeed there be a judgment awaiting us, then your self effacing pleasant manner will only be a deserved tick against your name. Rest in Peace Phillip. Thanks for just being yourself as a kid. God Bless you.

**Jim Green**

***This year's commemoration for Michael Bowman will be held at Michael Bowman Park in Serpentine on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 11.00am. BBQ provided. Please bring a gold coin donation.***

### *Volunteers needed*

All is going well with our weekly raffle at the Farmers Market on Manning at Clontarf to help raise funds for the 'Clontarf Old Boys Heritage Trail'.

A few of us Old Boys and Yvonne (COBHC Secretary) have sacrificed the last nine Saturday morning sleep-ins to be in attendance there by 7.30am. We are all very passionate about the project and more volunteers are still needed.

So far we have raised over \$1000 with raffle ticket sales, and will be seeking further funding from other sources.

***Dennis McNerney***

### *Can you help?*

Castledare ex-resident David Lambly is seeking photos or concert programs from the Castledare choir and Eisteddfod performances in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

David would also like to make contact with fellow Castledare ex-residents Raymond Peel and Joseph McDonald.

Please contact David via CBERS if you can help.

## BINDOON CORNER

I am now in London as I write my contribution to Bindoon Corner.

We've had a momentous six months with firstly the well organised and well presented apology from Prime Minister Kevin Rudd on behalf of the Federal Government of Australia with unanimous support from Malcolm Turnbull on behalf of the opposition. Thousands watched this historical event on TV and close on a thousand attended Kings Hall in the Federal Parliament Canberra to witness a display of emotion not likely to be repeated in any future event in the National Capital.

The speeches made in Parliament by our State Members in Canberra were strong in their condemnation of past events relating to both Child Migrants and Forgotten Australians.

Having had no feedback or coverage of the British Government's Apology I can only congratulate those chosen to attend in London. I can say one thing though,

### **Musk Estate Fund Finalised**

Mr Gordon Grant, ex-resident of Bindoon, has advised us that all funds held in the Catherine Musk estate have been distributed, and that the fund is now closed.

Gordon said this brings to an end a ten-year process of negotiation, which concluded with the Public Trustee distributing a total of \$303,567 to former residents of Bindoon who applied for grants. The second of two payments was made to 100 ex-residents in January this year.

that the advisors to the British Government missed an opportunity to get support for much needed services such as health and aged accommodation.

This is possibly my last trip to the country of my birth but I've taken the opportunity to talk to lots of couples who, whilst they heard the British Apology, still did not know the story behind it.

I appreciate the comradeship of you all over the years. It's great that after 60 plus years we can still get together and have a chat and a laugh whether it's at our annual get-together or the breakfast and afternoon teas.

Congratulations to those of you who arrived in Australia in 1950. I know lots of you came to Bindoon. This year is the 60th Anniversary of your arrival and I wish you well for this year and the future.

***Laurie Humphreys***

## THE STRUGGLES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF TARDUN FARM SCHOOL

As a follow-up to our last article, which reported the closure of the Tardun Farm School, we want to share with you some of its history, hardships and achievements

### Episode 1 - The Early Struggle

In 1927 the Knights of the Southern Cross, in collaboration with the Christian Brothers, approached the Archbishop of Perth for approval to secure land in the Northern Wheatbelt of Western Australia which could be used to provide a profitable and healthy outlet for orphan boys who would come into their care. The selected land areas which were uncleared, practically unfenced and without a permanent supply of water, were granted in the same year.

This was the start of a project which was later to be better known as Saint Mary's Agricultural School, Tardun - located 307 miles from Perth - which was established to provide a new life style for orphan boys - predominantly from the United Kingdom and Malta - and to train them in the particular class of farming work.

The homestead campsite (picture) was erected during 1927 and was home for a group of brothers and boys who worked the farm until it was destroyed by fire in late 1930.

By 1933 the property had been significantly enhanced and consisted of 21,503 acres, of which 5,000 had been cleared and a further 500 acres was being



cleared, of which 2,120 acres was under crop. The property was also securely boundary fenced. There were 5 established wells complete with water tank. Stock comprised sheep (1,517), horses (31), pigs (42), cows (15) and fowls (70).

There was a large and diverse range of plant and equipment necessary to operate the farm. Buildings consist of several cottages of wood, iron and asbestos and a weatherboard house.

The principal debt on the property was £22,630 - a sizable amount of money in those days - of which £16,000 is entirely unsecured outside personal guarantees for which the Christian Brothers are personally responsible. This was considered a serious financial position and the Authorities in Sydney and Dublin took the view that any further continuance of the Scheme would result in throwing further good money after bad, so it gave instructions in 1933 that operations were to cease and all activities withdrawn. The struggle and perceived lack of

achievement was the result of factors such as: poor location of the school, the marginal nature of the land for farming, changes in childcare practices and financial constraints.

Enter the indefatigable Brother Conlon, an experienced administrator, who was charged with the responsibility to carry out the instructions issued by the Order to close down the Scheme. He was a member of the head council based in Sydney and had a persuasive manner and Irish charm which appealed to those who came to know him. Following his inspection of the property and review of the affairs of the Scheme he compiled and submitted a report which contained the following interesting conclusion:

"After a very careful review of the whole position I have come to the view that with help in a certain direction there is every

prospect of the farm school, not only being made self-supporting by way of cereals and wool, but better still as far as State Development is concerned of being in a position, say in two years time, of placing on the land each year in adjoining districts, at least two thoroughly experienced farmers, drawn from the orphan boys whom we have been caring from

the cradle, educating, and later efficiently training in agricultural pursuits."

Later in 1933 there were 15 boys and eight staff, including a cook and matron stationed at the school. As far as the boys were concerned the school has been an unqualified success.

Despite the Christian Brothers concerns about the future of the Scheme, common sense prevailed and eventually Brother Conlon through sheer persistence, and relentless representations to the various authorities was permitted to continue the good work commenced by his predecessors. Although there were many problems and seemingly insurmountable issues to overcome the Scheme survived and over the ensuing years was allowed to fulfil its primary objectives.

*To be continued...*

### TOBA Reunion

TOBA's next reunion will be held at Tuppin House, Moore River, Guilderton over the weekend of 23-25th July 2010. Enquiries (08) 9457-7936.

There are a number of publications about Tardun and its struggle to survive, which can be viewed at various libraries. Some are available for sale, contact the TOBA secretary on 08 9457 7936:

'Tardun: Golden Jubilee 1928 -1978', Brother M H Crouch  
'The Scheme: The Christian Brothers and Childcare in Western Australia', Barry M Coldrey

'Our Home in the Bush: Tales of Tardun', David H Plowman  
'Enduring Struggle: St Mary's Tardun Farm School', David H Plowman

## Vale

Tardun old boy Gerald Coogan passed away in December 2009. Gerry was an active member of the Association and will be sadly missed by TOBA members.

Condolences are extended to the family of Joan Lynch who passed away April 2010. Joan was the wife of 1938er Tardun old boy Paddy Lynch (dec).

## GERALD FRANCIS COOGAN

MAY 1945 - DECEMBER 2009

Gerry Coogan was born in Cardiff, Wales and at seven years of age was sent to Castledare under the child migration scheme. From there he was sent to Tardun.

Gerry gained an apprenticeship as a painter and worked throughout Western Australia until a tragic incident occurred where he received a severe blow to the head. This rendered him unable to work and he eventually settled down in a flat in Midland in the early 1990's.

It was this particular time of his life, from the 1990's to 2009, that Gerry made a positive impact in his own life and to that of the community in the Midland area. Despite being un-employable he used his trade skills to paint the Catholic Convent. He'd acquired a 'jack of all trades' type skill and carried out repair work at St Brigid's Church in Midland. He also did odd jobs for members of the community in general. Most particularly, were his efforts in working with the St. Vincent DePaul Society in the Midland area.

Gerry gained a very healthy respect from the members of the Catholic community in Midland. In addition to the work that he carried out for the 'Vinnies', he was also an active member of the State Emergency Services. All this work was done voluntarily and is a great credit to the man.

Gerry lived life to the full and was even the 'policeman' who settled disputes between residents of the



units of flats that he lived in. For this he was well respected by both the Police department and his local unit dwellers.

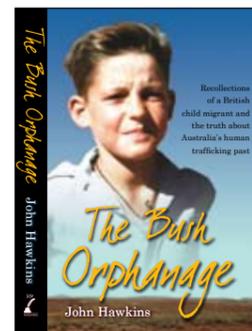
Gerry was unable to find any relatives despite the efforts of CBERS, the Child Migrant Trust and other agencies. The only clue to Gerry's parentage was the reported finding of his mother's grave.

In 2005 Gerry travelled to England with a carer and was able to find the grave of his mother in Liverpool. Efforts to find any other relatives were, sadly, in vain.

In the past year Gerry suffered severe illness which kept him in more than out of the Swan District Hospital. He succumbed to this illness on Christmas Eve last. His body was buried at the Midland cemetery should anyone wish to pay their respects.

**Brendan McCloat**

## Success for *The Bush Orphanage*



*The Bush Orphanage* by John Hawkins has been well received in Australia and overseas since its launch in December last year.

John's book was honoured as a Finalist in the Autobiography/Memoir category of the 2010 International Book Awards; and was chosen by Princess Cruises

of Miami Beach Florida for their on-cruise book-clubs. Negotiations are underway with the BBC (UK) regarding a documentary based on John's book.

John said: "The feedback I get from many of you who have read the book is both astonishing and humbling. I never expected the response from my friends or even from total strangers. The general consensus appears to be that this is a great Australian story. Above all this is not a misery story but rather one of triumph over adversity".

*The Bush Orphanage* is available from JoJo Publishing on 03-9681-7275 or [www.jojopublishing.com](http://www.jojopublishing.com)

# THE CLONTARF NETWORK

## DALYS WAR CRY

RAH, RAH, ROOTING RAH  
 INKY, POLLY-WALLY, WHISKY WAH  
 DALYS, DALYS CARROTY CAR  
 PITCH THEM, TOSS THEM, MAKE THEM  
 FLOP  
 THE DALYS STARS ARE OUT ON TOP.  
 WITH A ZIP BANG POP  
 (SPELT OUT) D-A-L-Y-S  
 (THEN SHOUT) DALYS!



Thanks to Paul Irvine for sending in the Dalys' Sports Day War Cry, following the Bodkins and Hefferans War Cries published in the last two issues of *Network*. Great job remembering these Paul!

We'd like to complete the set of four Clontarf War Cries by publishing O'Connor's. If anyone remembers the O'Connor War Cry, please let us know.



## Oliver and Stella: The love story continues.....

Dennis McNerney's brother Oliver, from Longford Ireland, was married to Stella Hoareau, the greatest love of his life, on 7th July last year at the St John Bosco Chapel at Clontarf.

The location is a special one for the McNerney brothers, as Clontarf Old Boy Dennis also married his wife Nicky at the same church 30 years ago.

Oliver is currently working full-time at Betts Group, Malaga and he has also kept his musical dream alive

by taking up a part-time position as a Music Presenter on Capital Community Radio, every Saturday. Oliver's wife Stella works as producer on his radio show.

Stella and Oliver hope to travel back to Ireland in July to visit Oliver's family, his daughter Marina, son Oliver Jnr and his three grandchildren, Sean, Roan and baby Ella who was only born in August 2009. Dennis and Oliver's Mum Sheila passed away a few months ago in the UK.

## Hello to all the Old Boys

I'd like to ask you to keep an eye on some of the Old Boys who need our help, as we are all getting older.

Just recently I had a request for help from Fran Cronin, the wife of Brendan, who is now in a nursing home. You will be glad to know we got help for Brendan, and special thanks to Dr Philippa White for this.

If you know of someone who needs help, please call your network representatives. Their contact details are on page 3 of this newsletter.

Stay strong.

**Paddy Cannon** (Ph: 9450-2062)

## Beauty in the Bush

For the last 25 years Clontarf ex-resident David Crisp has been turning tree stumps into creative works of 'Bush Art'.

The process starts when David finds a tree stump with an interesting root system, which he digs out of the ground, takes home, cleans and varnishes. David says it's becoming harder to find these in the WA bush, and if you know of any good tree stumps, please call him on 9621-2561.

*Bush Art* will be on display at this year's Michael Bowman commemoration on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October.



## Shades of Green at Clontarf

On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March we had the pleasure of a visit by Orla Tunney, the First Secretary at the Irish Embassy in Canberra. Orla's visit was indeed more valued because she stepped in at the last minute on behalf of the Irish Ambassador – Mairtin O'Fainin who had concerns for the health of his family and had to return to Ireland. Our prayers and thoughts have been relayed to him at the Irish Embassy.

We were captivated with Orla's lovely Irish brogue, and impressed by her capacity to absorb a great number of personal stories.

With morning tea and a tour of the campus everybody was delighted with the interest that Orla took



Orla informed us that the Irish Government had set aside funds to help former Irish citizens and those of Irish parentage promote and maintain their Irish Heritage abroad. As there are a number of 'Old Boys' from Ireland or of Irish parentage it was thought that any funds helping preserve their history at Clontarf would also be promoting their Irish Heritage. There is also the fact that a number of the Christian Brothers who taught at Clontarf were indeed from Ireland including the Founder Edmund Rice.

So with this in mind and on a recommendation from Orla, we have applied for a Heritage Grant which, if successful, will be a great start to the Heritage Trail.

Many thanks must go to:

Mr Patrick Cannon for arranging this visit.

Ms Orla Tunney for her time at Clontarf and her recommendation.

Mr Steve Bowman of the Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka for the sponsorship of our application.

Dr Philippa White (CBERS) who helped with the application.

**Yvonne Radzevicius, Secretary COBHC**



both in the campus and our proposed Heritage Trail. The Trail will include plaques which will recognize the role the ex-residents played in the history of Clontarf. It is hoped that this will allow a glimpse of the childhood days spent there and that past residents will benefit from being remembered and not forgotten.

Thanks to Fred Rea of *The Irish Scene* and Paddy Cannon for the photos



## A family tradition of service to the Ambos

Clontarf ex-resident Tony Ryan and his wife Coral have dedicated years of service to the St John Ambulance service in Northampton.

"When we moved to Northampton from Carnarvon in 1999 I joined the ambos, learning first aid and as a driver, until my back gave in on me about eight years ago. After that, Coral took my place," Tony said.

"Coral went to all ambo studies on first aid and got many certificates, then the big one came at Government house.

"She earned it after all the work put into it. We wish more young men and women would join up as Australia is in short supply of good ambo first aid officers".



**Tony and Coral Ryan collecting a St John Ambulance certificate at Government House**

# NOTICEBOARD

## VALE

### GERARD DEMPSEY

December 1943 – September 2009



Gerard Dempsey (Gerry) passed away on 26 September 2009 with his sister and brother-in-law by his side.

Gerry attended Castledare from 1950-1952 and then Clontarf until 1959. Upon leaving Clontarf he held many jobs and travelled extensively around Australia.

In 1984 Gerry had the joy of being reunited with his mum and family in the UK. In subsequent years he travelled to the UK and Ireland many times but spoke most of the times when his Perth family travelled back with him. He travelled back in 1999 with his niece Jacqui and his last trip 'home' in 2007 was with his sister Philomena (formerly of St Joseph's, Subiaco) and brother in-law Alan.

## Thank you



Many thanks to volunteers (L-R) Holly, Oliver, Jack, Pip, Peter, Eddie, Dennis, Hughie (2nd photo), and Yvonne and Laurie (not pictured), who assisted with the mailing of the 2009 newsletter. It is a massive job and your help is greatly appreciated.

Gerry's brother Stephen travelled to Perth in July 2009 and spent considerable time with Gerry, they spent most of the time talking about the state of the world, Gerry's favourite topic.

Gerry is greatly missed by his sister and all the family both here in Perth and the UK.

## 2010 Get-together

### A date for the diary...

This year's annual picnic at Trinity Playing Fields will be held on Sunday 14th November between 12 noon and 4.00pm.

A reminder notice will be posted out a few weeks before the event.

## Special pre-paid funeral plan for CBERS clients

Funeral Directors Bowra & O'Dea are offering discounted pre-paid funeral plans to members of the CBERS Network.

Discount rates are available for burials and cremations, and can be pre-paid over 12 months. For further details contact Bernardine Brierty at Bowra & O'Dea (Ph: 9461-7133; Email [bbrierty@bowraodea.com.au](mailto:bbrierty@bowraodea.com.au)).



## Oral History Project

The National Library of Australia is seeking interviewees for the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral History Project.

The Library plans to record several hundred people from all over Australia talking about their experiences in institutional care. If participants agree, their interviews will be available on the Library's website.

Since the Australian Government's apology in November 2009, many people have expressed interest in being interviewed for this project. The Library will be selecting interviewees whose stories will reflect a diversity and complexity of experiences.

The Library began recording interviews from March 2010 and the project will run for three years. As well as interviews, the Library is interested in collecting related materials including photographs, posters, badges, reunions, diaries and published autobiographies.

The Library is working closely with the National Museum of Australia, which is developing an exhibition about the history of institutionalised care of children, and there is a joint website for these two national history projects at <http://forgottenaustralianshistory.gov.au/>

If you would like to express interest in being interviewed, complete the form at [www.nla.gov.au/oh/fafcm](http://www.nla.gov.au/oh/fafcm) or contact Joanna Sassoon on 1800-204-290 (cost of a local call from a landline), or email [jsassoon@nla.gov.au](mailto:jsassoon@nla.gov.au)



## Remembering the Sisters of Compassion at Castledare



Paul Irvine and Peter Bent have fond memories of the Sisters of Compassion who came to Castledare in November 1949 and left at the end of 1951.

Peter said the nuns had a great effect on the Castledare boys of that time. "They improved the standard of hygiene, quality of food, and clothing. Their kindness has never been forgotten. Unfortunately their stay was too short and there was great sadness felt by the boys on their departure".

Paul Irvine recently visited the Congregation Headquarters of the Sisters of Compassion in Wellington, New Zealand, where the nuns welcomed him as a guest during

his stay.

Paul laid floral wreaths on

the graves of Sisters Flora and James, and said his prime objective in doing so was to honour the memory of these "endearing individuals who were indeed Sisters of Compassion, and will never be forgotten by me and no doubt by the other boys who knew them". Paul also has fond memories of the kindness shown by Sisters Andrew and Casimir, who were buried in Auckland.

Paul also has fond memories of Ruby, who helped Rosie Finucane in the kitchen at Castledare in the 1950s. If anyone knows where Ruby went after she left Castledare, please let us know.



## Forgotten Australians memorial

Significant developments regarding the memorial for 'Forgotten Australians' have taken place since the last update was provided.

Judith Forrest was chosen as the artist and Terri-Anne White was selected as writer/author for the wording on the memorial. Judith and Terri-Anne will work together with Forgotten Australians Committee representatives to bring the project to conclusion. The Forgotten Australians Committee was established in June 2007 and its representatives are:

*Peter Bent*  
*Geoff Caruthers*  
*Paul Irvine*  
*Veronica and Daryl McPherson*  
*Anna and Tom Shepherd*

*Elaine Smith*  
*and a representative from the Department for Child Protection*

The location for the Memorial has been decided and approval given for use of the grassed area in front of the Jubilee Building of the WA Museum, adjacent to Beaufort Street.

The launch for the Memorial is expected to take place early December. Information regarding the date and time of the launch will be provided prior to the event.

*Marie Waldeck*  
*Manager Information Management Services*  
*Department for Child Protection*  
*Phone: (08) 9222-2555*

**\*\*The all new\*\***

# FARMERS MARKET at CLONTARF



***The Farmers Market on Manning*** at Clontarf is a roaring success and this is emphasized by the comments of many of the public who visit each Saturday morning. These remarks include:

*“What a beautiful setting”*

*“Easy, free parking, ably assisted by attendants”*

*“Not too far to travel and ample parking”*

*“Great variety of stalls selling quality products”.*



These comments must be an incentive for all to come and pay us a visit, do some shopping and have an enjoyable day on the Clontarf Campus grounds. There is a bouncy castle for the kids and areas where you can enjoy food and drink from catering stalls. The pictures tell the story.

While at the Markets you can support the Clontarf Old Boys Heritage Project by buying some raffle tickets and in the process win a quality hamper consisting of produce kindly donated each week by the stallholders. It could not be easier and of course the more tickets you buy the better your winning chance and also

means more support for the project.

It would be great to see more of the “Old Boys” drop by for a chat and maybe learn a little more of what we hope to achieve.



Many thanks must go to David & Pina Vincent for their help and support each week.

***by Yvonne, Secretary COBHC***



*Clontarf Old Boys Dennis Mc Nerney, Anthony Brennan and Peter Bent on duty at the COBHC raffle stall.*



*Head Traffic Controller Peter Bent tells us: “I was appointed to this post because I excelled in the subject of Traffic Control in sixth grade in 1956”.*