

Report on the SOF Hong Kong Dinner 31st March 2017



THE SOCIETY OF OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANS
HONG KONG SUPPER, 31 MARCH 2017

Having made the decision to go to the Hong Kong branch of the Society of Old Framlinghamians Annual Dinner on March 31st, provided they would have us, I put my mind to what I would need to do in order to maximise the chances of making it a success.

The direct flight from Cairns taking six hours, rather than the alternative indirect flights via Melbourne, Sydney and/or Brisbane taking up to twenty six hours, dictated when we fly and when we return. I connected with Ian Howard, who was running his last dinner, (he has been doing this, with one small break, since 1983!), and he graciously said they would be delighted if we could attend.

At 7:30 p.m.

The Windsor Room, The Hong Kong Club

Flights, hotel, transport all nailed down, we connected with some major players in Australia and New Zealand to ask them for a small message of support to our colleagues in Hong Kong. Chris Essex, copied in on all this, sent a message of his own to Ian Howard thanking him for his sterling service in Hong Kong on behalf of the SOF, for such a length of time.

Messages tumbled in from Roy Farman (K50-56), Col Lipman (R53-61), John Gates (S44-48), Mike Garnett (R53-55), Robert Munro (R54-60) and Neville Marsh (S53-61). Neville had been at Fram and in Stradbroke with Ian Howard, and he sent me some aged photos to prove it. I printed these out to take, as well as the messages, which were put on individual sheets of high quality paper that Col Lipman, our paper wholesaler, would have acknowledged with his seal of approval. Chris Essex's message was put on a special gold certificate style A4 sheet, making it a truly magnificent presentation. All of these were put in a glossy white folder with a Fram crest on it.

Suitably armed, we approached the Hong Kong Club, and found, on the doorstep, four young OFs, who introduced themselves to us, escorted us to the Windsor Room, and made us feel extremely welcome.

There we met Moira, Ian, Chris Hall, and Bob Holland. Once seated at a circular table, Ian spoke, and said that he thought it was probably now taken for granted that wives/partners and girlfriends would be made welcome, after this dinner, for future SOF annual dinners, and this idea received a warm round of applause, part of which may have been for my Rebecca, the mould-breaker. Another bastion of sexual inequality falls as the sun rises slowly in the East at the dawn of a new era.

Chris spoke, thanking Ian, and Moira, who will be running next year's dinner, and maybe even next years' dinners. He also thanked Chris Hall for his hospitality to himself and Rebecca, and for sharing his exquisite collection of antique silks – a veritable museum collection, reminiscent of the quality that is housed in the V & A

Museum. He read the letter from Chris Essex to Ian and shared the photos of Neville and Ian in their years together in Stradbroke. There was also an A4 photo of Neville, in full 'living' colour, casting a sad eye over a huge collection of OF magazines he was having to de-clutter prior to moving to his new home. Chris gave the folder with the messages from Australia and New Zealand to Ian, and asked him to disseminate them to the attendees personally, since time was getting on and the meal was ready.

Moira became quite emotional when recalling her time at Fram where she said she had had great conversations, great friends and a thoroughly great experience. She will have massive support for the next dinner she runs, and record numbers, bearing in mind the WAGS¹ who will attend.

The meal was splendid, the conversation quite sparkling. It turned out that there were two distinct age groups, with a yawning chasm of incomprehension between them, owing to changes in Fram staff and facilities, and the, now, ever present electronic world, which was sharply contrasted by Chris Shaw's one phone call home in seven years, when Felixstowe flooded in 1953, and when his father became a living legend by rescuing people from flooded homes in February water temperatures.

The dinner over, the party gained momentum as we moved to another room when the Hong Kong Club put its foot down about drinks and time in the Windsor Room. This seemed a bit old-fashioned as our pubs in Oz are open until 3-4am. But that's Oz and that's tourism. It sometimes appears as though the SOF is the main support system for the wine industry, but that probably a very subjective view.

The evening was a huge success with constructive communication, bonds of friendship and memories being formed on the run. I can confirm that Framlingham College is producing, in its current group of old boys, and 'young girls', a polite, well-mannered, considerate bunch, who would make me very proud as their father. Their minds and their eyes are wide open, their attitudes allow information input and warm relationships to grow, and carpenters would grow poor for the lack of 'chips on their shoulders'.

Thank you, Ian Howard, Moira Theulier, Chris Hall and everyone else, for a delightful evening, and your kind hospitality to Chris and Rebecca Shaw.

Those attending: **Ian Howard (S57-62), Chris Hall (G62-69), Moira Theulier (nee Anderson) (M91-93), Anthony Arnaudy (M72-80), Bob Holland (R56-65), Jenkin Leung (K79-84), Chris Shaw (K50-56), Robert Wong (S79-84), Henry Tang (K03-10), John Ting (G02-09), Adrian Woo (G05-09), Ian Tsang (K02-09)**



¹ Wives and Girlfriends – Australian acronym



**From the President of the
Society of Old Framlinghamians
To all Old Framlinghamians in Hong Kong**

On behalf of all Old Framlinghamians, who have ever attended a Hong Kong Supper, or have been looked after by Ian during a visit, as I have, I would like to sincerely thank him for all his time and effort in being 'Our Man' in Hong Kong. His help, promotion and support have been recognised and greatly appreciated over the years. I know that he will continue to attend SOF events and functions, both in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom for many years to come. I look forward to meeting up with him again soon.

I would like to thank Moira for volunteering to take on the mantle in Hong Kong from Ian, and I offer all the support she needs from the society.

Finally, please wish everyone there this evening, particularly Chris and Rebecca, a wonderful time, and I look forward to seeing the report and the photos shortly.

Chris Essex, President and Overseas Bag Editor

31/03/2017

Messages from the Australian and New Zealand
Society of Old Framlinghamian Members
To the Hong Kong Branch
On 31st March 2017.



**To: Ian Howard, Moira Theulier
And All Old Framlinghamians
At the Hong Kong Dinner
On 31st March 2017**

From: Roy (K47-55) and Sandy Farman, Masterton, North Island, New Zealand.

Message: 'Best wishes to the Hong Kong Old Framlinghamians, and have a memory-filled evening.

In 1968, the ship "Orsova", in which we were travelling via Singapore back to the UK, berthed there for a few days, during which time the locals repainted her. Sandy and I have happy memories of Hong Kong in those pre-handover days.

We also remember flying in to the airport when the plane passed between the sky-scrapers.'

roy.farman@extra.co.nz

From John (S44-48) and Ruth Gates, Maroochydore, Qld.

Message: 'We are on a cruise ship nearby; close, but not close enough to attend your dinner I'm afraid, and we can influence neither the ship's speed nor its direction. However, through Chris and Rebecca, we send our best wishes to all Old Framlinghamians in Hong Kong, and trust you will have a very special dinner, thanks to Ian Howard.

My life's story is on the Framlingham website as a video, and also on 'YouTube'. It may be entertaining for younger OFs to see how one somewhat older OF has lived his life.'

johnrgates@bigpond.com

From: Mike Garnett (R53-55).

Message: 'I'm sure I speak for all Victorian OFs in wishing our compatriots in Hong Kong a really enjoyable evening of camaraderie and indulgence.

I have always had a soft spot for Hong Kong. Back in 1956, as a young national serviceman, I was told of my posting to Kai Tak, which had a small Royal Air Force element. As I was about to depart from 'good old Blighty,' – and without so much as a 'do you mind?' - I was informed that my posting was changed to that at Tengah, a key base during the Malay 'Emergency'. It was from there that Lincoln bombers gave daily grief to the guerrillas led by Chin Peng.

Subsequently, I did visit Hong Kong on holiday from my tea-plantation in northeast India, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I recall buying a lot of stuff I didn't really need, at Stanley Village.

I am delighted that Chris has asked me to contribute a message for your gathering of OFs lucky enough to call "Honkers" home.'

garnettm@bigpond.net.au

From Colin (R53-61) and Lexie Lipman, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Message: 'I left Fram in 1961 and had little or nothing to do with my peers until 2015, when Chris and Rebecca organised a three-day event near Sydney to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the College. That lengthy gap in communication is, apparently, all too common among Old Framlinghamians, prior to re-joining the flock.

Last month, Lexie, my wife, and I organised an OF dinner at Doyle's famous seafood restaurant in Sydney to welcome David (K42-49) and Anne Copeman, who were on holiday on our shores.

It struck me that we should have an annual event here, as you have done in Hong Kong, thanks to Ian Howard. Having said that, please consider this a blanket invitation from us in New South Wales, to each and every Old Framlinghamian in Hong Kong, to attend any of our future dinners 'down-under' in Australia or New Zealand.

Lexie and I wish you a fine evening with bonds of friendship being re-established under a common chord.'

colin@aparanholdings.com.au

From: Robert (R56-60) and Maria Munro, Mildura, Victoria, Australia

Message: 'To Ian Howard, at the Hong Kong Old Framlinghamian dinner 2017.

Our very best wishes to you all for a terrific and memorable gathering at the OF Dinner in Hong Kong on March 31st.

It is great fun meeting up with fellow Old Framlinghamians for a Dinner, a yarn, and an ale or two, so to everyone at this event may we say, 'Have a most enjoyable time!'

bloodknock@bigpond.com

From: Neville (S53-61) and Alison Marsh, Brisbane, Qld.

Message: 'To Ian Howard, Senior Hong Kong OF, and to the many Old Framlinghamians now living in Hong Kong; we send good wishes for a fine Hong Kong Dinner.

To Ian, I send a reminder of his time at Fram, notably our spectacular performance in the Stradbroke 2nd Hockey XI 1961 (knocked out by Kerrison on the new, short corner rule) – team sheet provided; the Summer 1961 house photo (Ian standing behind me in the second row); our shared time in the 6th Form, (Modern and Science respectively); and memories of 'The Mikado' and 'Macbeth' in 1961; I, as stage hand, and Ian as I/C Box Office. (Program available!)

'Less apart than we were.'

All the best for a fine evening.

neville.marsh@adelaide.edu.au



Rebecca Shaw, Ian Howard, Moira Theulier



Moira speaking prior to the dinner



After meal picture



After dinner drinks



Chris's Hall and Shaw with beautiful silk of Peacock



Chris Shaw with his portfolio of messages from Australia and New Zealand

Flanked by Jenkin Leung and Robert Wong



Moira Theulier getting a tad emotional about her time at Fram