

OVERSEAS BAG – 2018

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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Once again this edition and the 2018 Yearbook contain a bumper crop of articles from over 300 emails received/sent. Genuinely many thanks for giving me such a huge editing task to do again!

The past year has been a very hectic one for me personally, with the marriage of my younger daughter, the birth of my first grandson to my older daughter and within my local community a project to save both the local library and reopen the local post office. The latter finally happening on 24 September 2018. My apologies that I have not been as communicative as in past years.

During the last year there have been OF gatherings in France, Germany, Hong Kong, Cairns and Sydney which you can read more about below. A huge thank you to the organisers who came forward to make these a great success and to everyone who was able to attend. Since originally putting this together for the Yearbook, my wife and I have returned from a trip to Canada and Hawaii. Whilst I'm disappointed that it wasn't possible to meet up with OFs in Vancouver we will have met up with Bryan and Celestine Pearson (S45-47) in Honolulu.

I hope others will come forward to organise reunions during 2019 and as always I will help with mailing list and publicity but can't promise to be able to attend them all!

Please keep your messages and news flooding in, especially with your photos. Happy reading!

AUSTRALIA

Mike Allport (R54-62) enthusiastically supported the Sydney meeting with Martin Pearse. He reported that he and Bunny were homeless from 10 March and were waiting to hear when their apartment at the Diggers was ready. Completion had been due in December but he had forgotten to check which year! Hoping for April 2018. They were well on their way to being Australian citizens but will remain English supporters in all sports, particularly cricket!

Chris Bartlett (K60-66) reported that he was now back living and working in Perth after years up north. Coincidentally he bought his two daughters tickets to the Ed Sheerin concert referred to later, so he hoped to be able to meet-up in East Perth or somewhere close in Victoria Park with other OFs.

Michael Bentall (G62-70) offered apologies for not being able to make the AGM as not in England at this time. He was living in Tasmania and had sold his farm and was now looking at properties in England with the view of purchasing and moving back. He said that if this happens he will be delighted to attend OF functions. He continued *“I have sold the farm and have always been looking at a return and there is now a window of opportunity with a favourable exchange rate. Will see what happens and keep you posted if it all eventuates. Brother Jeremy is in Perth and I do not think he has any plans to return at present as he is married to a West Australian and has two daughters to keep him on his toes.”*

Phil Bower (G65-74) in October 2017 sent some wonderful aerial pictures taken from the back seat of the light aircraft that flew them to/from the Abrolhos Islands – those of the wreck of the Batavia – Peter Fitzgerald wrote the historical novel., well worth reading! Hence there's a lot of “Batavia” in this area.

At Christmas he said that while we were languishing in arctic conditions, he was luxuriating on the beach with temps in the mid to high C30's..... He also sent the following map to compare Europe with his small island in the southern hemisphere.

He went on to say *“Allegedly Sheeran has sold 1m tix on this tour. One bloke & an fx loop pedal.....people are so easily satisfied these days..... The opener is Missy Higgins – far as I can recall she plays the sort of stuff intended to drive those thinking of suicide to realise that there is no hope after all so you might as well get on with it.....”*

Having toured for the last few years across Australia he said *“No tour this year – Dee is working on a contract & earning a decent wedge and decided she doesn't want me to go away this year. Fine with me, I'm happy to be a dog walking house husband – you don't need to tell me more than once not to work!!”*



Yesterday (at the time of writing) I had my right hand trapeziectomy and am now in a surgical dressing for the next 2 weeks or so. For a right handed person this is damned difficult! I know it's really nothing in the grand scheme of things and there are people much worse off than me but even a stupidly simple thing like spooning cereal into the old buccal cavity is a challenge! Plus, this time (unlike the left hand) there's a helluva lot of pain and I'm glad to have a ready supply of Panadine Forte's! A couple of days out with the pixies for me....

The Ranch now has 70k litres of water storage tanks waiting for the winter rains hopefully they'll be connected up to the downpipes in time..... 2 of the smaller ones (9k litre capacity each) are all set but the 43k litre tanks have yet to be connected up – they will be fed from a 4.5k litre “holding tank” by an immersion pump, and that tank in turn will be gravity fed by all the downpipes from the guttering. The plan being that all rainwater hitting the roof gets saved instead of lost into the ground. Long term plan being that in the summer months we can have a lush garden watered daily for no cost – the pumps being powered by the solar array.

Speaking of which – in December our solar panels generated 1 Megawatt of electricity! Of which, 750 kilowatts was fed back into the grid... I cannot understand why so few people in this part of the world have invested in solar panels – it's not that we're “earning” a fortune (we're not) but the point is that electricity isn't costing us anything – we can run the aircon all day for no cost to us! Yes, there is an up front cost but once the system is in....

I am expecting delivery of a new drone in the next couple of weeks so I'll be able to shoot some more & relevant footage for you to see – there's been a lot of changes since the first videos went up. The current drone has decided to have a terminal fault with the camera gimbal so I can't shoot any video outside of wherever the camera happens to be pointing which is about as useful as a chocolate teapot in a gale.

We've so far spent about \$1k on locally sourced native plants/trees/shrubs which appear to be growing quite well and we're waiting on satisfactory quotes for some turfing & reticulation for “Gracie Fields” – that being the area at the back of the property that we cleaned up & did most of the planting. The area I mentioned previously as being full of all sorts of rubbish etc.

And that completes the noos from the west coast of down under – now reachable from the UK in 17 hours on one flight! Just received the online version of the yearbook....didn't realise I'd written quite so much!”

Phil was next in touch to say that on Feb 9th 2019 they were having a party in respect of 25 years of wedded bliss. Dee also turns 50 but *“she’s fighting that charge on the grounds of diminished responsibility. So any of the good guys (precious few as my ageing memory goes!!) wish to make the trek over here, they are more than welcome. At least it’s just the one flight to Oz from London now!”* Sadly I won’t be able to take up the invite as a bit far.

He said that both thumbs were now 6mm shorter than they were 12 months ago, but the upside was that neither of them hurt any longer. He said *“WA is having an Indian summer. Usually by this time of year the rains have arrived. What little there has been has not been terribly impressive. Effectively, we’ve had maybe 6 inches of rain since the turn of the year, and that’s being generous. Farmers have held off planting because there’s no pint with everything being so dry.”*

Have had the homestead turfed recently – plus an in-ground reticulation system in each area. Fortunately, our water meter is on the side of the good guys and is resolutely refusing to correctly acknowledge the flow of water which has save us a pretty penny!! “

In September he was congratulating me on becoming a Grandpa. He was also sorry to learn of Jeremy Page’s demise. He said *“I can still picture his face! Complete with the 70’s bushy sideburns, drainpipe trousers and side-zipped boots he used to wear. I recall he had a largish study on the main corridor from where he would amuse himself looking out at the walkers up and down detecting the bunker-offers..... Sad that Alzeihmers claims yet another victim – he can’t have been 70 when he died? Too young, way too young.”*

Jim Coe (Z80-89) is the brother of OF Co-ordinator **Kate Jackson (P84-93)**. He was contacted By Chris Shaw about attending an OF reunion in Sydney in March 2018 which he and Karen then did. You can see a fuller report later on about the Sydney reunion and Jim has promised an update for a future Overseas Bag, which I’m sure will feature his winery!

Mike Brown (K53-59) says he’s a very ancient former student and was seeking to log in and enjoy the various activities of the society on line. We got him set up and I hope to hear more news from him.

Nick Carlton (G63-70) was sad to hear about the death of Philip de Whalley at the end of 2017 and added *“I visited him again last July when I had a few days in Suffolk ... with his and June’s mobility being restricted my sister takes blessed wine and bread to them after communion once or twice a month from St Peter’s, Bruisyard and we had a little service. I’ll miss him; he was very good to me at school, gave me encouragement and I have a lot to thank him for. I particularly remember fun times sailing at Orford. He had a certain fidelity in life which is an inspiration.”*

On a personal front he reported that retirement was busy, sorting out so much after all his years at sea and being around the house with constant jobs. He missed the people he worked with and of course his steward. They had a couple of weeks in the UK in July and took his son James to the Scottish Highlands where they had a great time and excellent weather. At the time of writing they had just got back from a caravan trip to the south coast of Western Australia over Christmas, spending time at Peaceful Bay which is a delightful spot with lovely scenery and vineyards etc.

Sadly Nick was next in touch when I advised him and other contemporaries of the death of **Jeremy Page (K62-70)**. He recalled *“Jeremy and I were house captains together 69-70 and we got on very well ... he was a great character with a wonderful sense of humour and I enjoyed his company. His wife sounds lovely and very devoted.”*

I have just returned to Australia after a successful 3 weeks in the UK, mainly in the Scottish Highlands though had a few days in Suffolk and managed to visit June de Whalley who is holding up as bright as a button but very frail. I visited Philip’s last resting place in Dennington churchyard.”

Mike Garnett (R53-55) has as always been in regular touch and with Chris Shaw. When he first wrote the England cricket series was well underway and England were still in with a faint chance of retaining the Ashes, something that sadly didn't happen.

When The Framlinghamian arrived he was interested to read that **Martin Pearce (K59-63)** is bringing an over-70's cricket team to Australia in March. He went on to say *"I too have played in a number of over-70's sporting events mainly tennis. So I understand the enjoyment of competing at a 'senior' level. If you are in touch with Martin please give him my regards from Melbourne, and tell him that I would be delighted to take him to lunch and maybe even have a hit of real tennis with him at my club. Tell him I have a spare racket."*

As recalled elsewhere in the magazine, a letter from **Jim McBride (S40-43)** had been found under the floor boards of another school in Sussex where he had boarded prior to the College. Mike says *"I first met Jim McBride about mid-1970's after I was transferred to Melbourne from Adelaide with my company (BP Australia). The tip-off came from Tom Saul (or perhaps General Inskip?) both of whom I kept in regular but infrequent contact. They hand-wrote to me every year when I was on the tea plantations of northern India and the wilds of New Guinea. They were very kind and I had a lot of respect for them both."*

After I had settled in Melbourne, I got in touch with Jim and learned that he was working just down the road from me – at Victoria Barracks and I was at BP House. So it was easy for me at lunch break to wander into the barracks and search out Colonel Jim McBride of the Royal Australian Engineers. He was a very nice person with a military bearing and somewhat older than me. We combined to organise quite a few OF functions over the years, which brings to mind some of the early characters who must have been born in the Victorian era such as Athol Stone and John Fitzherbert.

Jim was married to Patricia who had been born in Hobart – and they moved there following his retirement. It was about this time that their son Craig left school. Jim's older brother David was married to Valda – he had also served in the army during the war. But it was Jim who was keen to get the old boys together.

I last saw them in Hobart in the late 1990's (I think) when I was with a team playing real tennis there – we went out to dinner. I think they lived in the suburb of Sandy Bay. So these are a few of my recollections."

In late March Mike was again in touch to say that Prince Edward was due to visit in April on a fundraiser for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. His equerry Tim Roberts and a bunch of UK police descended on Romsey do a recce for security. Tim enjoys real tennis, so Mike was contacted a month or so earlier asking if he would give him a game. In anticipation of Edward's visit Gordon Cope-Williams (the owner) completely renovated the court. He lost to Tim by one game, but he wondered if Tim was just being diplomatic!! Mike on the left sent this picture.

The picture was taken on Mike's local Romsey court.

In June Mike offered to make contact with **JoJo Maberly (P04-17)** who planned to visit Melbourne.



John Gates (S44-48) has been in regular touch throughout the year, usually with updates on OF **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** who he visits regularly. However, he was first in touch at the end of 2017 about a cruise he and Ruth were doing on Sea Princess which was going to call in at Cairns and therefore they will be meeting up Chris and Rebecca Shaw. He requested an OF tie for the occasion which I duly arranged.

At the beginning of December 2017 he saw Peter Bailey and as always he was in good spirits & asked him to tell everybody not to worry he is OK. John spends about a hour with him each time. He says "All told he is pretty good for nearly 96".

Just before Christmas in an email to Chris Shaw he said *"We will be going down to Brisbane on the 24th just to spend 3 days with our daughter Sarah for Christmas, usually she comes to us but then she cannot imbibe a few drinks, so this year she will be OK."*

Tomorrow we are going down to the New Sunshine Coast University Hospital where our eldest daughter Jill is in the Rehab Unit for an assessment (she is totally paralysed on whole of right side & virtually cannot speak)- they are trying to find out if there is any possibility of her doing anything for herself. Also Jill will soon be getting a new wheelchair courtesy of the Government, cost nearly \$10,000 and this chair will be brought to the meeting at 10am tomorrow. So there will be us, Jill, many Dr's, an Occupational Therapist & the wheelchair specialist all there, so a tiring day for Ruth & myself."

John also asked whether Chris and Rebecca had finally decided to move into a Retirement home – more on that later.

John's edited Christmas message read as follows :-

"Whilst some of you are experiencing some cold weather, being in the northern Hemisphere, we are now into Summer, having had our fare share of rain and huge storms, fireworks display was cancelled, but the lightening surpassed them."

We had a cruise to Japan earlier in the year, made new friends, however caught colds, but AI by the time we got home. The weather in Japan was rather on the cold side, but not put us off, and March next year we are taking a cruise round Australia, taking Sarah, Ellen and Lauren, just 28 days, should be fun."

We seem to have had a busy year, had both cataracts done – very good. Do not need glasses to watch TV or drive the car, but need them for small print."

Friends from Yorkshire will be arriving in January, then in February my niece from UK will spend a few days enroute to NZ to see her son. With our cruise in March, there goes 3 months of the year. We are hoping to visit friends in NSW in September, they are hoping to put on a 2nd story, so will depend on dry weather."

On New Year's Day 2018 John called around and spent about 1 hour with Peter Bailey. He reports *"Peter sent his very best to you, he is quite contented & very glad he is in the RSL Care home, he realizes that he would no longer be able to cope & look after himself at Twin waters where he was living previously, so he just sits in his chair & watches TV. He was taken out for Christmas lunch by the daughter of a friend which was lovely for him & he said he thoroughly enjoyed himself, which was really great."*

John went on to say that their travel plans for this year are:- Cruise to Tasmania & right around Australia on 22nd March (28 days), will be calling into Cairns & will be meeting up with Chris & Rebecca Shaw. Then about 3rd September driving down to just North of Newcastle in NSW to stay with friends - overall time about 14 days. Then on 27th December another Cruise around New Zealand, which will cover 2018.

Just a couple of days later I got the following shock news from John *"I was taken by ambulance to the Emergency dept at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital last night at about 7.pm. Back home now at 1pm, but having to have an MRI tomorrow morning at 10.15.am & will be having something else in about a week where they put WIRES etc on your head. I came home after playing Bridge yesterday, having driven home, then I remember having problem with the telephone, then I remember nothing until I was lying in the Ambulance at about 7pm, then nothing until I saw Ruth & my daughter Sarah sitting by my bed in the Emergency Dept at the S.C.University Hospital at about 9pm - I was moved for observation into a ward at about 2.am, and at about 5.30.am saying to the nurse can you give me something to sleep. So for the period from about 2.pm on the 3rd Jan until about 9.pm on the 3rd I cannot recall anything."*

He later reported that he's had the all clear after an EEG, after suffering what they called a Transient Global Amnesia episode.

In early March he's been to see Peter Bailey for about an hour and he reported that he was just the same, but has difficulty just like himself in sleeping. Peter will be 96 on 28 March and as he will be away on his cruise by then I asked Chris Shaw if he would give him a ring.

In April they met up with Chris & Rebecca Shaw in Cairns during their cruise and the picture below shows left to right – Rebecca Shaw, John Gates, Chris Shaw, Ruth Gates.



On 18 June after returning from his cruise he visited Peter Bailey again reported that he was just the same, in good spirits & doesn't want anybody to worry about him.

In July after visiting Peter again he report *"How things have changed over the years, when I had bowel cancer in 1997, I was in hospital for 15 days & could only eat ICE for 10 of them. My Brother Jerry who lives in Salisbury was very recently diagnosed with B.C, only in hospital for 4 days- had " Key Hole Surgery ", however has had to have a Catheter inserted for 3 weeks, not sure which situation I like best !!"* When I enquired he said his brother **Jerry Gates (S44-49)** has never had any association with Fram since he left the College, but provided current contact details for him in Salisbury.

Rob Goodale (K58-63) sent best wishes at Christmas.

Ed Henry (G56-66) decided to get in touch with updated postal address in Wonthaggi, Victoria. He went on to say *"I decided approximately 3 years ago to make a sea change, and moved from the city of Melbourne to this beautiful area on the south coast of Gippsland in Victoria. Living here is far more tranquil, our peak hour traffic lasts for all of 10 minutes and even that is less than the amount of traffic passing through one change of traffic lights in the suburbs where I used to live.*

*Despite that life is now more exciting than it had been for years. Since May 2016 I have had two trips to Tasmania and four trips to Bali. In February 2018 we are off to India for three weeks where I hope I can catch up with **Richard Gould (K66-71)** in Goa. He and I met by accident on 1st January 2012 sitting next to each other in front row seats on an A380 flight from Qatar to London enjoying a glass or two of whisky together, and ending up with a visit to the cockpit. In July / August we have another trip booked for Bali and later in the year we are hoping to make it to UK and Mexico.*

I still work part time in my company to keep my hand in and brain active. In 2013 I met and talked with Rod Drury, the CEO and founder of Xero. It became immediately obvious that here was a man with a vision for the small business sector, so that year we dropped the distribution of the Sage 50 product in Australia and NZ and moved our whole practice from Sage to Xero, from being desk bound to being free to work from anywhere there is an internet connection. This whole revolution in the accounting field is incredibly exciting and sometimes makes me wish that I were still 30 so I could fully embrace it and grow another business."

Ann Hogarth (V85-87) responded to an email I sent to OFs in Perth in February 2018. I had been contacted by **Nick Samson (R93-95)** who lives near Perth and posted on the OF Overseas Facebook page that he was going to an **Ed Sheerin (BH96-02)** concert in Perth and wondered if any OFs would like to meet up for a drink beforehand. Ann said *"I am not going to the concert but as far as I know at this stage I will be in Perth on the 3rd - it is mid term break however for the kids - but at this stage we are not going anywhere. So depending on location I could meet up for a beer or two that weekend. I am currently based in Peppermint Grove near to Cottesloe - I dont know where the other OF's are but perhaps we can find somewhere in the epi centre for us to drive to!"* Unfortunately her children then had to do ice hockey out at Malaga so she couldn't make it.

Peter Hollins (K70-76) sent an update at Christmas 2017

Hi and welcome to the Hollins family Christmas letter – 2017 edition, It's been a very different year for 3 out of 4 of us, with new jobs and destinations. Twelve months ago, Em has just started out at the White Room, Sal was commencing as CEO of Willie Creek Pearls and the Editor was retiring into a life of share trading and golf. Some things change ! The only consistency has been life for Matt. Second year Uni at Notre Dame, football for Collegians, cricket for Scarborough, working behind the bar at the local Cambridge bowls club, (and a few sessions in front of the bar with mates!) He still drives the Spoiler, (Lancer with sound controls jammed at max), which only gets washed when it rains or inadvertently left under the sprinklers, and the interior of the car matches his bedroom, (in fact, to match up his socks you must find one half from under his car seat and the other from under his bed.) (The Ed's wardrobe is also suspiciously light on for shirts these days and he only discovers where they have got to when scanning Matt's Instagram posts!) Matt managed to get himself to the Eastern States a couple, including the Richmond Tigers semi final with 93,000 others – at least he knew the club song as it doubles for

Claremont FC! Fortuitously, Matt passed all his Uni courses and can proceed happily on to 3rd year. Em has had another hard working year. She was promoted to an account manager's role at the advertising agency and now handles some well known brands in Perth. She finished Notre Dame last year but was announced in early 2017 as the Australian Marketing Institute's Emerging Marketer of the year and won the Dean's award for the highest point score in the Commerce faculty, (I suspect she may have outperformed the Ed but lack of time prevents him checking the records – deadline pressure.) Em took herself back to UCLA in July for the Young Leaders week as a mentor, she maintained her netball role at MLC as the umpire's co-ordinator training and supporting over 20 girls whilst also umpiring and playing on a Saturday. Em still lives at home, has consistent in depth and at volume discussions with Matt and has to pay her parents a monthly wine tax instead of rent! Sal has had a challenging year as CEO of Willie Creek Pearls – they are based in Broome with the pearl farm being 20 kms north of the town. The company not only produces and sells its own pearls but is Broome's biggest tourism operator, has one of the favourite restaurants, (with the town's best coffee), plus three retail showrooms in Perth. The last of these has only recently opened at Elizabeth Quay. Sal was instrumental in the store's site location, its design and commencement, (Elizabeth Quay itself is a brand new tourist and hotel area on the Swan River adjacent to the CBD.) Having worked for herself for number of years Sal has enjoyed returning to a privately owned family company and despite the challenges of a role stretching from one end of Western Australia to the other she has successfully re-branded the organisation and laid out a strategy for the next couple of years. She has become the 'face' of WCP, appearing on radio shows and, recently, a national live TV show demonstrating how to open an oyster and, hopefully, finding a pearl inside. She has also been involved in promoting WA Tourism and spoke at conventions in Albany, WA, and Cairns, Qld. She has found time recently to work out with a private trainer with a focus on building up muscles that were affected by her chemo treatment and MS. (Sal continues to have the 'all clear' medically.) Fortunately, her husband, in the spirit of self-sacrifice, volunteered to spend much of his time away in Broome assisting Sal in upgrading Willie Creek's financial and tourism software, running the finances and developing appropriate reporting systems. He has, bravely, put up with the heat, humidity, insects, sea snakes, floods, camels, no Foxtel, and the locals,, all whilst living in a flat above the shop! (At a time when his golf handicap was coming down and remained undefeated in the senior pennant golf competition). The distant family in Perth insist that to live in Broome is 'living the dream' but the Ed knows better!!!! (However, in the face of pressure for political correctness Sal's husband would like to acknowledge that, at times, Broome isn't too bad!) We have to sorrowfully report that we had to have Max, our Labrador, put down in the middle of the year. Sal & I were in Broome at the time and it was left to Em & Matt to transport Max between Vets and the hospital and to be with him at the end. They did a great job. We, I thought, decided not to immediately replace Max with another puppy – so imagine my surprise, on my return from Broome, to find small diggings in the lawn and vegie patch, my boots shredded, and cries for Paddy to drop whatever he was stealing away with! Yes, we now have a 14 week old Labrador puppy with a ferocious appetite for everything not tied down, (Broome seems like a good place again!) **LAST WORD FROM SAL:** "Funny how the perspective has changed - I could have sworn Pete was the main driver for a new dog." So, 2017 was a very different year for us and for the Ed, now back in Perth, and catching up with the news – apparently we are 3 – 0 up in the Ashes ?! He's also trying to put some semblance of normality back into the house. Not sure what next year will bring but we wish you all a very happy 2018 – enjoy! Peter, Sally, Em, & Matt.



Peter Hughes (G52-56) sadly died on on 26th September 2018, after about 12 months illness. You will read later that **Chris Shaw (K50-56)** attended his funeral and his full obituary is on the Noticeboard on the website.

Colin Lipman (R53-61) heard that distinguished sportsman and OF **Martin Pearse (K59-63)** was coming to Sydney and felt that this was a great excuse for an OF get together! Martin and Colin has last met in London about 48 years ago!

Colin arranged for OFs to meet at 'Q Dining' in The Pullman Hotel at Circular Quay on 21 March 2018 and the following is the report subsequently written by Chris Shaw with photos :-

This dinner was designed as a Dinner of Welcome, and to quote Kate Jackson's words, 'Our aim was to make everyone feel part of the Framlingham Family.' More of this later.

We were to meet to welcome Martin Pearse (K59-63) to our shores. Martin has an astonishing CV, but in Australia he was here to play in the over-70's UK Cricket Team, who had ventured in to enemy territory to win their coveted version of the Ashes in a five match test series against Australia. The dinner was held in a bar and restaurant on Circular Quay, which is adjacent to both the Harbour Bridge, the scene of the first, and arguably the best firework display in the world at midnight on New Year's Day; and the Opera House, which needs no introduction either. The object of the dinner was to welcome Martin Pearse to Australia, and give him a taste of Australian hospitality, which few survive! First to arrive was Chris Shaw and his wife Rebecca from Cairns, closely followed by Col and Lexie, our hosts for the evening. Ian and Julia Richardson were kind enough to look in on us, to welcome Martin and catch up with other OFs, since they had pre-booked another event at the Opera House. It was great to see them. Then came Mike Allport carrying an umbrella, and Bunny, his wife; maybe Mike has mellowed in his ex-RAF Wing Commander role, and they are always happy and in good form. Robert Ritchie of the Ritchie brothers arrived, followed soon afterwards by brother Bruce. They are funny, sunny, and bright, and always good value.

Then Martin arrived with introductions all round. Then his son, Jack, arrived. Jack works in Sydney, went to Gresham's School in North Norfolk, and by general acclaim was made an Honorary OF for the evening.

Last, but by no means least, Jim Coe and his lovely wife Karen arrived. Here's where it gets a tad weird. Jim farms near Wagga Wagga. (Yes, you can refer to it as 'Wagga,' but you can't call Woy Woy, 'Woy;' that's just Australian protocol).

Jim and Karen have the Leaning Cow Winery, and produce both red and white wine, which they market, beautifully presented, in the same way that Interflora markets their flowers. Jim is the brother of our SOF Coordinator at Fram, Kate Jackson, and both are grandchildren of Martin Irving, who taught most of us attending this dinner, 'Le language de France' at Fram. That, my friends, is the essence of networking – connecting circles.

Chris Shaw had made prior contact with Jim by phone and e-mail, had received a bottle of wine from him – eminently acceptable – and in turn sent a couple of books. Chris promised to keep writing if Jim keeps supplying the wine!

We had a very fine meal indeed, and people moved around and chatted. Chris Shaw had bought a replica Ashes Urn, purchased in Cairns from a master woodworker. He, Chris, had made a facsimile label, so it looked the real deal. It was put in front of Martin,



who had apparently not had a good tour – Oh, Dear! – and he kissed it – presumably as a gesture of saying, ‘Goodbye.’

Then Chris presented both Martin and Jim Coe with the last of the books of the Commemorative Dinner in the Hunter Valley in 2015, with a letter of welcome, which he read out.

Thanks to everyone who took part, and to Colin and Lexie for arranging the whole thing.

This dinner was an inspiring statement that the Framlingham Family is alive and well, and in very good spirits.

The fact that this event was held on the same day as the Hong Kong Dinner, organised by Moira Theulier; and the marriage of Chris Essex’s daughter Samantha, organised by the Bride and Groom, seems to indicate that OFs are in no danger of running out of steam; only days of the year on which to celebrate!

From bottom left: Rebecca Shaw, Chris Shaw, Colin Lipman, Martin Pearse, Bruce Ritchie, Robert Ritchie

From bottom right: Jack Pearse, Lexie Lipman, Mike Allport, Bunny Allport, Jim Cow, Karen Coe.



Neville Marsh (S53-61) is again one of our regular corresponders via email and was in touch Christmas 2017 with seasonal greetings. His news was “I spoke to Peter Bailey this week who is in fine form, still having a glass or two of his top drop each evening. He is in regular touch with son Brett and partner Sue. Peter will have a quiet Christmas in the nursing home and we will get up to see him in the New Year. I also spoke to Hetta Simpson this morning who is still coming to terms with the loss of dear Peter. She will spend Christmas on Sydney’s Northern beaches with Barb, her friend of 40 years whom she met off the boat when she first arrived in Australia. We have resolved to catch up after the holidays. Chris and Rebecca Shaw, as you know, have “downsized” to a retirement village and like me have been forced to throw out much of his beloved memorabilia. Chris may well come down to Brisbane when Martin Pearse comes over next year for the Old Un’s Cricket but as yet we do not have any details of his itinerary. We leave for Hervey Bay tomorrow morning to spend Christmas with our youngest son Alex and his expectant wife Jemma, who have a 37 acre block about 350 km north of here. Apart from everything that he has to offer on his bush land, we shall get to the beach and hopefully Fraser Island. All in all, we survive as a small bunch of Old Boys up in God’s Country.”

When the latest set of OF Council minutes came round (Neville is a Vice President of SOF) he remarked on the opening of the Fowler Pavilion *"I was interested in the note on the Fowler Pavilion. I was also a prize winner the day that the Duke of Norfolk opened the original pavilion (8 June 1957). I also have a short cine clip of the event and the original program of the opening, in case you don't have one in the archives."*

In April he was just back on his feet and almost back to full strength post-surgery. He was able to catch up with **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** on his 96th birthday. The photo shows that he still stands tall! He is well in all respects and continues to enjoy a glass or two of best Barossa shiraz for dinner.



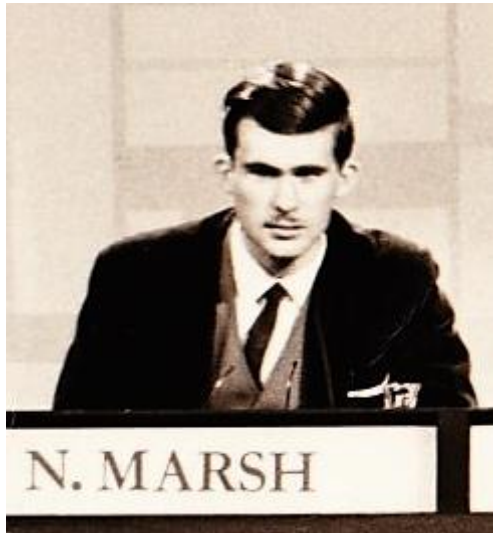
In June Neville wrote to me about that well known and long running UK programme "University Challenge" and that he and **Ian Channell (42-45)** had definitely featured on it but wondered if any other OFs may have done. Here is the piece he wrote and which I published on the SOF website.

OLD FRAMLINGHAMIANS AND "UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE" AN EXCLUSIVE CLUB?

Any visitor crossing The Ditch from Australia to the Land of the Long White Cloud will almost certainly come across the Wizard of New Zealand, AKA Ian Brackenbury Channell QSM who was at Framlingham from 1942 to 1945. Ian describes himself as an educator, comedian, magician and politician but above all, he is a much loved and cherished NZ institution.

I first met Ian at the Hunter Valley 150th OF Reunion and he made an immediate impression on us, resplendent in his robes and pointy hat. However, it was not until I read up on the legend that I discovered that we are members of a very elite Club: OFs who have appeared on University Challenge. Ian went to Leeds University as a mature student from 1960-63 and appeared on University Challenge on 5 October 1962 as "champions" and beat Manchester Uni. I was at the University of London from 1962-65 and appeared on the program on 31 December 1963. We were roundly beaten by an inform team from Christchurch Oxford. Ian and I appeared, therefore, in the first year of broadcasts of the program (which is still going after 46 complete seasons).

To exemplify the passing of time, here are screen shots from 1962-3 and more recent photos for comparative purposes.



Ian and I also share the honour of answering the first starter question correctly. You can view part of Ian's stellar performance on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oZk6DWlw8I>.

Unfortunately, the tape of my appearance has been lost but for the record, my starter for 10 was "Who recently had a birthday cake with a bridge .. ". I cut Bamber Gascoigne off at that point with the answer "Winston Churchill". It was the last question I answered!

A question to readers then: are there other OFs out there who have made the small screen and can join our elite club?

Tim Kestin (R60-69) subsequently came forward suggesting his contemporary **John Christopher Thomas Cooper (S64-68)** was on University Challenge in the early '70's. He was not in touch with him and sadly neither is the SOF so we can't check out. If anyone know him or any OF who appeared on this programme please get in touch.

In August he had spoken to Peter Bailey and he was cheerful and "no better but no worse". He tells Neville that he walks for 30 minutes each day and still enjoys a glass (or two) of wine at lunch and dinner. He speaks to his biographer lady every Sunday and keeps in touch with his old Twin Waters friends. Neville and his wife Alison were having lunch with Brett Bailey and Sue the following Sunday.

Neville reported that they had a couple of days at the Kirkton Park Sebel en route to Sydney. The place has been refurbished since our 150th reunion there in 2015 and it was nice to see the Hunter Valley in sunshine! (see picture below). He have fond memories of the 150th OF weekend and the view below was very similar to the room we had the reunion.



They were having lunch in Sydney with Brett and Sue later that day. Brett had driven up from Canberra for the occasion so he is keen to be there. He also congratulated me on the arrival of Toby (our first grandchild) although *“your contribution to the event was probably minimal”*.

He subsequently reported that they had met Brett and Sue in Blakehurst as they had to drive up from Woolongong. They had a very pleasant lunch in a crowded, noisy cafe but still managed to converse. He hoped they will be in Queensland before Christmas to see Peter so will stay over with them for a night. Here is a picture of Neville, Alsion, Brett and Sue when they met up.



Bob Munro (R56-60) was also fascinated by the discovery of the wartime letters written by **Jim MacBride (S40-43)** and said *“What a fantastic story! And congratulations to all involved who made the effort to see it through. A most uplifting saga, and as you say, what a shame that Jim was not alive to have seen this happen. I would love to know how the letter found it's way down through the floor-boards!”*

In June 2018 he was ruing the Australian winter *“G'day there Chris from a somewhat Wintry Mildura, here in good 'ole Oz. Temperatures are down to 2-3 degrees C. at night, with daytime temps. in the low teens. But it is not all bad, as the days are bright and sunny with little or no cloud. Nevertheless, roll on Summer!”*

*When I was at Fram in the late 1950's, **J.E.Butchart (R51-60)** was Head Boy. Hanging up in his study (which at that time overlooked the 'Front'), there was a small, framed cartoon of a schoolboy in full flight doing a text book rugby flying tackle (Union, of course!) on some unfortunate individual. The punch line was "well tackled fframlingham! I was sufficiently intrigued by this apparent reference to the College, so I wrote a letter to the cartoonist Joseph Lee at The Evening News newspaper. At the time I also took a (rather poor) black & white photograph of the cartoon. Amazingly, I received a reply from my enquiry from Mr. LEE himself. A copy of that reply is attached. And it appears from his reply that I may have requested the original cartoon on behalf of the College. Of course, after all this time I have absolutely no recollection whatsoever of what I actually wrote. And sadly, I do not have a copy of my original letter (it would have to have been a carbon paper copy (no photocopiers or computers in those days!) if one is old enough to remember that far back), nor have I been able to find the negative(s) of the cartoon.*

So, two questions:- 1) Is the cartoon still 'around', or has it been lost to posterity? and 2) If it hasn't (and I sincerely hope it has not been 'lost'), would you like me to forward this original letter to the College, to 'join up' with the cartoon? I am assuming that the College still has a museum, or a history section?”

After much searching around at the College by Kate Jackson and others we have sadly had to conclude that the cartoon has been lost. Bob meanwhile had travelled to Europe and was in a small town in Italy visiting his wife's relatives, prior to a short holiday in the Greek Islands, when the news was passed on.

If anyone knows any more information on this cartoon and especially what happened to it please get in touch.

At the time of putting this Overseas Bag together, **Norman Porter (K50-57)** has confirmed he remembers the cartoon but doesn't know what happened to it. Bob is contacting **Jim Butchart (R51-60)** to see if he can shed any light.

Jon Newbery (Z79-84) apologised for not being able to meet up in Sydney when Martin Pearse visited "Unfortunately Marzenna and I will not be able to attend as I will be interstate that week. I hope you all have a great evening and I hope to be available for the next get together. "

Neil Randell (Z88-93) had been promising me a write up from his new home in Nelly Bay, Queensland and he sent through the following *"We've left the big smoke behind and as the Aussies say and we've made a seachange. We've decided to give living on Magnetic Island a go. We moved up here on a 12 month trial about 8 months ago. I've been working as a tour guide on the island doing bus tours. A far cry from my old life working in Corporate IT. But way less stress. I've gone from spending about 2 hours a day with my kids to about 6. Definitely adopted a work to live, not live to work mantra these days. The kids were in a bit of a shock - they left a school in Sydney that had 150 children in each year. There are 140 children in the whole school on the island and that is across K-6!*

So far Island life agrees with us and it looks like we will stay. Its a far cry from my previous lives in London, Hong Kong and Sydney!!! Living with 2,300 people on a 52 sq km island, 8 km North of Townsville. It is part of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and the island is 70% national park. There's currently much chatter on the island about the two traffic lights that have appeared due to road works. Prior to that we had none! The things we have to put up with! All in a good cause though, as they're extending a walking track.

I've just started getting back in the swimming pool after our terrible winter. We had a week of temperatures dropped as low as 15 degrees C. and the pool and sea temps dropped to 23 degrees C. Intolerable!! They're currently back to 25 degrees, which is much more agreeable, and will peak at around 28C during summer. The end of winter does mean end of whale season though, and I will miss sitting on the beach front having a coffee watching humpback whales swim past. Some mornings they are literally a few hundred metres off shore.

Tropical Cyclone Debbie earlier in the year luckily passed us by with virtually no effect on the island. There is a certain element on the island that believes that the shape of our island and the hills around Townsville divert cyclones away. I don't subscribe to that theory, Cyclone Althea struck the island in 1971 and destroyed or damaged 90% of the buildings on the island. The communities further south of us didn't fair so well but seem to be recovering. Our kids were very upset after all the preparations we had made, so we ended up having to have a 'cyclone dinner' of tinned spaghetti and baked beans to keep them happy.

After an extremely busy tourist season, I am looking forward to some quieter times - visitor numbers in peak season can increase the island's population to 8000! Jan and Feb tend to be very quiet here as not many visitors want to brave the heat and wet. It averages 30C and 70%-90% humidity. We supposedly get 1.5metres (yes - Metres) of rain a year. 40% falling in January and 40% falling in February. If it rains this year we will go and sit under a waterfall there are a few to choose from on the island."

Chris Subba Row (R74-78) was in touch about the 2018 annual dinner. He said he couldn't make this as now left Qatar and looking for new opportunities in Melbourne Australia.

Nick Samson (R93-95) lives in Narrogin and posted on the OF Overseas Facebook page that he was going to an Ed Sheeran concert on 3 March and wondered if any OFs would like to meet up for a drink beforehand.

I contacted all OFs in the area and a number responded as you read elsewhere. Nick had no idea so many OFs lived in and around Perth. He said *“This was just a spontaneous idea I had when reminiscing about my time at Framlingham which was prompted by Ed Sheeran connection to Brandeston. I have no expectation that Ed will be able to attend, as I assume that he will be quite busy that weekend!”*

I have now made my travel plans for the weekend of the Ed Sheeran concert. I will be staying in the Hilton in Perth. I will be catching the train to Optus Stadium so if we meet up in the evening, so we are close to Perth station would be best for me. I am thinking the Belgium Beer Café at 4pm? Or somewhere else nearby, I am open to suggestions. If that does not work for others I could meet up for lunch instead.”

I look forward to hearing who met up and it would be great if someone in the Perth area was prepared to organise an OF event there. Happy to provide contact details.

Chris Shaw (K50-56) has been brilliant at keeping in touch with me and even more importantly with OFs who live in Australia and NZ. On hearing that **Martin Pearse** was visiting Australia and **Colin and Lexie Lipman** were planning a dinner to mark the occasion in Sydney, Chris and Rebecca made arrangements to travel down from Cairns and attend – see earlier report.

On hearing that **Neil Randall (Z88-93)** was moving north to Queensland, he sent the following message to him *“We’re probably not as bad as the ‘cockroaches’ paint us, and probably not as good as fellow ‘banana-benders’ say we are. Your comments on Maggie Island evoked some memories of working in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight, where they referred to ‘Islanders’ and ‘Mainlanders’. Islanders were very pleased when the Mainlanders went home! There is an OF in Townsville but he appears not inclined to join in our occasional fun and games. In Cairns there are Peter and Janet Hughes; he’s a retired pharmacist like myself and we shared the early ’50’s at Fram, he Garrett and me Kerrison. There is Louis Simon, a Brandestonian, who lives on the Atherton Tablelands. So I will add you name to the local list and be in touch if there is an event, and give you options to join in, if that’s what you would like me to do. Enjoy your new-found lifestyle. There was a film made starring Leo McKern, he of Rumpole fame, called Travelling North. You may like to chase that up. Keep smiling and we’re on the end of a phone or e-mail if you need us.”*

Chris congratulated **Kate Jackson (P84-93)** on her appointment as OF Co-ordinator based at the College. He spotted that Kate had a brother **Jim Coe (Z80-89)**, who now lives in New South Wales in Australia and established contact with him.

He sent a picture of him and Rebecca centre, taken at Yorkeys Knob Yacht Club, where we had an OF dinner in 2011. He had been watching ‘Bathurst 1000’ all day which is a 1000km, 161 circuit car race for V8 Supercars and takes about 7 hours. He’d recently been in touch with **Peter Bailey (K34-38)** and sent him a couple of his books to read.



Towards the end of 2017 he reported that Rebecca had an MRI and a Holter monitor for chasing irregular heart beats. He goes on to say *"While I was waiting for her to finish the monitor tests, I was reading about Retirement Villages in a magazine, which mentioned one in Cairns. So, on the way home we called in and spoke to the Manager, viewed a two bedroom unit, heard all the spiel, and took Rebecca out to lunch. She had been ready for this for 10 years she tells me, while I wasn't. At that point, it became obvious that I was now ready too. MAJOR, MAJOR decision, because of all the 'stuff' we had held on to, with all the memories etc. etc. The downsizing alone was a challenge. Then it became 'Hurry, Hurry! So we had the garage sale, then donated a heap of stuff to the Animal refuge, and signed on the dotted line on 1st November.*

Got a local Real Estate chap who had sold the house next door, walked him around the house for constructive comments, and sat down for a chat. Apparently yellow walls internally are not good, so needed to be painted in a neutral colour! Blah! Then we needed the, now empty, library totally re-painted, then there was this to be done, followed by that to be done. So we are left with an empty house but not moving in for two months. In the middle of all this was a liberal application of furniture polish on to woodwork, some of which descended to the floor to be mopped up by Rebecca's slippers. In attempting a 180 degree turn, the Coefficient of Static Limiting Friction failed and she went down in a bit of a heap. The result is one broken wrist, one sprained wrist, one probably fractured rib, and a most unladylike description of the feelings of an Aries female thwarted mid-clean! So, we doctored, and we X-rayed, and we CT Scanned, and have come out the other end having achieved everything we had to do. There was only one box left to pack of 70+, which I managed. Her best friend is up from Canberra, and will be helping us to house clean. Never a dull moment is there.

The village is just that. Most of the inmates are aged but not infirm and from our experience so far, have very good attitudes. This is a major change for me, less for Rebecca, but just another one of the predictable Seven Ages of Man. We should be cleared of paperwork, legals, etc, by about the end of January, by which time I hope Rebecca is out of plaster.

*We can see a Dickensian Christmas coming as we are left with very minimal 'stuff', and will be 'Glamping!' That's 'glamour camping.' In reality, two chairs and a candle on the floor attempting to heat a tin of Mr Heinz's baked beans is an image that comes easily to mind. In truth, communication may be a tad sparse until we have a secure footing once more. We are in touch with **Hetta Simpson, Peter Bailey, John Gates and Neville Marsh, Col Lipman and our old friend Mike Garnett, Robert Munro, Peter Hughes, and now Jim Coe**, brother of Kathy Jackson, who has received one of my books and has promised a bottle from his winery called, 'The Leaning Cow.'"*

The news came through of their new address in The Parks at Earlville near Cairns.

In early 2018 Chris sent a message to **Jim Coe** that they had had two good friends over for lunch and got a chance to open a bottle of Shiraz Jim kindly sent to him. The consensus was an outstanding round of applause, with accolades going to the packaging and words. Chris also updated Jim on the visit of **OF Martin Pearse**, who was coming over to captain the England Over-70 cricket team and that Colin Lipman would be in touch about a dinner he was arranging at 'Q-Dining' in the Pullman hotel on March 20th at 5pm.

On 14 April 2018 Chris and Rebecca hosted a visit by **John and Ruth Gates (S44-48)** in Cairns and here is his report and photo *"As per arrangements made at least three months prior, Chris (K50-56) and Rebecca Shaw met John (S44-48) and Ruth Gates off the Sea Princess cruise liner in Cairns among a myriad of maritime travellers. We had no idea what they wanted to see since they had made a previous visit to Cairns several decades ago.*

They were in fine form and said they would like to see where we lived, since we had recently moved into a retirement village. We had a cup of coffee and a fine chat, and then showed them where my son lived

with his near-vertical driveway from hell. Thence to Clifton Beach where I had first settled on our arrival in Australia in 1973; the duplex we had first stayed in, and the land where we built the house. John had very generously offered to pay for a lunch in some hotel we frequented rarely. To get the best seafood in town, we went to Barnacle Bill's on the Esplanade; a restaurant that has been producing the best for decades. The seafood, the Sauvignon Blanc from the Marlborough, NZ, and the conversation, were excellent. There was a bit of background noise from the music going on as Cairns joined in the Gold Coast's Commonwealth Games celebrations.

A walk across the road to see the updated facilities and the muddy shoreline, which had so disappointed my first wife, who had assumed the Great Barrier Reef came up to our doorstep. The obligatory photo for John and Ruth to remember their current trip, and back to the Sea Princess for a siesta for the over-40's!

John said that they would not have bothered getting off the ship had it not been for our offer, which had made their day memorable and the conversation so enjoyable. Their visit also continued and confirmed the camaraderie of Old Framlinghamians throughout the world.

Thank you John and Ruth for your company and a very fine lunch. "



Following this visit by John and Ruth, Chris was in touch with news about **Peter Hughes (G52-56)** who we had met when in Cairns in 2011. He had been in poor health. He had his 80th birthday party at the Rondo Theatre here in Cairns on 18th July, which Rebecca and Chris attended. Chris says "*He was a captive audience in his wheelchair but his wife Janet arranged the party for him, together with much help from the theatre staff, and his son came from Sydney for the occasion. I give him, Rory, 9/10 for recognition as he peered at me, trying to remember where he had seen me before. It had been at Peter's 70th birthday party on a replica ship in Cairns harbour called the 'Dyfken', Dutch for 'Little Dove.'*" Garret's version of the 'Three Musketeers' in the mid-1950's were **Peter Hughes, David Summers and John Ashon**. I connected by email with David and Rosie, who you may remember attended 2015 bash in the Hunter. David said they had just that moment returned from the UK, and because of some health condition, they were not able to come to Peter's party on the 18th July. However, he was able to send an email to Peter wishing him all the best.

*One piece of really good 'networking news': **Paul Williman (K50-56)**, a contemporary of mine has grandchildren at Fram. He attended the Brandeston Bash where he met **John Ling (S49-56)**. For whatever reason, my name came up, and John asked to get my address to connect with me. John had been my best friend at Brandeston, but when we went to the 'big school' the Fram 'Sorting Hat' had put him in to Stradbroke, and we virtually lost touch. So it was a great and delightful surprise to hear from Paul, and John and I have exchanged some very long emails. I gather he is doing for his village what you are doing for yours, so is gainfully employed too."*

Chris next reported that his son had phoned to invite him on a fishing trip. "What father would turn that down? Well, you see, the genes are keeping me artificially handsome and robust, but the truth is less sanguine, with my background 'O' level English having to support a couple of hundred thousand words this year in telling stories set in Norfolk, specifically 1914-1920. Walking to the kitchen for another cup of coffee apparently doesn't cut it in the athletic world, so the possibility of getting thrown around the ocean in a small boat was, to say the least, a tad daunting. He did say that it should be a perfect day, weather-wise, and was I up for it? Putting my daunt behind me, as we lifelong, risk-takers do, I accepted his invitation and went over to his place about 5km away in Cairns, too."

We took off from Yorkey's Knob. (Yorkey was a well-known, local Yorkshire drunk, called a "colourful character," and the Knob is a small hill, of course.) The time was around 2pm, blue sky, almost no wind and an almost flat calm sea - as he said, a perfect day. The Reef is composed of about 3000 individual reefs, which may be the size a roundabout and disappear from time to time, to monsters that have been explored only by satellite. Stopping from time to time to sample the fish population, we eventually reached Norman Reef, about 30 miles offshore.

While we fed the local fish populations with large quantities of expensive squid and prawns, pulling in a few of the very dumb ones, we enjoyed a world-class sunset. With smoke in the air from burning sugarcane, and ground fuel-reduction to cut back on the number and intensity of wild-fires, the yellows to oranges to reds to purples took up nearly a third of the sky and was heart-breakingly beautiful. There are tales and legends of crusty old Glaswegian Stokers coming on deck to see the sunset to the west of the Suez Canal, with tears running down their heat-raddled and rimed cheeks. This was one of those. Just as it disappeared the full moon rose from the horizon as a huge orange ball, giving us an orange highway across the water to walk to it. It was the day after the 'Blood Moon' was such a spectacle, world-wide.

Catching the fish was almost an anti-climax after this visual celestial feast. He tickled the bait; I struck and immediately knew he had 'heft.' However, we were in 150 feet of water. He appeared as determined to stay down on his reef as I was that he should not. We tussled, and all the muscles that I used to get the correct inverted commas and 'M' dashes rather than hyphens, came in to play. My knees complained to the Management, but were over-ruled by the lower back, which was being shouted down by shoulders, elbows, wrists and hands that had formed a Union, and Solidarity with more clout! When said fish finally put in an appearance there was a round of applause and a very carefully placed net to bring him in safely. The youngsters, being in the habit of sleeping with their mobile phones in case they need to record a different snore for posterity, were brought to bear, and I give you my fish, appropriately named, 'Norman.' There was a time, about four decades back when I pulled up two of these at once, but I was a tad fitter then - with brown hair, not grey!



The trip back to the mainland at around 10pm was memorable too, since the moon and the planets were in alignment as a bower overhead, to see us safely home - or so it seemed. The fish was a Red Emperor, and is spectacular eating. Young ones are called 'Governor Bream' after the arrow motive on the side of the fish, and on prisoners' clothing. This is Australia, after all, and the quote at Lord's Cricket Ground says it all: 'England has History: Australia has Previous.'"

Finally in this Australian section we need to end on a sad note. As reported earlier **Peter Hughes (G52-56)** died on 26 September 2018 and Chris Shaw was able to attend his funeral and read out the following amazing story of how they met again 50+ years after leaving the College :

In Celebration of a Meeting with Peter Hughes

*Some things in life **can** be predicted.*

If you have lived in Cairns for a period of time, "February, 2pm," is as predictable and descriptive, as "Christmas in Europe."

*Here, in Cairns, it means 33-35C, 95+% humidity, and totally still air – in two words, **HOT**; and **SILENT**, because outside, in the streets, there would be no people, no traffic, no insect noises and no bird sounds.*

*Some things in life **cannot** be predicted.*

At 2pm one Sunday afternoon in February in the late 1990's, I was managing a large, open-fronted Pharmacy in Cairns CBD, thinking about my boss cavorting in his swimming pool with a cold beer, when the phone rang.

"Good afternoon, Cairns Day and Night Pharmacy, this is Chris Shaw, how may I help you?"

"Hello Chris, this is Peter Hughes. I'm managing the Mulgrave Road Pharmacy. Have you got any 'Drug X'?"

"I'll check, Peter."

Pause.

"Yes Peter, I have two."

"I'll send my patient along to you."

"Thank you, Peter."

Pause.

"Nice little Pommie accent there, Peter."

"Yes, I was born in Kent."

"Well, well. I was born in Suffolk."

"Really, I went to school in Suffolk."

"Where?"

"A place called Framlingham College."

Pause.

"When?"

"You're going back a bit now; the early 1950's"

Your name is Peter Hughes. You had red, wavy hair; you were in Garrett House and studied science!"

Pause.

More pause.

Finally:

"How the hell did you do that?"

"Because I was there too, Peter, in Kerrison House, at the same time."

"Good God! I get off at three, I'll be over."

Fifty very odd years flew back to my repeated fifth form year in that stone, cold, Dickensian palace of torture, embarrassment and deprivation, which formed the basis of our education system in those far off days. I recalled that students who had attained the dizzying heights of sixth form science were as Gods on Mount Olympus. Peter used to carry his books and foolscap folders to class in a different way. I later copied that, thinking it was 'cool' long before it had become a popular term – except by the Inuit and the Finns.

Peter, with his lovely wife Janet, arrived later that afternoon. We shook hands for a very long time, but by unspoken consent did not address each other as Dr. Livingstone and Mr. Stanley, although it certainly felt like an historical 'déjà vu' experience.

Since then, we four have met for food, and quantities of nourishing red liquids on many occasions. We've exchanged many tall tales and true-life experiences from around the world.

The odds of two random Framlingham College students, from Kent and Suffolk, in England, in the 1950's, both studying Pharmacy in UK, then coming to Australia, specifically to Cairns, to meet professionally on a hot Sunday afternoon in February, in the 1990's, must be astronomical.

Peter Hughes: please forgive my poor thespian skills. You were a good man and true, who lived a full life.

Some other things in life cannot be predicted. You left us too soon.

Requiescat in Pace.

Aubrey Whitear (G58-65) responded to an email I sent round about the College being contacted by Sarah Monaghan of Sompting Abbots Preparatory School near Worthing in Sussex about a wartime

letter belonging to an OF that had recently been unearthed after 80 years from beneath dormitory floorboards at their school. The school had traced its owner across continents to Australia and revealed details about his family's past which were unknown. The OF was **Donald James "Jim" Macbride (S40-43)**. Aubrey responded by saying that Jim was a lovely fellow who we all miss. He wondered *"if he could remember hiding the letter under the floor board? Perhaps he put it there expecting to come back later to retrieve it? We will never know, which makes it such an interesting story. By the way, I am trying to rearrange my schedule to attend the old Old Boys reunion in July. "* [Here's a link](#) to the story on the SOF website.

CANADA

David McMillan (K54-58) was in touch at Christmas 2017 with the following update *"Greetings from Canada or more specifically....Port Credit on the shores of Lake Ontario!! Thanks for your newsy update from Fram and Family!! I'm quite prepared to take another crack at a Canadian Event but distance is our enemy for anything other than a special occasion but am open for suggestions from you..... or our actual Canadian dinner companions copied in.*

From a personal standpoint, I remain active in the hospitality industry providing experience and facilitating financing for projects in which we typically become involved as Co-Developers (i.e. doing the work!!). Current projects include :

- 1. The revival of an old classic Resort in the Catskills of New York, a 500 room, 580 acre resort with a Greg Norman Golf Course, a Youth Sports Complex, 14 Tennis Courts, Ice Rink, 320 mountain Villas with some skiing, Zip lining, Horseback and Mountain biking trails.*
- 2. The development of a 135 acre, Mandarin Oriental Resort in St Kitts with 125 rooms, 350 villas and condos, Casino and Marina.*
- 3. The development of a 124 room hotel and 324 condos on Biscayne Boulevard in Miami.*
- 4. The development of a 20 acre luxury resort with 40 Suites, 55 Villas and all the trimmings that 5 Stars bring on a white sand paradise in the Bahamas.*

They keep me busy and out of trouble.....and I love it. Next year will be my 60th year in the industry.

The highlight of our social lives is the regular visits of our 10 year old grandson Dawson, a gymnast & trampolinist (like his mother), a skier (like his father) and a hockey player (like me).....except he does it on ice! Still give him a run for his money at street hockey but not a chance on the ice!"

My wife and I were planning to visit western Canada in September/October 2018 and so I contacted Canadian OFs to see if they were around for meeting up. Here are a few of the responses :-

Julian Bayley (S50-53) said *"Thanx for the invitation Chris, but Vancouver is a very long way from Hensall and I'm afraid I don't have anything to take me west at the present time. It would have been good to hook up, but unfortunately things won't work out this time. For us, we will be ramping up for the Christmas season believe it or not and we already have quite a few projects on the go. Business has been reasonably healthy for us although Mr Trump is not helping us in the US with his Buy American, Hire American policies. Shipping costs have been escalating and this has affected our overseas business as well, so we find ourselves consistently trying to develop new revenue streams. I guess at 81 I should be thinking of taking life a little easier and by Christmas I might well decide to hang up my ice chisels and hand over the company to the next generation. Then what ? I can't sit around doing nothing - may be a Walmart greeter will be my calling.*

May be another time our schedules can mesh and in the meantime, have a great vacation in Hawaii. It's very hard not to have a relaxing time on the island. All the best and please stay in touch. Julian ice business is www.iceculture.com

Richard Green (M71-78) *"I don't think I will get to Vancouver whilst you are visiting. I am actually going the opposite direction in September and visiting Framlingham and environs, staying at Great Glemham and Walberswick. Looking forward to the Adnams with great anticipation! My wife and I started a new business in January and time is at a bit of a premium - I may have to visit BC for business this year, but unless it falls on your dates by sheer coincidence, you won't see me. I hope you have a fabulous trip - I am sure you will given the itinerary!"*

David McMillan (K54-58) was in touch again to say *"Good to hear from you again and to hear that Canada is in your plans!! Although our son has moved back to Whistler about a year ago, we have yet to visit him there. He comes this way more often. However we want to see his place and will be going there at some point. It's a long shot but we may be able to coordinate the trip there at that time."*

Howard Thistlewood (K66-73) said *"I have this somewhere on the horizon to consider but we have a few more proximate issues including numerous fires and evacuations in my community or around us for the last few weeks, and a new fire started up 10km west of me yesterday. Will be in touch one way or another."*

Ian Tucker (S94-99) responded to my invitation and updated on family life *"Thanks for the response - it is our second (have one girl 2 and a half nearly), the new arrival will be another girl! That's funny it will be the same date as your wife's birthday (things might not go to plan but C-section so booked to be on that day). Look forward to hearing the plans."*

FRANCE

Robert Craig (R63-70) sent greetings from southern France at the time of the death of former head boy and contemporary **Jeremy Page (K62-70)**. He said *"Unfortunately I won't be in UK on the 14th, but if our collective good wishes can be passed on to his family..... I too remember Jeremy fondly. We were contemporaries in the choir for 4 years and I also remember my feelings about him as a head boy. He came across as confident and even-tempered to the point of being laid back, and yet his manner in no way suggested weakness or lack of control. He managed his role as head boy with remarkable ease."*

He provided the following additional update *"I've spent the Summer remodeling my courtyard, and am now looking forward to a few trees being delivered tomorrow which should just about finish things off. Also the grape harvest is happening in this area as we speak. It's a time when the villages are submerged in an aroma of crushed and fermented grapes and the roads are stained by the juice dripping from the grape trailers. I generally drive open top, the smells in the air and the blanket of colours in the vineyards are just spectacular..... mmmm I enjoyed thinking about that but must go; tiling to do in the courtyard!"*

Ian Howard (S57-62) appearing for the first time under France rather than HK responded to the news that Kate Jackson had been appointed saying *"May I add my own welcome to Kate in her new role. Her grandfather, 'Frog' Irvine, was a wonderful teacher and, later, friend."*

*Yesterday, at my house in South of France, we had a reunion lunch among 3 ex-Scarlet cricketers (c.1959). Self, **John Wood (S56-61)** and **Jerry Wood (S58-61)**. We are all in all the pics. The Wood bros. were staying in Richard Sayer's villa in Opio (about 10 mins away from me)."*



GERMANY

Kim Dickel (M97-98) started planning the next OF reunion in Germany at the start of 2018 and due to her hard work we now have the email addresses for 200 OFs in Germany which makes communication so much easier.

In April she sent out the Save the Date for this year's German dinner. She has chosen to have a roasted goose dinner on the 10th of November in Düsseldorf to take advantage of Saint Martin's Day with its big procession and the awakening of the "Hoppeditz", Düsseldorf's Karneval jester, on the 11.11. at 11.11am. Karneval is a very big tradition in the Rhineland area and that the ceremonial season starts on this precise date. She also mentioned her plans to have next year's German dinner at Fram.

Here is Kim's note on the Düsseldorf Old Framlinghamian Dinner in 2018 :

After three hugely successful dinners over the past years German OFs assembled for the fourth time over a reunion dinner on November 10th in Duesseldorf. The date was chosen with care as the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in Compiègne and Saint Martin's eve provided a poignant background to celebrate the harmony, friendship and unbreakable bond between British and German OFs brought to us by Framlingham College.

While past German dinners broke several records with regard to hosting the most and youngest attendees across the globe this year's dinner stood out in another regard. With only four guests the evening turned out to be an intimate and precious gathering allowing for deep conversations and true

*catching up. I was overjoyed to welcome back **Conny Zawadzky (M03-05)**, attendee of our 2016 dinner, and **Johannes Tröger (R96-98)**, attendee of our splendid 150th anniversary event in Hamburg in 2015. New to the group was **Robert Benning (S04-05)**, who after a couple of failed attempts to join us during the last years finally delighted us with his presence. He just welcomed his first daughter, Carla, five months ago and was the winner of a free dinner ticket, as he helped us grow our FRAMily by providing email addresses of 'lost' OFs. All three of them have advanced impressively in their various fields and I discovered that, amazingly, between the four of us we share nine university degrees including two doctorates – surely a testament to the excellent education and thirst for knowledge seeded in us by Framlingham College! Conny is currently curating her first exhibition in Krefeld. Make sure to get in touch if you happen to be in the area.*

We had an excellent start to the evening at a small delicacy and wine fair, with VIP tickets and the possibility to sample over 900 wines. We had the opportunity to connect with the owner of the vineyards and let's just say we ordered quite a numerous amount of bottles and follow up meetings between the four of us to enjoy our purchases are already being arranged. Later in the evening we went on to beautiful restaurant Parlin in the heart of Duesseldorf's old town to enjoy a hearty meal of roasted goose and share lively conversations and laughter well until the morning hours.

I would like to express my gratitude towards the College and the Society, which as always have supported this event financially and with hands on help wherever needed. Spending evenings with exquisitely interesting and genuinely nice personalities such as Conny, Robert and Johannes is a pure delight and I hope that many OFs will continue to participate in these events in the years to come!



HONG KONG

Ian Howard (S58-62) now appears under 2 countries as he offer to Moira to stop by the Fram stand at the Excelsior late afternoon on 10 Feb and thereafter for a drink at Admiralty.

Jenkin Leung (K79-84) responded to Moira's invitation to meet up with **Bernice Wiedemann (xx)** while she was visiting HK by saying that he would be in HK at the ime and would be more than happy to meet up.

Moira Theulier (M91-93) took over the organization of the annual HK Supper and sent out the invitation in late 2017 to both meet up with Tom Caston, Deputy Head of Framlingham College, who will be in HK for the two day of the international expo, 'Academic Asia' on 10th and 11th February 2018 and to attend the next HK Supper on 17 March. Sadly Tom reported nearer the time that no one was available to meet up with him other then Moira.

The venue for the HK OF Annual Dinner was a new venue at the Buenos Aires Polo Club and the following is Moira's report :

The Hong Kong OF Annual Dinner was hosted at the Buenos Aires Polo Club, in Central, on Saturday evening from 7.30pm.

As the evening started, in great company we raised our glasses to Framingham, just as Chris Essex, back in Suffolk (and who tremendously supported us in the run-up to the annual dinner. Thank you Chris!) was in full responsibility as Father of the Bride for the day! HK is eight hours GMT ahead and so we ALL (and at about the same time) had a lot to celebrate. We were all with family celebrating milestones, with great food and wine and having a spoiling time celebrating high times; to raising a toast to one another and to later speak of and enjoy great solace in all we have been so fortunate to have experienced.

Celebrating too, at that time, were both Jenkin Leung and his wife, Jane (Kesley), who understandably had to decline at last call as Jenkins was to attend their son's rugby match 'playing for UCL against King's for The London Varsity Series. Congrats there, as UCL won 16-10. Celebrations still, as later into The Cabinet Room entered OF 'Matthew Lau' (G04-11), who had his birthday planned that night but unbeknown too all had arranged to celebrate his birthday with close others in the main restaurant. Between us, we really DID have a lot to celebrate!

And so, we, THE very present Old Framlinghamians of the HK Annual Dinner 2018, dined, in 'The Cabinet Room', of Buenos Aires Polo Club -

Ian Howard (S57-62) and Marie Howard
Moira Theulier (Anderson) Theulier (M91-93) and Jean Theulier
Ian Tsang (K02-09) and Candy Wongian
Adrian Woo (G04-09)
John Ting (G02-09)
Henry Tang (K03-10)

Let me tell you about it, it was fantastic.

We were in this room to ourselves, not to a green felt table top and political chats.. Far from it!! At last minute I did ask for my always favoured white table cloth. I just knew, with the vast selection of knives in, 'The Cabinets' ...and the largest bottle of port saluting us from the side table, that we would be just fine to our steaks and our Argentinian menu and port to end the night.

It was all perfect. We had delicious shared plates of food to choose from, a jaw-dropping selection of

knives to choose from and the wine flowed. We just had a lovely time with plenty of laughter, peppered with a small touch of acutely serious 6-nation-score-monitoring necessary for the Scotland v. Italy rugby sides. Most concerned were Ian Howard, John Ting and almost amused perhaps the rest of us 😊 We did however excuse Ian Howard, once he had all too easily accepted a large glass of port, to rush on to watch England v. Ireland, admirably coerced but many of his HK chums to join them at his 'real' HK Club. A few of us hung on to MUCH more silliness once the port had hit, a video or two remain for Members of The Cabinet Room, only ;) but since writing, i've had just a little and the right amount of peer pressure to post that and so, yes, here it is...

I have mentioned that we certainly had our giggles, this and our diverse conversations covered: Jessie J, Ed Sheeran (too obvious), steak knives, chimichurri (or, was that just Ian H., who knows a lot on all things, apart from Ed Sheeran), Baidu.com (every person in China knows although 'first I'd hear of it!'), conclusions about spotting a two-way mirror (Adrian and Jean's forte ..who were both ironically more unnerved about the mirror on one length of our room, than the huge collection of characteristic knives displayed on the opposite wall, 'also too close to rugby-frenzied Ian H. and John T.).

Adrian, an after thought, if it was two-way mirror behind you then why did the officials NOT step in and save you from Henry and Ian T. to all activities following port. (I WILL post that video)? I do believe that things went slightly wrong, at the start and I blame John T or Chris Essex! Chris, we had raised a toast to you, your daughter and family on your daughter's wedding day. John then showed us a photo of his time at a wedding dressed from head-to-foot in a baby pink Gangnam-style suit, although he told us all, too late, that it was apparently chosen by the bride and he was an usher. I guess that's when we had all fallen from



the table and the conversation flowed as beautifully and as randomly from there. A fun evening ...and who knew that Adrian can do the best impression of Bear Grylls too?

We whole heartedly look forward to the next annual supper - always encouraging more OF's to join us on the island here. We will see each other through the year but all together is as wonderful as always.



Berenice Wiedemann (P15-17) had, as reported earlier posted a message on the Overseas OF Facebook page the following message “Hi is anyone in Hong Kong at the moment and wants to meet for coffee? It's my first time here and I would love to get some recommendations where to go and what to do ... and of course meeting new people. Would love to hear from the OFs. Have a good Sunday x

Berenice plus **Adrian Woo (G05-09)** and **Ian Tsang (K02-09)** did meet up



Afterwards Bernice wrote *“Just wanted to say thank you for your help to find an Internship for me. I really enjoyed the last 4 weeks working for Abid, he is a very interesting and kind man. I'm more than grateful that you got me in contact with him, meeting him was my pleasure. The spirit of his business is great, I loved the dynamic work atmosphere, always new tasks to do by looking after the portfolio companies. All the people who are working for him made me feel very welcome and I more than enjoyed spending my time with my colleagues.*

Marketing was a completely new subject for me, it was very interesting to learn how to work with new computer programs and to upgrade my social medias skills to a new level. I faced many different tasks e.g. targeting the right audience, sponsoring posts, designing websites and writing advertisements. Also, attending meetings to plan new projects/ campaigns have been in my diary.

The time was running so fast, I still can't believe it that my internship is already over. I really enjoyed my time in London, meeting new people and to improve my employment skills.”

JAPAN

Jonothan Amos (S67-71) recalled Jeremy Page but they were in different houses at Fram and one year apart so not close friends. He described him as a thoroughly decent chap he had tremendous respect for. He says *“On further recollection, Jeremy must have been the model of a modern major general at that Fram performance and I think I can picture him in his cassock in the choir and his CCF uniform at the rifle range too. I have no trouble in recognizing him in the photo you sent me and in the BBC video but as for the other faces, I too am struggling! I'm sorry I was unable to attend the funeral, as much as I now treasure those times, but I don't think anything will give me sufficient reason to leave Japan.*

I'm in the north island of Hokkaido – we get a lot of rain but there were no floods here and summer this year lasted about one week! We had a large earthquake too which was only 100kms away but was mild here and did no damage. It's tourism and development that worries me – in the last year, the whole area has been under construction as we go through another boom fueled by foreign money. I came here to escape from the rat race and have a peaceful life in the countryside but it is disappearing at an alarming rate.”

LATVIA

Michael Bryce (R80-85) was briefly in touch to say he'd been there 18 years and would let me know what he's been up to.

MACEDONIA

Kirk Adams (S75-80) still occasionally lives in France, but is currently spend most of his time in Macedonia and CEO Esrey Resources Ltd. He wanted to know if there are any others OF's in Macedonia, which there aren't to my knowledge.

NEW ZEALAND

Nick Marsden (G72-76) has drafted another novel of short stories. He does quite a bit of writing in his teaching work and has published that way. He doesn'y get the same buzz as from as from writing fiction and hopes to get another novel published someday.

SOUTH AFRICA

Guy Brooke-Smith (S41-44) responded to the news that the College 1st XI Girls Hockey team were visiting South Africa *"It's much too far for me – 5 to 5 ½ hours drive from here. These days I very rarely move away far from home up here on the farm. Anyway I'm not much into hockey, rugby is my choice. No doubt you've all heard about the third cricket test against Australia? Shocking business. Delighted with the score of this test – thrashing Australia. My daughter who is married to an Australian is flying over at the end of April for a month. Meeting her in Jo'burg for a family birthday then we fly to Cape Town for a week in Fishhoek, drive to George visiting old friends for 3 days, fly back to Jo'burg, and my Jo'burg daughter will bring us home here.*

My eldest son, Andrew is in Sierra Leone developing a huge pineapple project for Dole Inc.(he owns this property) and my daughter-in-law lives here on the farm half way up the mountain (I'm at the bottom), she has her own Textile business in Louis Trichardt and is very busy and successful – only small but employs 8 local Africans. There is no accommodation in the area and he travels back and forth at weekends to Freetown. It takes about 6 hours each way as the roads are so poor. Hardly like RSA! He has no coms. when away from Freetown.

I am well and do some work on the farm which is more or less in mothballs at present."

Mike Bullock (R55-59) in February 2018 got in touch with Senior Deputy Head Susan Wessels as it was nearly 2 years since they were last in touch about a dinner so wondered whether another OF dinner should be organised. Whilst it was planned to have the next one in Cape Town, the severe drought and consequent water shortages there probably make it not possible. He was aware that **Peter Metcalf (R55-60)** and **Pete Youngs (R53-60)** were going.

Later he said *"I was really looking forward to attending this reunion but unfortunately our younger son and his wife announced last weekend that they have been invited to attend a family wedding in England on June 30th and have confirmed their attendance. They particularly want to go as the family attended their wedding in Rhodesia all those years ago. When these events happen, as they do from time to time, we are engaged to house sit and look after the children and animals. As the children go to 2 different schools in different directions it requires that both of us have to be there. It is such a pity as there probably will not be another occasion like this at Fram for a while. I am aware that Peter Metcalf has had to decline too, also as a result of wedding, as I was hoping to meet up with him at the function."*

Mike had intended watching the College girls play hockey but the evening before he started feeling unwell and an upset stomach and streaming nose prevented him from travelling.

James Campbell (M74-82) heard about the hockey visit and said he would pop by on Saturday.

Adam Phillips (G78-83) provided an update at the time of the important ANC conference. He said *"I sincerely hope that the delegates do the right thing. However, I would agree with Mike that as long as one stays away from anything to do with the government that one can have a good life down here. It would be fun to have another OF dinner with Susan Wessels. As I mentioned to you before, she is definitely a loss to South Africa and a gain for England.*

We were all at Newlands to watch the All Blacks narrowly beat the Boks, although the talent gap between the two sides is big. We have just spent the weekend watching the Cape Town Sevens which now rivals Hong Kong for the top destination to watch the HSBC series. We will be back at Newlands in June to see England play. Eddie Jones is not a name that many in the Western Cape like to hear, so if it is one all going into the decider, I am sure the stadium will be packed!

On the work front, I have been able to take advantage of the treasury function becoming as important as the financial function. I have set up another company with an Aussie (we don't talk about sport!) and we

have helped companies in various parts of the globe. I am hopeful that 2018 will be a good year for the company."

SPAIN

Ian Foster (K46-53) passed on Christmas wishes and was sorry not to see me at the Fowler Pavilion opening, which was a great weekend.

THAILAND

Michael Regan (M77-79) was very sorry to hear of the passing of Rev Richard Law. He was one of his masters and admired him very much, along with Dibber Hague too. Nothing much was happening there but he repeated his invitation to any OF's visiting Thailand that they are very welcome to contact him.

USA

Jules Arthur (K75-84) had not been affected by the fires at the end of 2017 and hoped to organise an OF event in LA with **Paul Martin (S81-86)**.

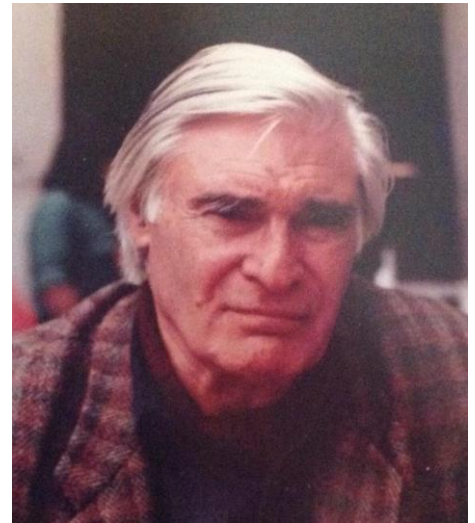
David Copeman (K42-49) despite living in the UK is becoming a regular entrant in the Overseas Bag. In January 2018 they were off to sunnier climes on Queen Victoria with brief stops while circumnavigating S. America + Caribbean + US east coast. We arranged for him to meet up in Miami with **John & Marta Nielsen (R68-72)**. He reports *"We spent a very enjoyable day there on 9 March. John and Marta certainly succeeded in providing the grand tour with a delightful lunch at a Bavarian type restaurant – the name of which escapes me. John took all the photos bar the last one, with the four of us together. A pity no other expats could be present but all expressed apologies for unavoidable absence."*

Would have liked to visit Fram for the cricket etc. at the end of June 2018 but this coincides with my sister's 80th celebration lunch in the Cotswolds. Am sure both functions will be a great success and the photos reach you OK. I never seem to have much luck in that respect despite endless tuition by an increasingly exasperated Son!"



Anthony Cowan (59-64) regretted that he couldn't make the pre 1970 reunion but he would at his US home in Seattle area at that time (his other home is in Le Marche , Italy). He hoped he might be able to make an OF reunion in Vancouver if I was able to organise one when we visited in October 2018 but sadly he was the only one who could have made it. He became a grandfather for the first time on 7 December 2017. He has now retired from the Aviation Insurance Industry, but stays busy with other projects!

Michael Blake's (K72-76) OF father **John Blake (37-39)** died in January 2018 in Spain and there was a great obituary written by Michael's cousin. Along with Alfred Molson (K38-43) they used to travel to the UK to attend the College by boat from Tangiers. Michael reports that his last words were "I had a good run".



Bryan Ivory (K48-52) was contacted by me and **James Ruddock-Broyd (G46-52)** when Hurricane Florence struck east coast of USA in September 2018. Bryan gave the following response *"Thank you for your concern! We are doing much better I'm glad to say. We had no power for three days and fortunately the house came through the gale winds pretty well. We did lose one seventy foot oak tree in the back garden. It fell towards the lake, away from the house which was good fortune. A few things in the 'fridge we had to throw out but on the whole compared to a lot of people , we are most fortunate. Extensive flooding across the state. Many rivers have risen to well above record levels. Many road are impassable."*

Sadiq Keshwani (R09-13) got in touch to thank the SOF for the financial support we had provided to him. He writes *"I am writing to thank you and the Society of Old Framlinghamians for kick starting my university career four years ago. Last weekend I graduated from The King's College, New York and as I walked across the stage to collect my degree, I thought of the people who made it possible for me. I thought about my parents, my brother, and also the SOF."*

The four years I have spent in New York have not always been easy. The summer I got here was tough. I sometimes worked 16-hour days to pay for my first semester. However, as time went by and I settled in, things became a little easier and I grew to love it here. I realized that New York isn't quite so different from London – both are fast, busy, and diverse. It is mind-blowing how big it is, and even after four years of living here I still feel as if I haven't seen it all. That's what I like about both cities; they're full of surprises.

My time at Framlingham College prepared me well to have a fruitful university career in New York. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Finance with a GPA of 3.4. I was recognized for playing in the college football team all four years, while maintaining a good GPA. During this time, I had the opportunity to intern at well-respected companies such as UBS Financial Services and charity: water,



where I learned how things work outside of the classroom.

My last four years in New York have been filled with hard work, an amazing support system of friends and family, and a lot of opened doors. “

Peter Macfarlane (Z73-81) wrote in March 2018 “*Hello Family, Friends, Neighbours, Colleagues, Students, Paddlers and any other category that you care to place yourselves in!*

This is the first of what will be a fairly small number (probably single digits) of emails concerning an upcoming paddling adventure. You’re on this list either because you’ve asked to be, or because you’ve expressed interest in my paddling exploits, or because I think you may be interested. If you’d like to hear no more about this, please just reply to that effect and I’ll take you off the list.

Some of you already have some of this news, so please bear with me while I bring everyone else up to speed. You may remember that 5 years ago I through-paddled the Northern Forest Canoe Trail from upstate New York to northern Maine. It was quite a journey, and the weather, to a large extent, was uncooperative. Well, the scars have healed over (!) and I’m ready to go out again, but not just to repeat the same journey.

This spring I plan to through-paddle the NFCT from Maine (ME) to New York (NY), in other words the same trail but going the other way. There’s a common-sense reason that all through-paddlers so far have gone from west to east: the ratio of upstream to downstream is more favourable that way. I’m hoping to be the first to complete a through paddle going the “wrong” way. The list of upstream rivers is impressive: St John, Allagash, West Branch Penobscot, Moose, South Branch Dead, Connecticut, Nulhegan, Saranac, Raquette, Brown’s Tract Inlet. You can add the Mud Pond Outlet into that, but, in the grander scheme of things, it’s short!

Yes, I love to travel from place to place by canoe. Yes, I love a challenge (and there is no doubt that this is a big one – success is not guaranteed). And yes, I’d love to claim a little place in history by being the first to achieve this.

My start date at Fort Kent, ME, is Monday 14 May. My target arrival date in Old Forge, NY, is Sunday 10 June. For those of you reaching for your calendars, I’ll spare you the counting. That’s 28 days, the same as last time (including one rest day to play the same music gig as last time!) Days are going to be long, but I’m confident that the targets I’ve set are attainable.

*If you wish to read more about my planning and how much I’ve leaned from last time (or if you wish belatedly to catch up on the 2013 trip), there are links from the landing page of Otter Creek Smallcraft. If you wish to follow my progress along the trail, I shall once again be leaving SPOT waypoints online at:
<https://share.findmespot.com/shared/faces/viewspots.jsp?glId=0ih4ModEBZvMOgYAA67hFcZaLoPMRV6hG>.*

This page will show you the latest 7 days’ worth of waypoints. After 7 days they’ll fall off the eastern edge of the map. Please ignore the straight lines between them. Rest assured, the rivers follow much more sinuous courses than that! I may include this link in a future email, but please bookmark it if you wish to refer to it (just in case I forget).

The recent shoulder injury, whether from snow-shovelling or back-country skiing or training with free weights or whatever, seems to be subsiding, having been a worry for a while. Equipment is being amassed and packed and re-packed. Food is being assembled. The canoe (same one of course!) is being trimmed out (and re-finished). Maps are being pored over, especially to find alternatives when the upstream proves impossible. That said, I hope to remain in the river beds as much as possible. I’ve often said that I much prefer to paddle a canoe than to take it for a walk.

And the weather will be what it will be. With a recent cold snap, ice-out may be a little late this year, so I'm half-expecting to see snow in places, but am hoping not to have to dodge ice-floes. And this year, however dry April turns out to be, I'm not going to solicit any rain invocation from you. I did that last time, unaware that some of you seem to be extremely well-connected!

That's it for now. I'll be in touch again before setting out, and also to let you know if my plans change."

Here is a map of the epic course Peter was to travel.



Then on 11 May a further update *"Here's the promised update on my crazy adventure, and, all being well, this should be the last you hear from me for a month or so. That, of course, is sufficient to tell you that this is going ahead. If you missed the previous message, I'm referring to a through-paddle of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail in the unconventional direction.*

The run-in to the start has been a little more fraught than would have been ideal. A 3-week course of antibiotics ends this Saturday, a precaution having had an embedded tick. Lyme disease, by all accounts, is debilitating, so not the kind of thing to entertain in the wilds of Maine (or anywhere for that matter). My gastro-intestinal system is looking forward to re-establishing its former microbiome. Then ten days ago I was unable to walk up and down stairs, having an extremely painful knee tendon such that my leg would not (willingly) support any weight when bent. I can ascribe that only to an overdose of driving two days previously, 9.5 hours in one day to southern Connecticut and back. Fortunately, after two days of ice, massage and anti-inflammatories, I was suddenly able to run up and down stairs once more, and all residual soreness is now long gone.

It was around that time that I was alerted (thanks Laurie!) to the somewhat high water levels in the St John and Allagash rivers. The Allagash had been over its banks, and there are reports of several wash-outs on the woods roads. There was also considerable ice on the headwater lakes of the Allagash. All of this was making me seriously consider delaying the trip. But apparently, if my experience is anything to go by, the obsessive watching of flow data published online is an effective way to make river levels abate. The first almost-100 miles to Churchill Dam will still be tough, but maybe not totally insane. As of 7 May there was still some ice on some of the headwater lakes, but other lakes in the region were clear. If on schedule, I should be reaching the headwater lakes on the evening on 17 May, so I'm confident that 10 days of warm weather will have cleared the remaining ice. That said, I've now added a small hatchet to the pack (so much for packing light!)

As a reminder, you can follow my GPS messenger waypoints at:

<https://share.findmespot.com/shared/faces/viewspots.jsp?glId=0ih4ModEBZvMOgYAA67hFcZaLoPMR V6hG>. OK, that's not easily memorised, so please either bookmark it (if you wish) or know that there's an online link to this page. Go to the landing page of www.OtterCreekSmallcraft.com, click on the lower right link (referring to NFCT East-West 2018), and look for the yellow link near the top right saying "Follow My Waypoints". These waypoints last for 7 days, so you'll be able to see my most recent week's travel. I'm hoping that the messages will all say "OK". If they say anything else, my support crew has

detailed instructions on how to interpret them. And just so you know, I plan to have a rest day on 2 June; don't panic when waypoints don't appear.

All is packed here, and I recently re-packed in order to double check everything. Boxes of food are ready for a mail drop to Jackman, ME, and to be lodged with the support crew (thanks Ray, Hildy and Viveka!) This Saturday (12 May) around noon EDT (that's 5:00 pm BST), I'll be cutting the umbilical cord that ties me to the Internet and heading across the state to play for a dance that evening, following which Ray will take me home for a night in New Hampshire. Ray, Hildy and I will then take the long load to Fort Kent in far northern Maine on Sunday. After a night of comfort in a motel, I start paddling Monday morning. No doubt that will be the time that I finally appreciate how crazy this whole idea really is!

My scheduled arrival at Old Forge, NY, is Sunday 10 June. Whether this schedule is feasible remains to be seen. If you hear from me before then, that's probably not a good sign. If you don't hear from me for a long time after then, that's also not a good sign! I plan, however, to send an update as soon as possible after returning home.

But now the edge of the radar screen is approaching, and I'll shortly be slipping off it, so will sign off here. Have a wonderful month, and I'll try to do the same."

On completing his epic journey he provided the following "As some of you who are clearly addicted to SPOT are already aware (and thanks for the messages that you've already sent), my quest came to an end yesterday (10 June), a successful end! In the company of my support crew in our other cedar-strip canoe, I paddled gently into Old Forge, NY, in perfect weather to bring to a close a journey that has seen some highs, some lows, and probably more hard and sustained paddling than I thought was possible. Until someone proves otherwise, this is the first recorded east-west through-paddle of the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, and, as last time, I did it solo and completely self-powered.

This trip started back on 14 May (well, the day before if you count the long drive up there, and much earlier than that if you count all the planning), putting into the St John River at Fort Kent, ME, not really knowing what lay ahead, except that it was likely to be tough. That particular expectation proved to be well-founded, yet not necessarily for the reason you might suspect. The large amount of upstream I expected to be challenging, although I had somehow managed to ignore the fact that many of the portages would also gain elevation (duh!) What really added to the degree of difficulty was the wind. OK, here we go, blame it all on the weather again! Before I carry on, there were only 5 days when it rained while I was paddling, and none was a washout, and another couple of evenings/nights with a bit of rain. Other than that I had a remarkable sequence of sunny days with blue skies. And yet the wind was perverse in the utmost, managing to preempt many of my changes in direction with uncanny



precision, such that it was very largely in my face, oft times aggressively so. The acme of this was on L. Champlain on day 22 when I finally found the wind that I could not paddle into: progress became impossible, so I retreated to land. That's never happened before.

You may ask why my work rate was so high. Well, I could have paddled gently upstream into the wind and camped in the same place that I started from that day (or gone gently backwards)! You may also ask why so many of my days were long – several of them involved about 12 hours on the water. I had a schedule planned out, and the only reason for having such is to try to stick to it; otherwise it's pointless. At no point was I behind this schedule, and in places I made extra miles and so could afford easier days, such as a half day to Jackman, ME. Truth to tell, I could have completed this in fewer than 28 days, but that was not the point. The 28-day target was to make my two through-paddles matching bookends.

I'll spare you all the details here, but will, over the coming days and weeks, publish my journal online, just like last time (easiest to access through the link on the landing page of www.OtterCreekSmallcraft.com). In the process there may be links that lead to pages that don't yet exist; please have patience – I'll get there, but it takes time. I'll probably send another circular to let you know when it's all done. There's obviously a lot of catching up to do here, and I need to have some serious sports massage to sort out muscular issues which are impinging on nerves (not to mention a displaced sacro-iliac joint left over from last year and which I really should have had fixed before setting out). The recuperation process is beginning, but is likely to take time. Dragging my brain back from the trail may take somewhat longer. Now I need to do something other than stare at a screen for a while – that's something I haven't missed over the last 4 weeks.”

Tony Neubroch (G61-69) in Sarasota had hoped to meet up with **David Copeman** when he visited Miami but this sadly wasn't possible.

John Nielsen (R68-72) was in touch at Christmas 2017 and said “*we are hosting our twin daughters and their families for Christmas Eve dinner - and plan to visit Marta's family in southern Brazil sometime in 2018, after an absence of three years. For the following year, we are contemplating a trip to Cornwall and surrounding region that I haven't seen since my teens, when I lived in Lowestoft, Suffolk. When that time comes, we would like to visit you and to also get tips on interesting places to visit, starting with Bristol/Bath, of course...*”

As reported earlier John and Marta did meet up with **David Copeman**.

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) and his wife Celestine provided a report on the Emerald Princess which we were due to go on in October 2018 from Vancouver to Hawaii and back. Bryan reports “*We had a great time, although it started badly with us missing the flight to LA and thus missing the sailing! We did board at her first stop, which was Hilo, and so had 23 days aboard which we thoroughly enjoyed. Weather was perfect and there was hardly a ripple on the ocean, of course I would have preferred a bit of motion but, frankly, most of the time it was if we were still tied up to the dock.*

The ship itself is delightful, easy to navigate , the only negative being the Italian Captain who was virtually invisible, he even missed a couple of his own parties and hardly spoke at all, really missed Nick Carlton (xx)!!

Nothing planned for the near future, frankly the prices just keep escalating and Princess seems to be concentrating on shorter cruises which we don't like, anything less than 10/12 nights is hardly worth all the humbug of air travel, hotels etc.”

In May 2018 came the news of the massive volcanic eruptions in Hawaii, but Bryan was unaffected as they live 200 miles from the Big Island volcano and were quite safe. They did experience some tremendous rains recently though with flooding and some houses were destroyed.

Then in August 2018 Hawaii was struck by Hurricane Lane and Bryan reported “Thanks for the concern over the hurricane, it was certainly scary for a while and we had the main windows boarded up, just in case. No wind to speak of but they are predicting more rain for a few days as Lane continues to loiter as a Tropical Storm. Bryan also gave some advice as to what to see when we visited Honolulu. We arranged to meet up at 4.30pm and for Bryan and Celestine to take us for a drink. Hot off the press here are a couple of photos complete with OF ties.



Andy Roberts (G73-79) asked to be put in touch with **Kirk Adams (S70-80)**. They were at Brandeston and the College together and appear to be in the same industry, and also with **Andrew Stroud (M70-80)** who was one of his best friends and **Richard Nunn (R73-80)**. Andy was now living in Reno and started his own business last year – www.axiumsci.com

Laurence Pretty (S49-54) although living in Los Angeles got one of my invites to meet in Vancouver. Laurence kindly replied saying *“Thank you for the invitation to attend the meeting in Vancouver. I will not, I regret, be able to travel from Los Angeles to attend. Time was, while I was a practicing lawyer, when I spent so much time on airplanes that an extra trip would have been a snap. But tempus fugit. I retired from my law practice three years ago at age 79 and recently moved with my wife Carol into a retirement community in Altadena, a small town in the foothills of LA about a 45 minute drive from downtown LA.*

Downtown LA is where I used to have the law offices of the law firm I started with three other partners in 1984. It was in the same building in which a TV series called LA LAW had its fictional offices and was sometimes filmed. LA Law lawyers seemed to spend a lot more time on inter office romances than law but such naughties never leaked into our offices on the 19th floor. Our more staid firm grew at its peak to 27 lawyers and we had a national and international practice in patent law focused for the most part on litigation. I travelled widely litigating lawsuits in different states including representing American, European and Asian companies of international reputation. I greatly enjoyed my work. Altadena is a semi-rural community which reminds me slightly of the rural area of West Sussex of my childhood although the summer temperatures here, ranging from about eighty to one hundred degrees F for three months and no rain, are somewhat less known in West Sussex. But the mountains are more impressive than the South Downs and we do have coyotes and skunks here.

Have a good time in Vancouver.”

Alan Rowe (S68-73) the brother of **Richard (S65-74)** notified us of a change of address to Fruita to Evergreen, Colorado. He said he was currently very busy moving into our their home - recovering furniture and personal effects from storage units spread out between there and Denver!

Richard Rowe (S65-74) at end of 2017 was in touch with **David Copeman (K42-49)** about his proposed stop over in Florida and his willingness to arrange a well over-due Florida supper. He was also very sad to learn of the passing of Philip De Whalley. He recalls *“Philip was my physics teacher and he also looked after the sailing club. He was a well-liked teacher - renowned for being a little eccentric - but that just made him all the more liked. I have a lot of great memories of his teachings; and for putting in a lot of time to drive the sailors to Orford and back every week. He provided some very memorable examples to support his teaching. Very sorry to hear of his passing.”*

In March 2018 I mentioned that in the UK my daughter's wedding had suffered from snow – he commiserated and said *“My part of Florida had record high temps for February. But now in the Bahamas on 4-days of business (the onsite shipyard works canteen serves Lobster and chips alongside hamburger.”*

In July we exchanged a number of emails with regard to helping Richard's wife Denise with her family tree research, but sadly I had no experience of French Birth certificates!

Finally in September 2018, Richard was working in the Crowne Plaza Science City Guangzhou, China when it was hit by a storm. He reported *“Still have power and internet. Occasional heavy rain and blustery. Otherwise have the balcony door open listening to the sounds of the storm!”*