

OVERSEAS BAG – 2021

“HERE & THERE” (Overseas Bag)

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Once again, this edition of the 2021 Yearbook contains a bumper crop of articles from over 200 emails received/sent. Genuinely many thanks for giving me such a huge editing task to do again! However, what you will notice is that half of this correspondence has come from just one country – Australia. It would be great to also hear from more OFs in other countries, so get writing please.

2021 like 2020 has clearly been an exceptional year and I’m delighted that despite lockdowns around the world you have kept in touch. Clearly there have been few opportunities for OFs to meet up, but I hope 2022 will allow a renewed effort to organise these and I’m very happy to help anyone prepared to have a go in their area.

As I said last year, this is now the 16th year I have been editor of the Overseas Bag and I have immensely enjoyed the role and have visited a number of you overseas during that time, especially to mark 150th anniversary. I would be delighted if one or more of you would be happy to take this over for the future. As you can imagine my appeal last year did not produce a torrent of applications but I hope this year you will give it serious thought. It is very rewarding and as a member of the website team I would be happy to support in any way I can eg local reunion lists etc. Please drop me an email if you would be interested. In the meantime, happy reading!

AUSTRALIA

Brett Bailey (K58-65) partner Sue was in touch with **John Gates (S44-48)** following the death of his father **Peter Bailey (K34-48)**. In respect of his father, he reported that “*Peter was being cremated privately. This final stage of his 99-year journey took place yesterday morning. His ashes are to be posted to us here. Brett and I have been in regular contact both by email and phone with Karen in the UK. We will let you know in time what final decision Brett and Karen make.*

I flew up on Friday morning and flew back on Saturday afternoon. I was able to organise his room and for precious belongings to either come back with me or be posted here to Woonona. I was also able to meet with the Funeral director to make final arrangements. Gregson and Weight were absolutely wonderful, very professional and extra caring.

Brett had a pacemaker successfully implanted on Monday, home yesterday and little discomfort. We hope it works as well as yours.

It is very comforting to know that on his 99th birthday he had a visit from two Old Framlinghamians. Thank you yet again. For me it was a privilege to be able to fly up and finalise his final stage of life.”

Phil Bower (G65-74) was in touch December 2020 “*News from this end of town is nothing exceptional at the moment! WA is about to re-open borders, pending other States managing to control covid,*

Personally I'm fine with keeping them closed till next year. Almost lost one of the dogs recently - they went after a 2mtr roo, it went into the water & was drowning one of them till the other one got hold of it. Dogs 1 roo 0.... Next time they might not be so lucky..... Been looking for muso's in our little town with a view to playing live again, but good ones are hard to find.

Weather hotting up this week - it's been 40C today & is threatening the same tomorrow. Auntie Beeb reports the UK has had a splash of snow recently?? How are you and your faring at present? I trust there are no reports of OF's succumbing to this awful virus?"

He went on to give his views on the online version of the 2020 Magazine "Just had a look at the online OF 2020 – sorry to say, absolutely hate it. Even at "full screen" the text is abominably small & difficult to read, I had to tab through every page to get to the overseas bag (tedious). There's nothing quite like a good old fashioned hard copy, mate..... If it's going to continue to an be online only version then perhaps some adjustments would be useful?? Perhaps a quick flick index to the header sections? A "full screen" that actually is full screen?"

Other than that – from the both of us to All of You – Season's Greetings! We hope Santa brings you vaccinations and good cheer and that next year turns out better than this one (shouldn't be too difficult!!).

Whilst you're languishing in the rain & the snow, spare a thought for us – we're in the 40C's at present and it's gonna be hell on that beach!! "

Having not heard from Phil for some time I got in touch in August 2021. "No issues with covid so far – our state guy shuts the border real quick! Delighted to hear the UK is recovering albeit slowly. Over in NSW the state was too slow to react and now they have a serious problem. I'm half vax'd and get my second dose early next month. It's a possibility that I may return to the UK but I can't do that without the full vax and if I do, I will have to travel on my UK passport because Aus citizens are not allowed to leave! If I return home, I will have to lose my dog because he won't be able to stand the flights & the inevitable shit that goes with transporting live animals on commercial flights. Plus there's where to live, how to fund living and so on. Remember, I've been gone from the UK since 1998, it is, effectively, a foreign country to me now so it's not as straightforward as one might at first imagine.

Other than that – news here is that we've had a really wet winter and for the first time my water storage tanks are actually overflowing! I'm selling the Isuzu Mu-X & have bought a little Hyundai Imax so I can move my stuff around more easily. "

Nick Carlton (G63-70) was in contact with **Bryan Pearson (S45-47)** in Hawaii in February 2021
"Congratulations on turning 89 ... 90 coming up next November! I wonder if we will be able to travel by then? This Pandemic is certainly going on and on and I must admit to missing travel and seeing my friends scattered here and there.

Things are jogging along here. I think you have mostly been ok in Hawai'i being isolated like we are.

If you have Netflix there is a good movie about the Sutton Hoo ship burial called 'The Dig' with Ralph Fiennes (born in Ipswich) which you might have seen .. you should if you haven't. He does a good accent

and manner and a lot of familiar scenery .. places I went to on my walks on my last visit ... Butley Ferry and Ramsholt ..

They are having snow at the moment ... The Harwich Haven Authority Live Stream cameras were showing quite a bit of snow activity in the harbour earlier. Hope that you are both keeping well and taking care. Aloha pumehana as always. ”

Mike Garnett (R53-55) was regularly in touch as always. Back in November 2020 we were in touch

about the College Remembrance service being streamed online and he sent the following to Kate “*thank you for sending me information about the Remembrance Day celebrations at The College chapel. Ceremonies in Australia, as in UK, are understandably disrupted due to the pandemic. Back in 2015, Chris Shaw and I organized a dinner in the Hunter Valley of New South Wales to celebrate the Framlingham College 150th anniversary. Chris and I decided we should present the College with a memento to celebrate all those OF’s who served during the world wars with Australian and New Zealand units. We purchased this Australian Light Horse image which was accepted on behalf of the College by Chris Essex.*



When I saw your notice of the Remembrance Day celebrations arranged for this Sunday, I thought I would ask whether this statuette could be displayed somewhere appropriate during the Service. ” [I’m pleased to report that it was placed on the Chapel altar during the service]

In December 2020 Mike wished us Happy Christmas and said that he hoped I would stay on for a few more years as OB Editor and that our visit to Australia for the 150th anniversary would remain a highlight.

In March 2021 he remembered that Peter Bailey’s 90th birthday was coming up soon and he wanted confirmation of date and his address. I told him that Peter would be 99 on 28 March 2021 and a special letter from the SOF President has been sent to John Gates who is going to deliver with a card on the day.

Later that month he wrote to me about RAF Framlingham “*just to show my ignorance of things-Framlingham, did you know there was an RAF station at Framlingham. I had never heard of it, and it was disbanded after the war and presumably returned for agriculture. It was mainly used by American squadrons I think. ”* I replied saying that I thought it was actually located just down the road at Parham and there was still a museum there. He sent the following picture.



In April 2021, he wished us a very happy Easter. He said “*I received a circular Easter Greetings from Aileen Sayer, wife of the late Stephen. I dined with them in London on my last visit which turned out to be just a few weeks before he died. Anyhow, I thought I would respond to Aileen’s message and include a photo of Stephen and me standing in the real tennis court at Melbourne. But I cannot find it!! If you happen to have access to this ‘famous’ pic would you please send it to me.*” And here is the picture Mike is referring to.



This prompted the following response “*Many thanks for going to the effort to locate this pic – much appreciated. I shall send a message to Aileen with the pic. Yes Chris, I still play – in fact I had a game of singles on Thursday and found myself playing against a 25-year old medical student – a mere difference in ages of 58 years! I am the only member in the eighties still playing, but think I will have stop soon because I am often unsteady on my feet! I sent a book to Peter Bailey for his birthday which I hope arrived in time – we have just celebrated the centenary of the RAAF.*”

In June he reported that they had just spent two miserable nights without power – no internet, heating, lighting, cooking facilities, communications nothing. He said “*Where would we be without electricity – its a sobering thought!*” In a reference to the origins of tennis he asserts it was Italy where tennis (as we know it) commenced about 1400 and then taken up by France and then to England. The court at Hampton Court dates to about 1525 and Mike has played there.

In a follow up to his time without power he said “*thanks for your concern but I made too much of the inconvenience. Many others are still without power and I feel sorry for them. It had nothing to do with Covid, but was the result of a massive gale for which we did get a forecast warning but no-one anticipated how bad it would be. As for myself I did feel miserable because it was very cold and my appliances are all electric – also, being a dinosaur I have never owned a mobile phone. My landline was no use so no one could phone me and I couldn’t phone anyone either!! This morning I drove from here to a nearby town of Kyneton and was amazed at the destruction wreaked on trees mainly eucalypts – many keeled over with huge roots showing, blown over as if they were paper dolls. Many townships are flooded. So the reason for the power outage was that power lines were uprooted – still about 80,000 residences without power.*

I hear UK are worried about this Delta virus – but surely the more people who are vaccinated the less need for widespread lockdowns. Or perhaps this new variety is not covered by the covid vaccination which would be of great concern. I had my first jab last week and my second will be early September. I hope the G-7 goes well for the UK and that Boris does not put his foot in it!! – enjoy the warm weather.”

He later reported that the state of Victoria had gone back into lockdown. “*It is quite depressing, but it was nice to see the images of the new Normandy Memorial. I wonder whether there are any known OFs who are amongst the 20,000+ names that are commemorated? Just a thought during these times of*

inactivity!! The biography of Major Kenneth Mayhew reminded me how often I have read of OFs who had contributed beyond the call of duty and now mostly deceased.

Recently the Romsey Shire decided to create an Avenue of Honour to mark those who have served, especially during the two world wars, and many of the commemorative trees have been donated by descendants of those who served. The committee are now planning trees to commemorate those who served during the Korean war and the Malaya Emergency - and for the latter, I volunteered to fund the tree and memorial tablet.

*I know that Fram has a comprehensive list of those who served during the two world wars, and I wonder whether (for posterity) there should also be lists of those who served in other conflicts, eg: Korea, Malaya, Iraq and various peace-keeping activities. As you probably know **Gerald (R50-54)** and I both served (National Service) in Malaya and there must be others from Fram who served there. I have a vague recollection that **Derek Barralet (G52-55)** served in Malaya with the Military Police but I could be wrong. Derek and I were in the same form at Fram – do you keep in touch with him?" Sadly Derek died in 2006.*

In August 2021 I wrote to Mike and Chris Shaw about the coverage in the UK of the troubles in various cities in Australia in the last couple of days particularly Melbourne. His interesting reply was "I think Chris S has said it all. There are some things that have changed forever in Australia - the individual States have shown that they are no longer beholden to the central (Federal) government. Each State is now an individual identity and they make decisions purely on their own situation without regard for the country as a whole. The old debate as to whether Australia should get rid of the States and move to one nation is now dead and buried. Personally, I am beginning to feel the effects of isolation and (to some extent) loneliness. So I can understand how it must be for people living in high rise units, unable to get out and mix with people. The other day I decided to risk a visit to nearby Sunbury which is somewhat rural but logically within the outer metropolitan area. I was truly shocked to see what this substantial town was like – similar to Kabul as the Taliban were about to enter – empty!! Last week my son Nick and grandson Jackson paid me a visit (on special compassionate grounds) and it was nice to see them. I am so happy not to be in the city limits – and many who live there yearn for a visit to the countryside, so I am fortunate to live here. But what of the future? – the city high-rise buildings will become one big 'For Sale' entity – and those who relied on the workers who came to the offices there (shops, eateries etc.) will be left high and dry. The recent riots in Melbourne were a surprise to me, but it shows that those who live within the city limits (under heavy lockdown restrictions) are beginning to feel the stress. Apart from all that – I wish you a VERY happy birthday Chris, and I will drink to your health with a bottle of Guinness that I have in the fridge!"

John Gates (S44-48) is another Aussie OF who keeps in regular contact. Back in September 2020 he updated me on having a few days away in late August with their daughter Sarah, and granddaughter Lauren at Spicers Peak Lodge, Maryvale Queensland. This was to mark his wife Ruth's upcoming 90th birthday. He went on to say that on the 29th of October they are taking a party of 12 out for a celebration Luncheon (Ruth being 90 on the following day) and on Sunday 1 November they were taking another party of 8 family members and their partners for another celebration lunch.

He say “Spicers Peak Lodge at Maryvale was a fabulous venue for a short break, food was very innovative and really lovely, all beverages and alcohol being free mind you I paid for it! I did not consume much alcohol, but Ruth, Sarah & Lauren consumed bottles and bottles of wine, I did manager 3 malt whisky's on the last evening.

Sarah and Lauren did a small hike each day before breakfast, then after Sarah did a 7 km hike each day, Ruth and Lauren sat in the hot spa outside, and I just read a book in front of a very large log fire, the temperature outside being between 1 degree early morning and rising to about 17 degrees late afternoon.

*Yesterday I went to see **Peter Bailey**, spent nearly 2 hours with him and also had lunch with him, he has been into hospital on two occasions to remove growths on his arms, head and chest. We had a very enjoyable time together, going over our lives over past years, Peter's short term memory now failing him, but he is in very good spirits and we had many laughs together.*

I am sure that Peter will attain the age of 100, however I don't think that I will make it that far, my legs, especially my Left Leg causing me a great deal of pain and I am now having difficulty in walking, certainly cannot without a walking stick for support. However still OK for driving, and going to my gym for exercise.

We are very glad that we are back playing Bridge at our two clubs each Wednesday and Friday, so the weeks just fly by, even I will be 89 on the 26th. We trust that you are all keeping safe and well and free of the COVID virus, hate to think how our respective Govt's are going to repay all their borrowings in the years to come, it will be lumbered on to our Grand children's children I think,”



He visited Peter Bailey again in December 2020. He reported that he was quite cheerful and looking forward to his 99th birthday next March, and was hopeful of making 100 “*and I am sure he will. We had a good chat going over past times and activities, and just wishing we could bring back the past, such as visiting/staying on Lord Howe Island etc, just a happy time to rekindle memories. Peter has asked me to say he is in good spirits, quite happy and to pass on his best wishes to all for a very happy Christmas, a safe and healthy New Year in 2021.*

On 15 April 2021 John was in touch with the sad news that Peter Bailey had passed away the previous night in his sleep. He said “*Thankfully both I and Neville Marsh managed to see him for about an hour*

on Sunday the 28th of March, being Peter's 99th Birth Day, the RSL nursing home going into " Lock Down " the following day Monday the 29th. I and Ruth had personally known Peter for over 30 years, so he was my friend and we had many laughs together and trips overseas. "

Sadly only a month later John was back in touch about his brother **David Jeremy Gates (S44-49)** who had also died 2 days ago on 28 May 2021 after a long illness. Peggy his wife, Karen his daughter and Marcus his son were with him when he died and he was in no pain and his passing was peaceful. He had been living in Salisbury UK, with his wife Peggy, his first wife Anne died many years ago. John went on to say *"Whilst Jerry never wanted to correspond as an Old Boy, he had a very full Life having been a Restaurant owner & Shop keeper, Lecturer in Spanish at U3A (UK), Pilot Officer RAF, "Sword of Honour " at Cranwell, District Officer in the Mau Mau Rebellion Kenya 1950-52, Quantity Surveyor in West Africa, and much more that I am not aware of.*

Jerry is survived by his wife Peggy, his daughter Karen and son Marcus, and numerous grand children, I shall miss him, as although living far away from the UK in Australia, we have corresponded regularly . I have now lost both of my younger brothers, Peter having died in 2008 at the tender age of 70. I am now the eldest of the Gates's cousins all living in the UK (9 of them), life can be cruel, however none of us last forever!!.

The Covid virus has risen it's ugly head once again in Victoria, mainly due to mismanagement by the Vic Govt, and they are yet again in a 7 day " Lock Down ", we up here on the Sunshine Coast of Queensland living just normally."

In June 2021 John had an operation to remove a deep cancer problem in the calf of his left leg and on return from hospital the same day, he would have to keep his leg elevated for the next 6 days. He was back in touch in July to say how the op had gone *"I had the Op to remove the cancer on Thursday 24 June and was able to come home the same day, going back to Surgeon on Monday 5 July to see if he got it all and most likely change the dressing.*

Stayed in bed balance of 24/06 with legs raised, and 25th and 26th until dinner that evening. Surgeon had said OK to get out of bed for going to toilet/meals etc, Had my meal Saturday evening 26th, got up from table walked about 5 paces and dropped unconscious to the floor, frightening for Ruth as she thought I was dead. She had to slap my face hard to bring me back into focus etc.

Then of course I could not get up, so Ruth called the Ambulance and they got me up and stabilized, then took me to the emergency department at the Buderim Hospital, gave me Head and Chest scans which were clear, and said they would keep me overnight for observation. This turned out to be a 4 night stay, two of which were in Intensive Care (ICU). The Medico's determined that my blood pressure had plummeted and have consequently changed my medications. I was lucky that I did not break any bones. Came home on Thursday 1 July and quite OK, have walked around our underground garage area, just using my walking stick for support, just as I had been doing previously, but being careful, as have to keep my strength up.

I have a large cut on the calf of my left leg in fact over 8", so will take some time to heal no doubt, most likely about 2 months. I will ask Surgeon on Monday to give me an estimate as to when I can start back at my gym, as the longer you do no exercise the harder it is to get back into trim.

Thankfully I have Ruth who gives me fantastic support, so I will soon hopefully be " Right as Rain " once more.

Best wishes to you all, and hopefully Neville your eyes are now recovering well from the cataract op. "

Colin Lipman (R53-61) heard from **Mike Allport (R54-62)** at the end of August 2021 that he was now hospitalised and nearing the end with his pancreatic cancer, which was first diagnosed in June 2021 "so I have fought off the Grim Reaper for 14 months which is better than forecast". At the time he was hoping to go into palliative care at Mona Vale in a few days' time if there is a bed available. "I am sorry that we have not seen more of you and Lexie and that you have not been able to organise any more reunions but it was good to meet up after all those years. Best to Lexie and see you on the other side for another reunion. "

Mike died on 5 October 2021 and Colin was deeply sorry to hear that Michael had passed away and got in touch immediately with Bunny. Colin and Lexie attended the funeral.

When Covid permits Colin will try and organise another Sydney OF gathering.

Neville Marsh (S53-61) was happy to liaise with John Gates over the delivery of the 99th birthday message to Peter Bailey. In January 2021 he said that his wife Alison speaks to Sue (Brett's partner) every week and will find out if they intend coming up in March for Peter's 99th birthday.

He went on to say "*For the record, I attach a great pic from March 1993 on the occasion of my brother Ian's visit to Queensland. We got together at Peter's place in Noosa for a BBQ. (L to R. **Ian Marsh (S49-52)**, **Peter Bailey (K34-38)**, **John Gates (S44-48)** and **Neville** (who could only manage a junior Stradbroke tie!)"*



Neville next got in touch in March 2021 to report that he and John went to see Peter yesterday and deliver the SOF message, various cards and congratulations on his 99th. Birthday. Like John he said that Peter was in good form although now very frail and that they talked about various things including his time at Fram over an hour or so.

This is lightly blurred photo of Neville with Peter on his birthday.

In April 2021 Neville had the sad news that Ian's wife Christa had died after suffering cancer in the UK and he hoped to join the funeral via Zoom. He also had news that **Brett Bailey** was having a pacemaker fitted on Monday but is otherwise reasonably well. His partner Sue was flying up to take care of Peter's valuable memorabilia (log books, medals, signed photos, uniform etc).



In June 2021 Neville reported that he had managed to get an obituary for **Peter Bailey** into *The Weekend Australian* today, which he attached. Neville said “*Alan Howe, the obituaries editor altered the text a fair bit but overall, it gives a good account of the man. Fram gets a couple of mentions. I am particularly pleased as it gives us excellent closure on a life well served. Alan Howe took out an "important" line: I added that one VIP flown by Peter was Sir Dermot Boyle, Marshal of the Royal Air Force. Peter flew him to Fram when Sir D. was presenting prizes on Speech Day and landed his helicopter on the Front. On that occasion the author (of the obituary) was a prize recipient! My Dad took some 8mm cine film of Dermot Boyles' arrival at Fram. I must dig it out and get it digitised.*

We are pretty much free of restrictions here. There are occasional flare-ups to which we respond by closing whole or part cities down. As you know, we have no international travellers which has kept our COVID numbers low. However, this has lulled us into a false sense of security and may explain the poor vaccination rates. In addition, some clinics are not geared up for the jab. We have had to wait for 5 weeks and get our first jab in two weeks time. “

In July 2021 Neville said that he was now recovering from his two cataract operations the previous week. He had them on successive days which his wife Alison was rather concerned about, but perfect vision was restored in one eye so he was quite pleased. He said that the advantage of doing them together is that the one-month regime of eye drops is compressed into one period of four weeks as are the follow-up consults. The family now has to adjust to him not wearing glasses, although he still needs reading spectacles.

He went on to say “*We are yet to have our first COVID vaccine jab: it has been a struggle getting an appointment in Brisbane but we will finally get to the front of the queue next Friday with the second dose in September. It is obvious that the State and/or Federal Governments have just not got their act together over vaccination, whether this was due to complacency is anyone's guess. We now have to hit a target of over 1 million jabs a week, to reach full vaccination by the end of the year. Then, and only then, will international borders re-open. For the moment, we endure our 3, now 4-day lockdown. We will be let out at 6.00 pm today, just an hour away.*

You will be interested to learn that *The Times* in London is putting together an obituary for Peter Bailey. James Ruddock and I have been in touch with the *Obits* Editor, and I think he will be drawing quite a lot from Jennifer Simpson's biography and from the distinguished *OFs* section on the web. It will be a nice conclusion to the era with three obituaries making national newspapers both here and in the UK.

In September 2021 Neville was contacted by a printer in Australia to see if he wanted a signed copy of **Richard Sayer (S56-61)** book on **David Larter (R51-57)**. He did and sent Richard a photo of the whole of Brandeston in July 1953 with names. Neville was in the back row just behind and to the left of David Larter. Neville says "*This was the closest I got to David Larter! PS. I see that the 5th Test has been cancelled saving England from further humiliation. See you at the 'Gabba later this year!?*"

October 2021 saw the news of the death of Mike Allport so soon after he retired to Sydney. Neville went through Fram together with Mike, although he was a year younger and they started the RAF Section of the CCF together and both went on annual camp to RAF Cranwell when they were senior NCOs. He was always full of admiration for the way he went on to make a career out of the air force. Neville also remarked that it was wonderful to meet up with Mike and Bunny in the Hunter Valley, not having seen each other for 50-odd years.

Bob Munro (R56-60) sent this Christmas message "*You have been doing a magnificent job as the SOF Overseas Bag editor for many years - and for that I am very grateful, as indeed I trust many others are too. I love reading about the 'doings' of chaps (no chapesses in my day!) with whom I was at school.*

I fully understand why you are looking to have someone else step into your shoes, and of course I hope that someone will volunteer to continue the work. I am currently Secretary of three local Clubs, and have reached a point where I have had enough and I am hoping to find successors. However, COVID-19 has meant that I will be doing at least a year more than I wanted, and since the Clubs I am involved in cater to 'Senior Citizens', there are very few computer literate folk able to take over from me. Also, we have many Italians here in Mildura, and it is a sad fact of life that many of them have had no schooling at all, therefore not only are they illiterate in their native language, but also of course in English. And to make it worse, the children and grandchildren of those pioneering immigrants to Australia (they came in the '50s and early 60's) have no interest in the Club style socialising, so the Clubs are suffering from rapidly declining membership. Obviously your situation is a bit different, but I do get the vibe that the leavers from Fram. in today's world are less keen to become involved in the 'Old Boys & Girls' Society than was the situation in my day (a long time ago now). The world is changing!

I think it is pointless to comment much on the year we have just had - it has been simply awful for many people for many months. I just hope that you and yours get through it OK.

Nevertheless, I wish you the Very Best for Christmas and the upcoming New Year. Let us hope it will be as near 'normal' as possible, and we can all go about visiting, holidaying and generally enjoying ourselves as we did before COVID-19 inflicted itself on our communities. Luckily for us in Regional Victoria, and due to our relative remoteness, we have mercifully had only 4 cases of C-19 in total, and those were all at the end of March - how distant that all seems now! But I must say that most people here in Mildura have been observing the simple rules of wearing a mask when in Shopping Centres or other places where there are crowds, hand washing / sanitising and of course Social Distancing. Why, in some parts of the world, do some people find it so difficult to behave unselfishly is beyond my comprehension.

Rick Mutimer (S67-76) had forgotten his login details at the end of 2020 and said “*I have logged in and reset passwords and updated addresses etc successfully. Things here have been a bit up and down but not as bad as elsewhere. We were forced to close the business for a period of time during the second quarter of 2020 and it will take a while to recover. We also had a strict lockdown during April when we had a local outbreak but other than that it has not been too damaging. Tassie has managed to avoid a second wave but as the internal borders open up around Australia people are a little nervous of repeat of the situation that occurred in Victoria - so fingers crossed.*

Deaths have been limited in Oz to less than 1000 in total due to our government abandoning political doctrine and doing what needed to be done, plus the general population was pretty compliant on adhering to restrictions and rules. I do watch what is happening elsewhere and thank heaven we live here and not in the UK/Europe or the US.”

Simon Narroway (G72-75) was our best man in 1980 and to mark our 40th wedding anniversary I got in touch with him in June 2020. His news was “*We had a few months of quasi lock down. Businesses slowly re-opening although rules vary state by state. Our office in Sydney re-opens on 22nd although with only 10% capacity. Personally, I do not expect to work from an office or wear my suit ever again. WFH has its challenges although, in my industry, everyone is becoming used to it and having virtual/video meetings with colleagues and clients. I will miss the good old days - impromptu coffee catch ups and steak and red wine lunches. I am working 3 days pw. EY values my contribution and is not ageist at all. I plan to stop next July, on my 65th birthday although those plans are fluid. We were hoping to do a lot of travel but that may prove difficult for a while.*

The COVID stats here were surprisingly good. I, and most people, were expecting a far worse outcome. We hope to avoid a second wave now that our winter has started.

I'm a lifelong renter now. No wish to tie up money in an illiquid asset. Both dogs died so we decided to move to a lovely 3 bedroom split level apartment in Chatswood. Low maintenance and very convenient for shops, restaurants and public transport. One daughter living with us. My gym is closed so I have been keeping fit by going down and up our internal fire stairs, 88 steps from the 5th/top floor to B1. I do 30 sets over 50 minutes or 2,640 steps each way. Besides that, I've been battling with a 5,000 piece jigsaw - a 1630 map of the then known world, written in Latin, by Hondius. No Australia!



Lisa gave birth to a second son in January so I now have four grandsons. George has two twin 4yo boys in HK where he is also in lockdown.

I enjoy reading the OF magazine. I hope to visit the college again one day. I expect many changes have taken place.

We certainly live in interesting times. Seeing the defaced statue of Winston annoyed me. Young people have no recollection of his contribution. We've had a few peaceful protests here. The activists know that the police, and Joe Public, would have no tolerance for any violent protests. Watching the arson and looting in the US was shocking. We're now waiting to see whether COVID flares up again here after the recent protest marches with poor social distancing.

I wish you all well and congrats on your anniversary. We are a few years away from that milestone."

Jon Newbery (Z79-84) emailed about the sad death of his father **Paddy Newbery (Hon OF)** on Boxing Day 2020. He had been headmaster of Brandeston. Jon said "*He had been battling MND for the past couple of years (a dreadful disease) so in reality the end was a bit of a relief given he had no quality of life for some time and everything that's been going on there for the last 12 months. Given Dad taught at the College for 4 terms ('79- '80) before taking over as the Headmaster at Brandeston ('80- '85) and was an honorary OF I thought it might be appropriate to write something that could be put in the next OF magazine/newsletter/on the website.*

So I just wanted to understand whether you are still the right person to be communicating with or whether there is someone else I need to get in touch with? I'd also like to understand timing in terms of the next newsletter and whether you think a few paragraphs might be appropriate. I actually recorded a eulogy that was played at his funeral (I obviously couldn't travel unfortunately) so I can tweak the text from that to be suitable for publication.

Would appreciate if you could let me know as my mother is keen that something be announced in the next few weeks. She is also keen to contact the college to see whether some sort of memorial might be arranged when things improve there and if his ashes might be scattered in the woods at the bottom of Brandeston."



I put Jon in touch with Norman Porter, following which he sent the following to Norman "*Thanks for the note and the kind words about Dad - you're memory didn't fail you about his love of hockey (and cricket).*

Sorry to hear that your father suffered with MND too, it really is a very cruel disease, and seems to be becoming more prevalent for reasons that no one seems to be able to understand at this stage. At least he made it to his late 70s before he was impacted by it.

I've attached a slightly more recent photo of Dad that we used for the order of service, maybe that's more appropriate. I've also attached one of him at the MCG a couple of years ago when we went to watch the last Ashes series.

Hugh Richardson (S43-48) was in touch at the start of 2021 after not hearing from him for a number of years. He noted that unfortunately the good old days of the magazine have passed and wondered if there was any news of his contemporaries **Richard Husk (R47-51)** or **Bobby Manthorp (R45-52)** as wanted to make contact. He said *“I am sorry to hear that the Tennis tournament had to be cancelled this year. I think we are better off with Covid than you in UK. Being divorced from Europe now also sounds most unfortunate but perhaps you will survive. Perhaps you will have to become an Aussie colony!”*

We responded that whilst there was no physical magazine in 2020, we hoped there would be some form of physical magazine in the future. We provided him with contact details for Richard Husk but Bobby died in 2001. He responded *“Thank you for the information. I last saw Richard when he was at the navy club a few years ago and will send him a letter. It is many years since we opened the batting for Easton cricket team. I was sorry to hear of the death of Bobby Manthorp, he was a lovely fellow and I was grateful for the help I received from his father Berty, who taught art and maths at Fram in my day. I hope to see you again in Sydney when the world gets normal again”*.

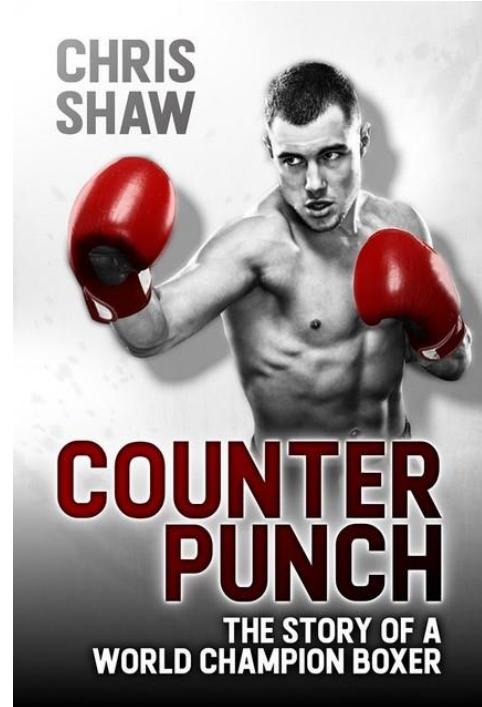
Chris Shaw (K50-56) is my most frequent responder and I’m very grateful to him for that. He is also an excellent author. Back in August 2020 his next book, Counterpunch, was published on his wedding anniversary – 17th. He says *“Since we have had no arguments in that time, it seems highly inappropriate, but there are just some ironies in life that need to be smiled at.*

Life with Covid is no hardship for Rebecca and I: she stitching away and me writing, we are very happy with our lot. I have The Enforcer ready to be edited and processed. It’s the sequel, set in WW2, to The Imposter, and I’ve just started on my fourth novel, which is yet to have a name, but is a horror story. My editor is always wanting more tension and conflict, so I’m writing to shock her! I wrote it as a short story of about 6000 words, framed as an episode of “Bones,” a well known American series about a forensic anthropologist. Rebecca liked it, so have decided to try my hand at Horror as a genre. Who knows, it may turn into a beautiful description of East Anglian countryside!”

We publicised his book on the SOF website – [see this link](#)

In August 2020 **Robert Munro (R54-60)**, who lives in Mildura, Australia, wrote to Chris to say he was enjoying The Imposter better the second time around! He was promoting his new book to all the gyms and boxing establishments around the world, from his desk at home. *“How the hell did Charles Dickens get on? Quill and parchment, and no mail whatsoever. Makes you wonder.”*

In between publicising his new book Chris got to spend some time with his son Shean accompanying him to fetch a new boat, a two day trip. *“What father would turn down two days with his son, who since the age of 17 has been at sea, or home dealing with family matters. He supplies the oil-rigs off the NW Shelf of Western Australia.*



We took off at midnight on Sunday/Monday and arrived at Harvey Bay, 290 km from Brisbane, at 5pm that night. Sleep 9pm-4.30am and on the road with boat at 6am. A stop in Rockhampton to visit an auto-electrician to fix an electricity/brake problem, and home at 2.30 am Wednesday morning, a tad on the tired side. Thats a journey of more than 3000km in two days. (The equivalent is John o'Groats to Lands End three times in two days). So, just a tad tired as I said, but a great time.

*By absolute happenstance I saw the article below mine on the SOF website was by **Peter Rodulfo (R70-75)**, who lives in Great Yarmouth, but mentions Trinidad, which he has visited. I will connect with him about that since I was based there for 7 years.”*

In November 2020 I put Chris in touch with fellow novelist **Ian Foster (K46-53)** who had just published his memoirs (See Spain below). Chris dropped him a note to say “*Congratulations on your Memoirs, Ian. I see you have also chosen wisely when it comes to sunshine. My place in Cairns, Australia is known for its rural and marine beauty, and while I have done some diving, I fear those days are probably behind me. I will be interested to see what you say about your war days, as I remember them well. I lived in Felixstowe for most of the war, with occasional trips to my grandparents in central Norfolk when the doodlebugs got a tad out of hand! Well done, that man! Keep smiling and stay safe.*”

Also, in November 2020 he remarked that he's had a call from **Mike Garnett (R53-55)** and had just watched the Remembrance Service last night and had found it most stirring. He went on to say “*Since I was a Catholic among Anglicans, I was not overly familiar with the interior of the chapel, but it was larger than I remember and I enjoyed the stained glass windows. Well done to the choir, and full marks to the trumpeter (I hope it wasn't a cornet - I played strings, so brass is not my strong point). Enjoyed Richard Dannatt's inspiring talk too. And I spotted the Light Horseman on the altar. Well done guys! Mentioned in dispatches, don't you know! All in all, a very good expatriate experience. Thanks to the army of people who made it possible; the technology of which cannot be handled by grandfathers!*”

In January 2021 I was trying to identify whether **Ian Denys Peek (R35-38)** was still alive and due to soon celebrate his centenary. Chris got onto the case in a flash and reported back that he had sadly died “*I have phoned Penguin publishers, but he was not associated with them. I phoned Pan-Macmillan but they had no knowledge of him apart from publishing his book. Ancestry and My Heritage wanted subscriptions, so I tried the White pages and talked for half an hour with a Mrs S M Peek who had no knowledge of Ian, but did have a telephone directory which contained a large number of Peeks in the Perth area. She gave me two Peeks, and the first one I phoned was Ian Denys Peek's brother (Lewis Ronald, or Ronald Lewis) Peek's son, also Ian. Apparently, they were not a close family even though Ian and Ronald had been in the Japanese POW camp, being captured in Singapore. Ron lost a leg and was shipped out to Roehampton to be fitted with a prosthesis and I think returned to Singapore. They moved to Australia in 1968, and Ian Denys Peek variously lived in Melbourne, Singapore and Perth. He died 'about ten years ago' in Albany, Western Australia, right on the south coast. Other details were unknown by his nephew. They were not estranged as a family, just not close. The brothers would talk together on visits, but had a philosophical divide in that while Ian remembered the Japanese camp experience and wrote about it, Ron just wanted to forget the whole thing and get on with the rest of his life.*”

In January they also experienced a small cyclone, Cyclone Kimi, which sprang up very quickly north of them, and proceeded to head south with a little rain but no wind. “*It was offshore and so small that we*

didn't even bother to top up the grog supply, which is the first consideration in circumstances such as these.

I now have a promoter, a Kiwi PhD who wanted to do something different with his life. However, he has made a difference to my life in that I found myself in a boxing ring for half an hour recently, doing a description of a fight on camera. I cannot begin to tell you how difficult it was at 82 to get up into that damned ring! But the video came out quite well. I'd be happier with a more stentorian voice rather than my fairly soft one, but you can't have everything. My Rebecca found me a set of steps to facilitate my exit from the ring!

This year 'The Enforcer' will be edited and published. It's a WW2 era war story, set in Norfolk mainly, and is a sequel to The Imposter. I've managed to get some OF mentions in there including John Edwards, sadly too late for him to read it. I'm now working on a Gallipoli book. This will be a presentation that is different from all the other books I have done. It will focus on the ones left behind and their way of dealing with their sorrow, loss and sadness. Apart from Aussies and Kiwis, there were French, Brits, Indians and Jews fighting the Turks at Gallipoli. Yes, there was a Zion Mule Corps made up of misplaced Jews from Palestine and Russia, and they congregated in Alexandria. They volunteered and were accepted as the first fighting force of Jews in 2000 years. While they were in charge of the mules, they showed incredible bravery, but were scuppered by Whitehall who would not pay them a pension or reparations mostly. Not a good look. So, I've been immersed in Sikhism and Amritsar in the Punjab, the French from Dordogne, the Jews from Alexandria and the Turks from Constantinople. Haven't started on the Brits yet."

In February 2021 he wanted to brighten up our lockdown days and months!! He said "about a week ago, a bloke swimming in Lake Placid, not a stone's throw from our old house, was attacked by a croc that took his head and one shoulder into its mouth. He managed to fight it off and get to the bank. He had tooth marks embedded in his head and the flesh of his torso, but came out of it not that much the worse for wear! The local TV station got an interview with him and he came across as one cool dude!"

This appeared in The Australian newspaper today, and I thought it was a nice comment on a government run hospital! I would also mention that we have two species of croc in Australia; the fresh/brackish water 'Johnsonii' which gets up to about four feet and is very docile, and the 'Crocodylus porosus' the saltwater crocodile that put all the other crocodiles in the world to shame for size and aggressiveness. ("Sweetheart" is in the Darwin Museum at 22 feet.) They are man-eaters - and women-eaters too for that matter. As far as I know crocs don't discriminate on the basis of sex, colour, religious leanings or political affiliations. We only got back the painted fingernails from the last woman that was taken in Port Douglas on Christmas Eve, some years back.

The cartoonist is Johannes Leak, who has taken over from where his father Bill Leak was, as top cartoonist for Australia.



In June 2021, the height of their winter, Chris reported that temperatures were getting down to 18C and 25C daytime. *"This is going to sound absolutely silly, but I am wearing track-suit bottoms and UGG! Boots, which are made of sheepskin. We are about to break out the BIG doona (Duvet), against further Antarctic blasts. Melbourne is probably -135C, we wouldn't know in Queensland, only that they have a State Government that seems to be acting as an agent of the PRC, to bring Oz to its knees! Time to sleep."*

In July 2021 I sent him the Daily Telegraph obituary on **Peter Bailey**. He commented *"that's a very fine piece. And that's what I call a 'Full and active life.' He was a great OF and an inspiration, and that his energy and talents were in times of turmoil made his steady contribution so much more valuable. He could have been the man that Rudyard Kipling referred to: 'If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you... ' Requiescat in pace, Peter."*

Next news that his wife Rebecca had been prize-winning for cross-stitch entry. *"Scooped the pool, you might say. My blurb on the subject focusses on the fact that she took about six month's work to complete this, while I was watching 768 episodes of British Crime Drama re-runs, or whatever is your favourite. Boys only do one thing at a time; Ladies multi-task. Bless her, she was quite overwhelmed by all the attention. She's stoked to have such a reward. The first one, with the big picture of Katherine of Aragon pleading with Henry VIII not to divorce her, plus the current one represents two years work and close to half a million stitches, while all I have to show for that time is watching 768 episodes of British crime drama - and maybe half a book!"*

In September 2021 Chris was in touch with **Richard Sayer** about his book on **David Larter** which he had just bought. *"Your promotion has borne fruit, already. I gather David has signed the book, and that will close a really big circle, as I was at school with David, I guess around 1955-56, which is when I left. That's a 65 year circle, which is not bad."*

In October 2021 Chris responded the news that **Ken Mayhew**'s memorial service had been postponed due to Covid and the death of Mike Allport in Sydney. There was also the news that **Ian Channel (42-45)** had been stood down as the official Wizard of New Zealand.



CANADA

Howard Thistlewood (K66-73) noticed that a link on the website was missing so that he couldn't access the 1970s magazines. This was corrected. He was also after contact details for the widow of his late schoolfriend **Dr Richard Kell (S66-73)** who saw had passed away in 2019. He was a GP and health campaigner who had fought motor neurone disease with 'dignity and bravery' but had died aged 64. We didn't have any contact details but suggested that he contact his old GP practise

I asked for an update on life in a fairly remote part of British Columbia. “Well, unlike the year that you visited B.C., I finally have a lot more free time as a retiree. Now I only “work” one or two days a week as a professor or emeritus mentoring new hires and writing up a few articles.

I had come across the EADT article about Dicky Kell in your OF news, I believe, perhaps even on the site. As a good computer user I have tried many approaches to learn more of his life or passing, and had decided to write the clinic if you had no further details. So I shall try to contact Barbara. Thanks.

The winter has been mostly mild, and we are having amazing spring skiing presently. The major item affecting us has been covid 19 since last March. We in Canada have so far handled this very well by any comparison. I have relatives and friends still in the UK and cannot say it appears similar there, Good grief, first Brexit and now this challenge... In the same way, we differ greatly from our US neighbours - here is a July 2020 comparison of Niagara Falls USA / Canada from the Guardian, and things have only become further different - The US side of the falls lies within New York state, an area with a population of 19.5 million, and which has seen 414,000 Covid-19 cases and 32,000 deaths. On the Canadian side, Ontario – with a population of nearly 15 million – has seen 38,000 coronavirus cases and 2,755 deaths. Stay safe and take care.”

CYPRUS

Robert Bowman Clarke (R59-64) was in touch again in February 2021 from what he described as a chilly Cyprus. He went on to say “Snow in Athens and cold winds blowing from the North and Turkey - in the mornings the temps are down to 3 degrees at which rate we all want to know when will we see each other again.....but the sun does shine.

Many thanks for passing on Charles Blackmore's poignant poem on the death of Richard Vaughan Griffiths which deserves to be preserved in the OF Annals for all time to mark his passing. We must never forget those of our comrades who have fallen early in their toils at the rockface of Life.....where have all the flowers gone....long time passing.....

Here we are still in a semi-Lockdown with curfew from 9pm to 6am, all restaurants, tavernas and bars shut but we are hoping they will gradually open in time for Easter in early April. Vaccinations are in full flow here, gradually working down thru the Groups, with vaccine mainly obtained from Israel and not the EU!”

FRANCE

Brian Rosen (S40-46) sent apologies in October 2021 for not having been in touch more regularly. He said “After a year and a half of various restrictions due to Covid, it seems that life here is slowly returning to normal with restaurants, bars, gyms, cinemas etc all re opening, although a ‘passe sanitaire’ (Vaccine passport) is usually required and facemasks have now become obligatory wherever people get together. We are now quite used to all this and feel more relaxed as we venture out.

*We have not travelled far from home during this period which caused no hardship for us living in such a beautiful countryside. We really do appreciate our good fortune, with our large garden and swimming pool, compared to so many families living in more confined situations. Our daughter **Sarah, (BH 1987 - 93)** living in a flat in Lyon certainly suffered more than us during the various 'confinements' and curfews. However as an epidemiologist she has of course been extremely busy, rewarded by an important well deserved promotion.*

I have managed to attend a few council meetings via zoom. That may be much more convenient than EasyJet and complicated transport arrangements, but of course no substitute for the real thing.

*I was delighted to know that **Peter Howard- Dobson** has finally accepted the position of president. 50 years ago I was, as treasurer, serving his father, and I could not pay Peter a greater compliment than to say that I'm sure that he will make an equally valuable contribution to the Society, in which of course he has played such an important part in past years.*

So now in my 93rd year I find life very relaxing and comfortable, although I must admit with some assistance from the excellent health services in France.

I would be very interested to be put in touch with any other OF's living in the country, particularly in Rhone Alpes."

GERMANY

Kim Dickel (M97-98) had participated in the Remembrance Service in November 2020 and was yet again very proud, nostalgic and moved to be part of the bigger FRAMily. At the time she was thinking of organising and OF gathering for those living in Germany and I provided a list. She had not had a chance to participate in any OF Council meetings yet but hoped to in the future to see if she could be more actively of help to the OF community. The company she worked for is one of the providers of COVID testing solutions, so she has had a busy time. They have ramped up production to produce unbelievable quantities.

In December 2020 she sent an invite to 5th OF reunion in Germany with the following message "After four wonderful dinners I am now happy to announce that German OFs will meet again next year on September 4th in the beautiful city of Heidelberg. Strengthening the unbreakable bond we all share via Framlingham College is even more relevant after COVID and Brexit and I would be delighted if all of you could mark the date in your calendars."

Sadly in August 2021 Kim made the sad decision that because of ongoing Covid restrictions she was having to cancel the German OF dinner. The Heidelberg tourism board had cancelled the "Schlossbeleuchtung" and all festivities around it. She intends to try and reorganise for 2022 in Heidelberg again, so watch this space.

HOLLAND

Peter Barker (K65-68) had put together an excellent obituary on **Maurice Wonnacott (K64-69)** and sent in some photos, which I thought I'd share below.

The first is of the School 1st Rugby Team in 1968. Maurice as captain is in the middle front row and Peter is one from the right front row. The second photo is of Maurice at his pub in 2013.



HONG KONG

Mona Chung (P09-11) got in touch about a change of address. I therefore asked her for an update "*To be honest I have lost touch with everyone I have known from the College. I left after GCSEs to attend another school for A-levels. After that I attained a BSc in Geography in UCL, and worked for 2 years at the Chinese University of Hong Kong as a researcher during which I co-authored a couple of academic papers in the field of urban climate. Now I am back at university to do a master in Computer Science in UCL in the hope of pursuing my next career goal as a data scientist.*"

Chris Hall (G62-69) had moved firms and therefore provided a new email address. He said he was staying in Hong Kong and will retain some personal directorships so there will be some money to buy more rare silks.

INDIA

Maaz Dehlvi (17-19) on leaving the College had originally been in touch with Martin Myers-Allen looking for a job in the UK where the firm can sponsor him with a general work visa. We couldn't help but during 2020 he provided a new email address and said that he would welcome any visitors to India or his second home in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

He provided the following update "*After finishing at the college, I was playing cricket in Birmingham Premier League in Birmingham and on the other hand I was looking for a job in Birmingham and in*

other cities as well but unfortunately I didn't get any job and my visa expired so I had to come back to India. I did get a job in Finborough School as a Sports Assistant but they couldn't offer me the visa because of some reason. So I had to leave that as well and had to come back to India. I am still looking for a job in UK thorough 'Indeed' and some other websites but can't find one. If you know someone who can help me in this can you please let me know, I would be very grateful to you.

*I have been in touch with most of my batch mates after school and some of them came to India in their gap year and I met them and went with them to some places which was a very good experience for me and I hope for them as well & there is one OF called **Conal Judge (K17-18)** he also came to India with his family and I met all of them and gave them a good tour of my city Delhi. Now, I am waiting for Mr. Myers Allen and other OF's to come to India.*

I am trying my best to get a 'Tier 2 work visa' because this visa counts for citizenship whereas the 'Tier-4 student visa' doesn't count for the citizenship. As soon as I will become a citizen of UK, it will help me a lot to achieve the goal I have which is to play cricket for the England cricket team. "

JAPAN

Jonathon Amos (S66-71) had a fascinating story to recount of a chance encounter with an OF "Forty five years ago in the summer of 1976 I was at the Newquay Folk Club to see Dave Evans play guitar. He was a brilliant solo acoustic guitarist and so I bought his album, *Sad Pig Dance*, which I have to this day. I never saw him again but have never forgotten that concert and in recent years I was able to watch his *Old Grey Whistle Test* concert in 1975 on [YouTube](#). In that clip not only does he play his own extremely original and extremely complex compositions with ease but he also plays on a guitar he built himself! Between 1971 and 1976 he lived in Bristol, released five albums and toured the UK and Europe. Despite being one of the best fingerstyle acoustic guitarists at the time, in 1979 he moved permanently to Belgium, ceased his career as a professional musician and switched to making and repairing guitars.

This week, I looked him up again on the internet and found his [obituary](#) in The Guardian. He died on 4 April aged 80. "His guitar style was unique, using complex harmonies and rhythms in non-standard tunings in song accompaniments and instrumentals" and then "David boarded at Framlingham College". What a huge surprise! I looked him up on the SOF website and found him listed, 1952 to 1958 in Rendlesham, and appearing as a cheerful looking 14 year old in four Colts rugby photographs but otherwise very little.

So I think it's high time, please, to make amends and make Dave a distinguished OF, to my mind the most distinguished of all musical OFs." He will be added when I get time.

NEW ZEALAND

Richard Bearne (K59-62) needed to change his address in New Zealand and sent the following update "I need to change my address as I have recently moved one hundred kilometres north of Auckland and now live in a small town called Waipu. Waipu has Scottish roots, so much so they hold Highland games every

New Year's Day! There is a pipe band, which is often heard practicing in the evening and the highlight of their year is the Christmas Eve Santa parade. The local pub "The Pizza Barn" is also a brewery, McLeod's who brew some of the finest beers in NZ. A lot to commend the move including one of the loveliest beaches in northland.

Sarah and I decided to move after the first lockdown in New Zealand when we went to visit our daughter who had moved up with her the fiancé. We bought a building plot and within nine months we had a lovely new home and had sold our house in Auckland. We were able to do a six week tour of the whole of South Island while our building was finished. This was a once in a lifetime chance to see the beautiful country as there are no overseas visitors. Now the hard work of making a garden has started!"

Simon Betney (G74-70) provided the following update after a friend of his contacted us to be put in touch. *"Good to hear from you and I should have updated you earlier, but we have had a few years of moves. My wife, Joanne and I are now thoroughly settled in Golden Bay, NZ. We have been in New Zealand for 17 years and citizens for the last 10 years. We have a beach front property which is a bit of a renovation project leading me into early retirement.*

As an anecdote to life in the Antipodes, we met Paul several years ago when we were all trying to fly out of Queenstown airport in a snow storm! He was just a complete stranger in the queue, but he had overheard our friend at the check in rearrange our flights and asked to hitch a lift with us as he needed to get back to Aussie. He put his life in our hands as we had a mad 150 mile dash through the snow in our Landrover to another airport to take up the transferred flights! On our arrival the airport cancelled all flights! We spent the next 2 days snowed in in Dunedin and thus began a friendship.

Out of interest the "battery" part of our address refers to a stamper battery, which was a large piece of machinery used in the gold rush days to crush the quartz in the process of gold extraction! Mine of information!(pun intended!)

Thank you once again for assisting in putting us back in touch, we had Paul and Kim's contact details but they must have lost ours. We hope you are coping with these difficult times and your family is all safe. We still have close family in the U.K. and are constantly in touch. We have suffered very little here in comparison with the rest of the world and all consider ourselves very lucky, but it is a tight rope we are living on!"

David Newson (S54-63) reported in February that they had got off very lightly in NZ in respect of Covid. Their main lockdown was early 2020 for a few weeks – which gave them a chance to catch up on some outstanding jobs. He said that families living in rural areas seem to cope better under lockdown conditions than families living in urban areas.

He said that Christmas and New year had been a busy time for them with eight adults and nine grandchildren staying in the house, plus extras for meals. It was a great family time and they all enjoyed themselves – even if it was a trifle hectic at times!

Our son George took us on a cross country trip through the central North Island a couple of weeks ago – mostly off road and including some 4WD sections.

Frances and I drove my Kia Sportage 4WD with all the food and bedding – our son George drove his VW 4WD utility truck with his wife and three children with the tent and cooking gear. We camped in some very remote areas (Pureora Forest and Tongariro National Park) – we ended up going through the 42nd Traverse (4WD) in the rain which was challenging. The good news is that the scenery was fantastic and we all finished without any serious mishaps.

We can't finish New Zealand without including an article on the sad retirement of **Ian Channell (42-45)** as the official Wizard of New Zealand. Below is an article in the Daily Mail in the UK. Ian came across to Australia in 2015 for the 150th anniversary OF gathering in the Hunter Valley and was very much the Wizard.

Cast aside after 23 years, the official Wizard of New Zealand

By Imogen Horton

NEW Zealand's official wizard has been sacked from his post after more than two decades of spellbinding work.

Ian Brackenbury Channell, 88, who was born in London, was paid by Christchurch City Council for 'wizard-like services' and appearances at public functions as part of promotional work for the city.

But his state-funded annual salary of around £8,000 – which he has been paid for 23 years – will end with the council saying he was no longer right for the modern image of the city.

'They are a bunch of bureaucrats who have no imagination,' he told the Stuff website.

'Their image of Christchurch is nothing to do with the authentic heritage of the city. I am the original image of Christchurch.'

Having started performing acts of wizardry shortly after arriving in New Zealand in 1976, The Wizard – as he is known – was declared a living work of art in 1982. In 1990, then-prime minister Mike Moore promoted him to the title of Wizard of New Zealand.

Mr Moore said: 'No doubt there will be implications in the area of spells, blessings, curses that are beyond the competence of mere prime ministers.'

The Wizard was also awarded the Queen's Service Medal in 2009.

But he has recently come under fire over comments he made about women and has seen his official duties scaled back. He told a local television channel in April that he liked to tease women by telling them they were devious and said 'they use cunning to get men who are thick'.

The council said it would honour his contract until December and that it was pursuing a 'new and different promotional programmes that will increasingly reflect our diverse communities'.

The Wizard said the ending of his contract would not stop his regular visits to Christchurch's Arts Centre, adding: 'They will have to kill me to stop me.'



Spells trouble: Ian Brackenbury Channell is under fire for his remarks about women

SOUTH AFRICA

Mike Bullock (R55-59) reported that he had had a cardiac arrest at the start of November 2020 which had resulted in the need for a pacemaker which was fitted on Friday 13 November. He says "*I am managing very well through the 6 weeks convalescence period, walking twice a day but a bit frustrated*

over light duty as I have always been a busy person. Mowing the lawn, fishing and bowls have to wait until the new year.

We are going away for a week in a fortnights time and will be home for Christmas, then we look after our son's dogs for 2 weeks over new year while the family is away fishing off shore. Wish I was there!"

In January 2021 he provided an update to say that he was much better and doing most things that he used to do but doesn't feel as strong as he was before. *"I am doing my exercises, walking every day and mowing the lawn twice a week. I am also doing a lot of sedentary work like sorting through photographs on the computer more than 20 000 of them many duplicates, triplicated and sometimes more!"*

Attached are the photos of the Model T Ford I made and then I did a Daimler Benz, the first petrol driven motor vehicle, both from scrap tambootie timber that has a lovely grain but toxic when burnt. The "plans" came from images off the internet and they are not to the same scale. I can't recall if I mentioned that I also made a model of my first car an MGTC so I now have 3 models one for each of the grandsons.



We are planning a family get together at the end of Feb at our younger sons retreat in the mountains, we were there before Christmas for a few days too. I am looking forward to the opportunity to fish as I was not able to last time because I was under "doctors' orders". When we were there in August last year having obtained permits to travel I caught a trout of 2.2 kg."

After posting a story on the SOF website about his wonderful models I shared with Mike that Bill Collard (S55-58) had been in touch about the model planes he had made during lockdown. He then gave an update *"We have survived Covid very well and have adapted well to the new life. We have registered for vaccination but later in May it should happen. Meanwhile our friends in Zimbabwe had theirs a couple of weeks ago. However our Dept of Health seems to have done very well because as of now we have not had a third wave...yet!"*

My health has not been too good though. My PSA test in Jan was higher than 1.0 so my oncologist has put me on a course of Eligard with the second shot mid-May and further tests. At the same time I am a

candidate for a shoulder replacement so I have a balancing act there. I will know more about this later in the week.

In spite of all that I am doing most of the same things but not bowls yet as I do not like the idea of others not wearing masks on the rink."

Michael Hood (K84-90) had dropped off the mailing list some time ago and got in touch with a new email address.

Adam Phillips (G78-83) says "*Kat and myself are still involved in exporting beef to China. We had a very tough lockdown at the beginning of C-19 and although we now have a second wave, most areas of business and life are functioning. I just hope the British Lions tour will happen. I think at this stage it has got to be 50:50. We have already missed out on the Cape Town Sevens and the Boks have not played for over a year and are still number one. Not sure how that works!?*

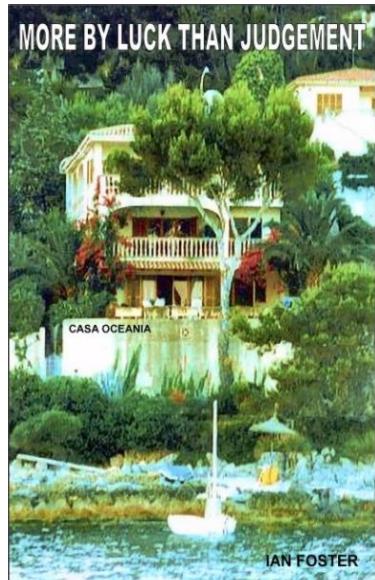
Cape Town is going to be quiet this Christmas. The only good from C-19, is that it is easier to get into a restaurant and they don't seem to be skimping on the portions!

If you survived 2020, then 2021 should be a walk in the park! Hopefully, Kat and I can send pictures as to what we are up to. Being based in Cape Town and him up in Joburg, we have not met up since November last year."

SPAIN

Ian Foster (K46-53) didn't waste time during lockdown and in November 2020 he was in touch to say he had memoirs in which includes thoughts about Fram as a new boy in 1946 etc. In January I let Ian know that I had finished reading his book and I said I had thoroughly enjoyed it and found it an easy read. I particularly liked the section on Korean War as I knew nothing about that. Ian responded saying "*2 OFs there at the same time in Korea were Chris Ford (G44-52) and Dudley Holland (R45-52). Chris was sadly killed in in a car crash shortly after his return."*

I passed my copy to Norman Porter for perhaps a review in the next magazine and to then place my copy in the College Library. I have also added Ian to the Distinguished Section list of OF authors!



Interestingly Ian subsequently got in touch to say that he had been asked to do an advertisement for the big Lottery in Spain and he was on his way now to be fitted out and the following week he did the shoot. I've seen the video! The lottery is in aid of a Spanish charity for the blind called ONCE and Ian is playing Grandpa Paco with five grandchildren.

Andrés Miguélez (S12-13) responded to a request to provide an email address.

USA

James Clarke (K01-05) realised that his contacted details were out of date and hence he was not receiving any updates. James now lives in New York and he has successfully registered on the website. He has added the following biography “Studied History at the University of Birmingham before reading Law at BPP Law School, London. Passed the Bar Vocational Course in 2010, and was called to the Bar later that year. Obtained practicing certificate as a Barrister in England and Wales in 2011. Moved in to employed practice, specializing in Employment matters with a focus on discrimination case work. Relocated to the United States in 2018.”

Dave Connett (K71-73) provided an updated to Ian Pearson (K67-73) who contacted him about the attached photo of his old school pencil box, which includes “DC Connett was here”.

Dave responded “*What a pleasant surprise to come out of the blue! Well that certainly looks like my writing! Did you do the drawing? Because it looks like something Pete Talbot would do.*

After O Levels I left Fram, but I had to attend Frankfurt American High School because I needed one credit to obtain my American School Diploma - American Government. Which of course wasn't available at Fram. But it was okay, because the school was really an open campus in downtown Frankfurt, I only had to attend one class a day, and about one hundred of us were so distanced that we we had to board there. Co-Ed. So yeah, that was pretty cool.

*After that I didn't immediately go to university because I was hooked on music. **Pete Talbot (R71-74)** and I made a go of starting a band, but that didn't work out. I ended up marring a British girl. Wanting to get back to England I joined the USAF as a Firefighter/Crash Rescue and was stationed at Lakenheath and lived in Bury St. Edmunds. That was pretty good until I found out my wife took advantage of my 24 hour on/off work schedule and starting finding outside company. (Payback for the Over paid, Over sexed, and Over here Yanks of WWII?)*

About that time Reagan fired all the Air Traffic Controllers so I cross trained and became a Controller. First in the USAF, then in the FAA. Eventually getting my Undergraduate Degree in Aeronautics.

I ended up making the same mistake again and married another British woman. That ended the same way, for the same reasons. Never imagined or learned that a spouse committed to shift work would lead to insatiable temptations.

In any event, I had a beautiful daughter from the first marriage Jenny, who is now an executive for United Airlines, and a daughter Rosy, and son James from my second marriage. They both live with me



here in LA at the moment, James recently out the USAF after being stationed in Germany. (And yes, my father was an F-4 pilot stationed at Bentwaters)

After my last divorce in 2000, I learned my lesson and am committed to remaining single, although I'll say I've been a bit like your father and his teachers through the years.

Fortunately, because of the stresses of my chosen profession you must retire at age 56, but if you've accumulated 20 or more years by age 50 you can retire then. After 9/11, the job changed for me so as soon as I was eligible I retired at 50. (This video is only about 60% correct, but it'll give you an insight of my day that day. By the way, I don't know who did this. I discovered it about a year ago:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lPlqIaH88og>

In 2012 I became Co-owner and Manager in <http://www.Braverybrewing.com>.

*I resigned from that and sold my shares last week. Now I'm completely retired. By the way, when I was still in the brewing business I tried reaching out to **Johnnie Adnams (S65-73)**. I guess he's taken over from his dad. But he never responded.*

As soon as this COVID crisis is over I'm selling my house here and moving to the Pacific Northwest. My last move I hope. Since leaving Fram I lived in Germany, Florida, England, California (4 times), New Hampshire, Maine, Spain, Alaska and Oklahoma.

Anyway, thanks for reaching out. Sorry for the delayed response as this is an alternate email account that I don't often check. I'll have to do better. Would you mind if I shared this with Pete Talbot? He's get a kick out of it. So take care and stay safe from the Coronavirus!"

Anthony Cowan (R55-64) responded to an email I sent round in August 2020. At the time he was at his farmhouse in Le Marche, Italy, but in late September they would return to their place in the woods on the southern slopes of Mount Rainier in Washington State, where they border the Cowlitz River, which is well known for fly fishing skiing. He'd had a nice conversation with **Jules Arthur (K75-84)** recently.

I explained that we had planned a family tour of Italy in the summer of 2020 to mark our 40th wedding anniversary, but sadly Covid had prevented. We hoped to plan again in the future and Anthony generously said "assuming we are all in good health and we are in Le Marche, may I suggest including us in your itinerary for two or three days and come and stay. Our village is called Avacelli and we are in the Comune of Arcevia. In May we were intending to take a river cruise on the River Douro in Portugal, with good friends based in Norfolk, but our flights were cancelled. So now postponed until June 2021, cross fingers!

Bryan Pearson (S45-47) in December 2020 was in his words suffering from Cruise Withdrawal Symptoms "keep wanting to go up to Deck14 and enjoy a soft serve ice cream cone !! Looking at the rates on Princess, it seems rather unlikely that we shall be cruising again. They seem to think that they can raise the rates and reduce the benefits for Elite pax and people will accept it, instead of lowering prices to encourage people to cruise again after the Covid19 scare this year a la Diamond Princess, people trapped on board etc."

Also in December in an email to Nick Carlton (G63-70) he said all is well here in Hawaii, he had turned 89 on November 19th and was still getting about, albeit a bit more slowly !

In January 2021 Bryan was eagle eyed to spot a headline that said “Former Suffolk student makes name for himself modelling for Prada and Valentino”. On looking him up Bryan found he was **OF George Goodin (G02-16)**. From being scouted at a Rihanna concert to modelling for the likes of Prada and Valentino, he is making a name for himself in the fashion industry. At just 22 years old and known in the industry by his middle names 'Luard Fyson', he has travelled all over the world while walking for some of the fashion world's biggest designers. After the College he studied fashion journalism at the University for the Creative Arts in London.

According to the article *“His dream has always been to pursue a career in fashion, but the modelling route caught him by surprise when he was scouted at a Rihanna concert with his girlfriend. At first he thought nothing of it, but a few months later and he was signed with Premier Model Management, before switching to Elite Models almost a year ago. He has since walked for Prada, Valentino, Stella McCartney, Jil Sander, Craig Green, Margaret Howell and his favourite designer and "idol" Raf Simons. He said his first show for Raf Simons was "incredibly surreal and definitely a pinch me moment" and has since gone on to be lucky enough to walk his show and work on several shoots for him. “*



An update from Byran in February 2021 said *“All well here, gorgeous weather, but chilly (for us) at night, gets down to the 60's ! My daughter in Suffolk says that they are just getting some light snow at 6 pm. Have you seen The Dig, about Sutton Hoo ? We don't get Netflix as I cancelled it when they signed the Obummers to produce films for them. ”*

In April 2021 he said they were considering a cruise on the Diamond Princess in December, sailing from San Pedro down the coast to Santiago, Chile. All the best from semi-locked down Hawai'i.

In June 2021 he had some exciting news. *“As a last hurrah, and assuming that I'm still ambulatory, we have booked a trip to London in early November, hoping to stay at Mildenhall for a few nights, before heading to Southampton and boarding the Princess Sky for a cruise back to Fort Lauderdale on November 5th. This will also be the occasion to celebrate my 90th (ugh) birthday at sea on the 19th. At least, the deposit has been made and we have until July 30th to confirm the booking. We are all vaccinated here, and ready to prepare for our cruise. ”*

I offered to meet up with him in Southampton before boarding but in October 2021 he sadly reported that they had decided to cancel their cruise for several reasons but, mainly, when the itinerary was cut short by two nights it meant that they would no longer be at sea for his 90th birthday, which was the whole point of booking the cruise! He went on to say *“Needless to say, this has caused much wailing and gnashing of teeth in England, as we shall now miss spending Hallowe'en with our three grandchildren, and a long awaited visit with my brother in Ipswich. On top of that, there is the arduous task of cancelling airline and hotel bookings etc. This was to have been my last hurrah , as days of 15 hour flights, lugging suitcases up and down escalators etc. are no longer very appealing. My health is amazingly good, but I*

don't want to take unnecessary risks, particularly with Covid 19 still being prevalent, with all the tests and proof of vaccination required in order to travel etc. ”

Bryan Ivory (K48-52) was in contact with **James Ruddock Broyd (G46-52)**. Bryan's news was “*Over here it has been a very wet winter so far, with many of the mid-western states receiving constant stormy weather.*

Right now we are going through the impeachment trial of ex Pres' Trump. This country is in a terrible mess , hopelessly divided. We now have a highly respected Pres' and Vice Pres' but with the pandemic , a monster task for sure, it will be a real uphill climb to regain our moral respect from the rest of the world. I often wonder whether I should have come in the first place. Then I think of all the wonderful people who we have met and the 30 years with Turner Construction Co ,:..... we have been very fortunate .

Have been getting a little arthritis with the damp weather, but so far the Eyesight is remaining stable. I continue to work on my collection of Social History Postcards and Photos. Coming from England , the mailing costs me more than the item ! Rugby news: Whatever happened to England at Twix ???!! enough said. Take care Chum , my best wish to you both , family and mutual friends ”

Richard Rowe (S65-74) was transiting flights in August 2021 when he responded to an email from me for an update “*We are doing well. Just flying home from taking my youngest to start at Notre Dame university - one of the top US universities. Generally we are operating normally in Florida but Covid rates have spiked this last week. As a precaution I just did my 3rd Covid shot as I have an underlying immune issue.*

We vacationed in Cape Cod in July. We were supposed to sail for one week in August but the charter company cancelled us 3 days before the start. Real bummer as the weather was perfect that week.

We had to put down our 8 year old Labrador due to cancer. Really sad especially when he happily jumps in the car wagging his tail with total trust but not knowing it was his final journey to the vet.

Got to go. About to take off”

He followed up with “*Yes we are very proud of Jack; but it is costing us a small fortune. Fortunately, my wife Denise is having yet another outstanding year as a realtor; especially as my own work has almost dried up. But fortunately the condo rental business keeps going strong - close to 100% occupancy. We both work for ourselves from a home office. At least retirement planning features in our discussions; but we will both keep working to some extent but hopefully not at the usual crazy pace. We now have all 3 sons at university; so start of a new era of being empty nesters.*

Both you and I are putting on the years. Congratulations on your milestone. I will hit 65 in May 2022. Next month I have my second hip replacement; not fun walking around with no cartilage, grinding bone on bone!

Be good to see you. Let me know your dates - though our planning seems very short term and based around future unknown University events.

We Loved our Lab; but Denise is adamant - no more pets! She wants to travel and not be held back by more responsibilities. But the absence of Rocco, our Lab, just makes our house seem even emptier. ”

Richard was back in touch in October 2021 “We are all doing well. It is mid-term break, so I get all my three sons home at one time tonight from their universities - roast prime rib and Yorkshire puddings for dinner!

Almost at the end of hurricane season. The Atlantic pressure system has been kind to us this year and pulled most of the storms north before they got to Florida. So been a quiet year so far; but a few more weeks to go before we are reasonably in the clear. Then we will get to the best time of the year when the weather is a little cooler and less humid, so we can turn off the A/C and open up the house - hopefully for 6 months.

Just had my second hip replacement; but walking and driving after only 3 weeks! All done at an outpatient facility. So that had me walking with a frame just hours after the op.

VIETNAM

Nicholas Dowling (G73-78) let us know that he had moved from Madagascar to Northern Vietnam and now works there for a refinery called NSRP. He said if there is any OF in the vicinity he is at the NGhi Son Refinery & Petrochemicals. Hai yen commune, Nghi son district, Thanh Hoa province, Vietnam. In so doing he became the only OFs to contact mew from Vietnam.

I asked him his latest news as previously he was the only OF to get in touch from Madagascar “*I was in Madagascar for 1.3 years (engineering manager) and have just completed my first year in Vietnam. At this level I seem to know a large number of souls who work in the downstream oil business. In short they call all the time. LinkedIn is both a blessing and a curse. People want jobs, references or that I “come there”. You can never avoid your past. Of course working for Shell and Total plugged me into huge networks whose tentacles go everywhere. I moved from Madagascar when an old Shell manager in Vietnam called saying he had serious problems and could I leave wherever I was and help straighten out the plant. Since this man was a leader of the old fashioned kind (leading from the front, an example to all, admired by all, unstinting in his effort) I thought I should move out of my warm little niche and help. Took me a year to get my arms around the present job and get the engineers moving in the right direction. It helped immensely that Vietnamese people are inherently very welcoming and absolute sponges when it comes to new technical approaches.*

NSRP are looking for experienced engineers of all main disciplines - civil, mechanical, piping, chemical, metallurgical, inspection. Would be good to have another OF on the staff....?