

Commemorative SOF Dinner  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
at the  
Sebel Kirkton Park  
in the Hunter Valley, NSW.

[Update April 2014](#)



1865

2015



Greetings, Old Brandestonians and Old Framlinghamians - well 'ex-'  
anyway!

Since we are now only a year out from this event, I thought an  
update wouldn't go astray. A year may seem an age, but time flies when  
you're having fun - or just getting on a bit!

- If you have booked your Commemorative Dinner and hotel accommodation at the Sebel Kirkton Park, think of this as an update and clarification.
- If you have no plans and no intention of attending the dinner, then either ignore the following, or read it for the sake of interest.

- If, however, you are thinking about attending the occasion even *slightly* positively, I sincerely hope this will help you make up your mind in the *totally* positive. (Yes, I'm still using adverbs! The rest of Australia appears to have forsaken them.)

The Commemorative Dinner will be held on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, starting at 6.30pm at the Sebel Kirkton Park, 336, Oakey Creek Road, Pokolbin, NSW 2320.

Ph 02 4998 7680 or (02 4993 1309 for Eliza Kibell, the Events Manager.) (E-mail: [H8797-SB2@accor.com](mailto:H8797-SB2@accor.com)).

(For those outside Australia, add '61' as the code to get in to Australia, but leave off the '0' before the State code number.)

Just give Sebel your credit card details, and you will pay for your room, drinks, other meals and incidentals etc. **when you leave**. Quote '**Framlingham Reunion**' for the appropriate rate. 'Reservations' will be able to give you the room rate at the time you phone.

(Re. accommodation. \*\* See below.)

Also, send Mike Garnett \$100 **per person**, which will cover your pre-dinner drinks and canapés in the private courtyard, your buffet meal and ancillaries during the evening, but not personal drinks at the dinner itself; they will be billed to your room.

Mike's details are: M. P. Garnett - FRAMLINGHAM DINNER: BSB 083-857: A/c 15-652-0539, and please include your name so he can link the money to the person paying that money. Any problems with this please ring him on 03-5429-5092.

On arrival at the Courtyard at 6.30pm you will be registered and receive a **large print nametag**, (specifically for the over 45's).

There will be hot and cold canapés, sparkling wine\* or orange juice, in a private courtyard where Mike, Rebecca and I will make you very welcome.

\*The 'C' word is out - unless it stands for 'Cricket'.

We will then proceed to the James Busby Room for our private dining where we will partake in a Gourmet Buffet Dinner that should have a selection to please everyone, and includes cheeseboard and coffee. Your drinks at dinner will be charged to your room, although we are trying to arrange for a complimentary Port for those who wish to partake. If you have specific food requirements, please let me know and I'll have a word in Chef's ear. I will send you a menu closer to the time.

Speeches will be kept to a minimum, and there will be a rather fine surprise package for you at your table, with a little something for the ladies. The emphasis on this occasion will be on you and your conversations with other OF's, catching up with the sort of, 'Bless my soul, what have you been up to all these years?'

NB. Gentlemen, the dress code will be jacket and tie. Ladies, it will probably be advisable to bring a scarf, shawl or pashmina as the evening temperature will probably drop to about 16-20C (60-70F).

(Those from the tropics may wish to be in an overcoat and scarf, and those from UK and NZ may feel like wearing Hawaiian shirts and sunglasses; but a jacket and tie will suffice nicely!)

(Chris Essex has offered to bring a supply of OF ties out from UK with him. If you would like one, please e-mail him.) [essexes@aol.com](mailto:essexes@aol.com)

**Those attending so far are:**

Chris Essex (K69-75), President Designate of SOF, and his wife, Eryl

Chris Shaw (K50-56) and Rebecca – co-Hosts

Mike Garnett (R53-55) – co-Host

Brett Bailey (K58-65) and Sue Heins

Peter Bailey (K34-38)

Michael Bentall (G62-70) and his Wife

David Bonner (G62-66)

Phil (G65-74) and Dee Bower

Robert (K55-59) and Carolyn Craig

Keith (S48-50) and Pat Dann

John (S44-48) and Ruth Gates

Lynn and Peter Jenkins

Colin (R53-61) and Lexie Lipman

Neville (S53-61) and Alison Marsh

Murray Munro (R58-61) and Partner

Robert Munro (R54-60) and Partner

Rick (S67-76) Mutimer and Partner

Simon (G72-75) and Yoko Narroway

John (R79-84) and Marzenna Newbery

David (S54-63) and Fran Newson (NZ)

Stephen (S58-63) and Aileen Sayer (Oman)

Peter (K32-40) and Hetta Simpson

David (G48-56) and Rosie Summers

**Locals who have also expressed an interest:**

Trish Evans, widow of Len Evans

Aubrey (G58-65) and Diane Whitear

Bruce Ritchie (Z76-81), brother of Rob Ritchie

Richard Warner (Z88-96) (NZ)

Mike (R54-62) and Bunny Allport

A possible contingent from WA, including Ann Hogarth (V85-87)

**Interest from UK:**

Paul and Amanda Taylor (Headmaster)

Susan Webber (Deputy)

Andrew Wright (R48-57)

Richard and Georgina Sayer (S56-61)

Luke Payne (BH86-89)

(N.B. World Cup cricket is on from February 14<sup>th</sup> to March 29<sup>th</sup> in Australia and New Zealand – a great lead up for devotees of leather on willow.)

**Interest from Thailand:**

John Birt (S59-63), brother of Andrew Birt (S55-58) of NSW.

All attendees will be immortalised with their names forever recorded in the SOF Commemorative Booklet, which we're putting together for you.

Roy Farman (K47-55), a retired vet in New Zealand, called it beautifully when he wrote to me recently, '...and Gentlemen in Framlingham now a-bed, shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here, and hold their manhoods cheap whilst any speaks that dined with us, near Anzac Day'.

(Nearly Henry V, with apologies to the Bard).

There will undoubtedly be OF's who have not yet booked, but will not want to miss out on this ground breaking, international event, and we await their requests with baited-breath. We have a block booking at Sebel until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014, after which they will be selling the unreserved rooms to outsiders. Better to stay in-house, yes? \*\* See below.

Queries to Chris Shaw [cjrcshaw@bigpond.com](mailto:cjrcshaw@bigpond.com) or 07-4039-1927.

Speaking of the SOF Booklet, we have 16 stories from 10 contributors, so far. Should anyone else feel the urge to contribute a story of, 'Something that happened to you in Australia or New Zealand, that wouldn't have happened in UK', please let us have it soon. Around the 1000-1500 words – or less, is what we're thinking about. Need a time goal? How about June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014? Thank you. Relax - all stories will be professionally edited with no critique.

Send to: [cjrcshaw@bigpond.com](mailto:cjrcshaw@bigpond.com)

The Commemorative wine, especially labelled for us courtesy of the talents of Chris Keeble, OF, will be available at the Sebel. We'll have details on that later in the year. Mike Garnett is going away shortly but will sort all that out when he returns. I'll let you know in good time.

I will say that recently I won a bottle of Shiraz from Neville Marsh in Brisbane. Since Rebecca and I were travelling light and flying to Sydney the next day, we posted it in a specially designed Australia Post wine box, and it was waiting for us, intact, on our return home to Cairns. Australia Post sells boxes to accommodate single bottles, and doubles. Of course, if you are coming by car, then bring a 4WD and carry it away in cases! Hook up a trailer, even! There will be details of all this, later.

Mike and I wish you to understand that this night is for YOU! To talk freely in relaxed circumstances and circulating during the evening, is our aim. We shall have circular tables holding about ten people each so that after the meal we can do just that – circulate, maybe talking of times that were a lifetime and a world away. Our hope is that you leave the dinner knowing more about your fellow OF's in the area, and continue to communicate more with each other than in the past. There will be blank pages to fill out names and e-mail addresses of a favoured few in the back of the SOF Booklet.

We are delighted that Chris Essex (President Designate) and his wife Eryl will be there from UK, and hope their example will be followed by other adventurous souls who may have got in to the habit of 'living in the UK groove'.

So, instead of asking, 'Why?' ask, 'Why not?' To misquote the Bard, 'Now is the winter of your discontent made glorious summer by this Australian sun of ours!' (Nearly Richard III, by Rebecca I.)

Here are some websites for you to explore, to see what is available to entertain you in the Hunter Valley, in Sydney or Melbourne, and in the rest of Australia and New Zealand.

Sites to explore:

[www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com)

[www.newzealand.com](http://www.newzealand.com)

[www.sydneyaustralia.com](http://www.sydneyaustralia.com)

[www.visitmelbourne.com](http://www.visitmelbourne.com)

[www.viator.com/australia](http://www.viator.com/australia)

[www.winecountry.com.au](http://www.winecountry.com.au)

<http://visitperthcity.com/>

[/www.visitbrisbane.com.au/Travel/Default.aspx](http://www.visitbrisbane.com.au/Travel/Default.aspx)

[www.cairns.com](http://www.cairns.com)

If you love nature, there is more here than you could ask for – and it will all be new to non-Aussies. You can see it under safe conditions in world-class zoos, or venture out bush to observe for yourself.

If you love shopping, Sydney and Melbourne will give you an international experience.



If you want to see 'things', there are touristy bits everywhere. See websites.

If you want to sit and have a drink and a chat, or go to a restaurant in a city, then choose the country's food you would like to experience, and it shall be yours.

N.B. It has to be emphasised that all this will be done in warm sunshine, surrounded by universally cheerful and optimistic people, who, since the 2000 Olympics have 'got' multi-culturalism - even for Poms and Kiwis - and this piece is for their benefit, mainly!

Should you have any queries, please let us know and we'll do our best to sort them out, or at least pass them on to someone else who has a better chance of doing so!

[cjrcshaw@bigpond.com](mailto:cjrcshaw@bigpond.com) ph. 07-4039-1927, or [garnettm@bigpond.net.au](mailto:garnettm@bigpond.net.au)  
ph. 03-5429-5092

**NB** For one reason or another we appear not to be very well informed about the names of wives/partners, not only for the dinner, but also in general. In order that the 'male bastion' philosophy of a bygone era is gentled towards inclusivity, please let me know their names. If for no other reason, we shall need them for name tags/table place names. 'Rebecca Shaw' shows far more respect than 'Mrs. Christopher Shaw', which sounds

a tad 'chattel-ly' or 'Old Fashioned' in our enlightened age of approaching equality!

PS If there are any inaccuracies, please let me know ASAP.

**To summarise:**

1. Make the decision to come to the 'Dinner Down-under', a unique experience with once in a lifetime bragging rights. 'Yes! I was there.'
2. Phone/e-mail to book with the Sebel for 2 nights, (preferably Sunday/Monday 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> April 2015), if you need to stay, and give them your Credit Card number. No Payment until you leave! You can stay for a single night, of course, but the rate may be more. Also, Saturday is always more expensive and far busier.
3. Pay Mike Garnett \$100 per person. This pays for your dinner etc. but doesn't include drinks with the meal.
4. Please let Chris know if his list of those coming is in any way inaccurate.
5. Let Chris or Mike know about the names of wives/partners.
6. Send in a small story from your past; of 'something that happened to you in Oz or NZ that wouldn't have happened in UK'.
7. Ask about anything else you may need to know.  
  
(NB We don't do horse racing tips and the like!)

Good luck and we look forward to seeing you there.

Cheers, Chris and Rebecca and Mike.

PS *If you think time and money are major issues, I'm reminded of a quote from John Steinbeck's 'Cannery Row'; 'What can it profit a man to gain the whole world and to come to his property with a gastric ulcer, a blown prostate and bifocals?'*

*You can't take it with you, so you may as well enjoy it and expand your horizons too, no?*

**\*\***This is from Eliza Kibell, the Events Manager at Sebel Kirkton Park, by way of clarification

Good Afternoon Chris,

Thank you for your email. Your understanding of the rooms we have held for you currently is mostly correct. We provide you with an update at the end of December however the release is not until January.

From your confirmation, note the below:

*At 110 days out (Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2014) we will review the accommodation block & advise you of how many rooms have been booked. At this time we do ask that you review your delegate attendee list & advise if you wish to release any rooms. We also ask that you contact all delegates that have not booked as yet to contact us AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to make their booking.*

*At 90 days out (Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015) we will review the accommodation block & release all unsold rooms for potential resale. After this time we cannot guarantee availability or the contracted rates, any further bookings will be subject to hotel availability at the best available rate.*

Any unsold on this date in January will be released back for general sale. We are still able to secure rooms for you, however they will be subject to availability and at the

best available rate.

We actually already have guests booked from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and guests departing on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>. any guests are welcome to book either side of your event, again, subject to availability and on best available rate at time of booking. I have attached a current rooming list for your information.

You will also note your reservation entered as Chris Shaw from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>.

If I can help you with anything further please just let me know.

Kind Regards, Eliza

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[SB2@accor.com](mailto:SB2@accor.com) [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com)

(i.e. The sooner you book, the better, financially because of the constant reality of inflation, and to secure your room at the Sebel for ease of finding your room afterwards!)