



THE ASOPA VINTAGE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE 40-YEAR REUNION OF THE CLASS OF 62/63

Number 2 - 17 February 2002

THE BIG SEARCH – 38 NOW LOCATED

It's been a big week, with SuperSleuth Col Booth, deerstalker resplendent, adding many names to the class list: Geoff **Lawson**, Barry **Field**, Alan **Jones**, Fr William (Bill) **Butcher**, Ron **Reisener**, Dave **Kesby**, Dennis **Burrell**, Margaret Dwyer (**McKenna**), Colin **Huggins**, Mary Finter (**Iorive**), Barry **Flannery**, Rodger **Philpott** and Pam Kruger (**Mahoney**), who lives in Denmark. The latest contact list comes with this newsletter.

NAMING NAMES IN KINGSGROVE COUNTRY

The NSW State Archives is near Penrith in Sydney's west, 60 km from where I live in leafy Cremorne.

From a warehouse full of papers came a single box marked 'ASOPA inspection reports 1958-71'.

It was these I hove into with gusto Friday. The ostensible purpose of the mission: to find full names of 'missing' colleagues.

A fascinating value add was to read those 35-year old reports. I took time to transcribe some excerpts in relation to each of us.

I think you might expect these to be used in a context of some mischief when Harold Peake's ever increasing concentric circles, having swept the days before them, eventually bear us to Port Macquarie in August.

REUNION HANDBOOK A MAJOR ENTERPRISE

We'll probably think of a more sexy name before we're though, but 'Reunion Handbook' will do for now.

It'll be derived mainly from those voluminous questionnaires you're so avidly working on.

There'll also be some historical material. And a few surprises we're planning.

The handbook will be circulated to all members of the Class of 62/63, whether or not you make it to the reunion, and we'll deposit a copy with the National Library.

With the stories of maybe 50 people to incorporate, together with other material, this is major endeavour will take some months to complete.

So if you can get those questionnaires rolling in soon, Keithy will be full of gratitude and relief.

MORE FLANNEL OF A BUREAUCRATIC KIND

The other piece of formal stuff is the 'Preliminary Indication of Interest'. This doesn't commit you to attend the reunion but will help Col Booth and Dave Argent who are planning and providing logistics for this great event.

We'll ask you to confirm your trip in 3 - 4 months from now.

SO WHAT'S PLANNED FOR PARADISE, COL?

Port Macquarie, located midway between Brisbane and Sydney, is a splendid slice of real estate.

A month ago Ingrid, Ben and I overnighted there without realising Col and Wendy own half the town. We stayed in a ritzy apartment block called Northpoint, on Murray Street, walking downtown for a splendid meal of freshly caught fish and a bottle of Rose. (Give me a break, it's not my drink but at the end of a long, hot day it just seemed so, well, yeah, right.)

The plans are still being made for this event but there will be plenty of opportunities for catching up, a suitable Mecca for the Saturday evening dinner, and a river cruise on Sunday. By then we should have got to know each other.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

If you're interested in statistics, our Gang of 35 now lives in Queensland (34%), NSW (26%), Western Australia (11%), Overseas (11%), South Australia (8%), ACT (5%) and Victoria (5%).

THE ASOPA LEGACY

Let me know if you'd like to receive any of these papers. The ASOPA Controversy – complex politics surrounding the school's stormy birth in 1946. Pragmatism and Pedagogy – mediocre academic paper 'proving' the E-Course was more effective than ours!

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