

Old Buckwellians Mini – reunions

In October this year (2010) my wife and I drove across Australia from Wollongong, New South Wales to Perth, Western Australia to visit some friends. This entailed a journey of over 4,150 kms and took six and a half days. Whilst somewhat of a daunting journey it was in reality an easy trip. One day we travelled some 193kms between road houses and overtook one other vehicle. Most days we covered over 700kms at a steady 120kph.

The Nullabor (from the Latin meaning no trees) Plane is what its name suggests and is devoid of any plant growth above 300 – 400mm and has the longest straight stretch of road in Australia 147kms (90miles) without a bend.

Anyway, after the success of the Sydney reunions I thought a reunion of WA Old Buck's might be a good idea only to find that there are only six OB's living in that State. A small number, true, but on a proportion of members per head of State population is about the same as in NSW.

I contacted all six and as a result met up with two of them for lunch at Spinnakers Restaurant in Hillary's Harbour North of Perth. Unfortunately because of distance to travel and absence overseas the other four were unable to attend.

Brian Clements (1952) and Chralie Edwards (1951) and I had a most enjoyable lunch and caught up with what had happened to many of our contemporaries some of whom we were individually in contact. Brian and I had been in the same class for a while at school but couldn't remember each other – an age thing probably!.

I hope that this small meeting will be the start of bigger things in WA and that those unable to attend this time will be able to find a way of making it next time.



Strangely enough, whilst I was in Perth, I had an email from another classmate from school – Ken Hardy, one of the Hardy twins. He and his wife Jeonghee were visiting Australia and would be in Sydney for two days after I returned from Perth. Never to turn down the chance of a reunion I met Ken and Jeonghee the day before they flew to Melbourne and had a really enjoyable time with them.

After an hour and a half over coffee (!) we adjourned to the James Squire Bar – the venue of the last Sydney reunion – where we had lunch. Sadly to say we allowed Jeonhee little chance to say much as Ken and I talked the hind legs off a donkey catching up with contacts we have maintained and in one instance one with whom we were both friends with but died many years ago.

After lunch I suggested that, as it was raining, they might like to see the aquarium. I think they expected a series of tanks with fish in and not the walk through chambers where Dugongs, (the original mermaids) sharks and giant rays swim above and around the spectators.

The day was all too short but maybe as this trip was their 25th Wedding Anniversary present to each other they might come back for their 26th and we can show them some more of Sydney and Wollongong as their 4 days was only enough to scratch the surface.



PS. That Old Bucks shirt gets a good work out these days.