



LIBERTAS

The Newsletter of the Jane Society

JUNE 2012

VOL 22/No 1

ISSN 0813-8923

Building At Last!

editor

Long time readers of *Libertas* will recall that building works at Jane have been on the horizon for several years. Whilst the New Dining Hall and associated building works remain to be realised, construction of the new building linking Aldridge and Horton began on the 25th of November, 2011.

The new building links Aldridge (left) to Horton (right)



The initial plans allowed for a project duration of three months, however a series of unforeseen circumstances pushed the construction into June 2012. Of these circumstances, the most notable was the unexpected discovery of a room-sized void underneath what was the clothesline area between Aldridge and the Horton car park.

Further complications for the project came about through an unexpected change in company policy, which saw reticulated natural gas installed in South Hobart despite previous indications that natural gas would not be made available in the area. This provided Jane with an opportunity to modify the energy source

for the kitchen, laundry and numerous hot-water cylinders around the College to a cheaper, more efficient alternative – but this only became viable after construction of the new link had commenced. This led to delays as information was gathered and the best strategies for the future were considered.

Additional difficulties were to be found in the existing infrastructure of Horton and Aldridge, which provided a series of challenges – best seen as opportunities – to upgrade old technologies to cope with the modern lifestyle. Naturally, these upgrades were hindered by incompatibilities between existing and new electrical components, delaying progress and



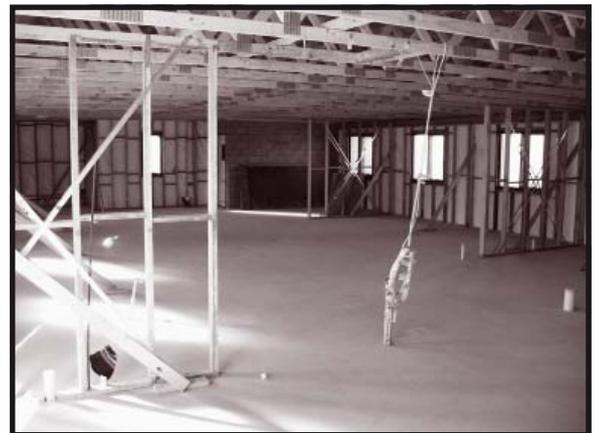
Clockwise from top: the new building viewed from the driveway, the original site, the river-side aspect, inside the building, and Horton's new bathroom.

further extending the construction timeframe.

Whilst externally the construction looks semi-complete, the building has not been internally fitted out and the new bedrooms and bathrooms have yet to be constructed; this work is the focus of the 2012 Annual Giving Project. The pause in work will provide the residents of Aldridge and Horton a much welcomed break from construction, and has occurred just in time for Quiet Time and exams.

Underneath the new Link (as yet unnamed – suggestions welcomed) will be a car-park. Access to the new area is from the top floor of Aldridge and the middle floor of Horton. Additional construction in Horton has seen the room opposite the laundry (formerly 094) converted to a bathroom, refurbishment of the Horton ground toilets and conversion of the Horton ground showers into a bedroom opposite the kitchenette (the new 094). Horton middle is currently without a bathroom but has gained a new RF flat in the space that the old bathroom, opposite the Horton Common Room, used to occupy. Plans remain to refurbish the Horton top bathrooms as funds allow.

We look forward to a successful Annual Giving Project and the completion of the planned works, and



TOURS OF JFH

If you (as a former resident, parent or associate of Jane) would like to take a stroll down memory lane and around the campus, please contact the Jane Office to arrange a time and, perhaps, a tour guide.

As a former resident, you will appreciate that impromptu tours, no matter how innocent, may intrude on the privacy and well-being of current residents.

**Email: office@jane.utas.edu.au
Tel: 03 6210 0100**

thank those who have donated to the project already. We must also acknowledge the patience and understanding of the 2012 residents of Aldridge and Horton, who have valiantly withstood the noise and interruption caused by the construction.

Chair's 2011 Report

Hon. Denise Swan

The past year has seen both progressive and challenging times for the College. The much awaited Horton Link development is now underway with building having commenced in early December. Ultimately, this will provide 10 additional bedrooms and two bathrooms and should secure a better financial future for the College. As part of this project, a link will be provided to the new gas pipe-line currently being constructed in Davey Street offering potential savings for the College power supply.

Extensive work has been completed during the year in reviewing the College Maintenance Program and in fine-tuning the Budget to ensure that the College finances continue to remain in surplus. Thanks must be given to the Principal and the Finance Manager for their work in this area.

The Commonwealth Government intends to provide the University of Tasmania with significant additional self-catered unit accommodation (as distinct from the catered, tutored, Oxford style accommodation characteristic of Jane Franklin Hall) through its National Rental Affordability Scheme. As part of its in-kind contribution to the Scheme, the State Government has proposed the transfer of the Crown title to the land at 308 Davey Street to the University of Tasmania. Consequently, the College is now in on-going talks with the University in order to ensure that the independence and nature of Jane Franklin Hall is secure in any future leasehold agreement between the University and the College.

2011 saw two long-serving members of Council, Professor Colin Wendell-Smith (16 years service) and Dr. Louise Wells (21 years service) retired. I wish to formally record Council's gratitude for their outstanding contribution, the wisdom of their advice and their loyalty to the College. Council wishes them both a happy retirement and takes pleasure that they both continue to take an active part in College fellowship.

On the College campus the staff continues to maintain a high standard of service and Council commends them for their work. Congratulations are also due to the Student Club and the residents who have been successful in sustaining that vital balance of academic application, sporting prowess, social activities and significant community contribution with fundraising efforts for the Cancer Council, Live Below the Line and the Breast Cancer Foundation. Finally thanks must go to the Principal and all the staff for their outstanding work and dedication to the College during the past year.

Your *Libertas*?

editor

Libertas is the primary way for the College to communicate with the alumni of Jane Franklin Hall and additionally serves as a progressive record of the College and its current and past residents. As such, it is a valued document and its publication will continue in the foreseeable future.

Whilst ongoing production and publication is a priority, economic and environmental considerations have caused us to consider the best way that *Libertas* can reach you. This issue will see a print run in excess of 3,000 copies, and with two issues produced each year this amounts to a non-trivial cost to the College (and thus the residents) for printing and mailing in each annual budget. The environmental cost of production is also a consideration, as the College is committed to reducing its carbon footprint where possible.

It is reasonable for us to assume that our address records may be out of date and *Libertas* does not reach all of our alumni. Whilst we appreciate the effort some people take to 'return to sender', we do not currently know the actual size of our readership. It may even be the case that some of the alumni does not wish to peruse Jane news. Whilst acknowledging this decision, we would like to conserve resources rather than pay for an unwelcome intrusion.

Each issue of *Libertas* is currently published (and archived) on the Jane website (www.utas.edu.au/jane), where it is available for download as a PDF, as well as being mailed out to the alumni.

It is not the College's intention at this stage to cease printing and mailing hard copies of *Libertas* to our alumni network; rather, we wish to consolidate our mailing list and minimize wastage whilst still providing a quality publication in a convenient format to all those who wish to stay in touch.

This issue of *Libertas* is accompanied by a new version of the address sheet – one that calls for your feedback. Please select one of the four options as best suits your needs – *Libertas* can be emailed to you, mailed to you or simply accessed from the Jane website. Alternatively, your subscription to *Libertas* can be suspended.

Please either post or email your preference to office@jane.utas.edu.au by October 15th 2012.

Failure to notify us of your preference will cause your subscription to lapse; however, *Libertas* will still be accessible to you via our website and your subscription may be renewed at any time.



The Frozen Sunshine

Above: January 17th, 2012: Kim Loane, Ceremonial South Pole.

Inset: Pole Marker.

Libertas caught up with South Pole explorer and former President of the Student Club (1982-84), Kim Loane, who trekked to the South Pole in January 2012, to find out how his expedition compared with his expectations (see *Libertas* November 2011).

How was the trip in an overall sense? Was the weather good or did you have to use those spare days?

In an overall sense it was a great experience. It was the most challenging activity I've ever undertaken – the extreme cold was ever-present and keeping warm was everyone's major focus. On one day we skied in conditions with no visibility – navigating purely by GPS. On another we had exceptionally strong winds which made skiing very tough. Otherwise conditions were relatively good with 24 hour sunshine, minus 20-something temperatures and about a 10 knot headwind. If we were to meet our goal of arriving at the Pole exactly 100 years after Scott, we had only a single spare day in our skiing schedule. We used this spare day very early on to help a team member recover from mild altitude sickness, which meant we had to press on through all conditions.

Last time we spoke your significant concerns were the three E's; equipment, endurance and environment. How did each of those things hold up and what, if anything, occurred that you weren't ready for or didn't expect?

My personal equipment served me well. It performed as expected and luckily there were no failures. Our

shared team equipment (mainly the tents and stoves) performed equally well. There was one sort-of equipment failure – one of our team dropped our only magnetic compass in the snow on the first day! We searched for a while but it could not be found. This was more embarrassing than catastrophic because we were able to complete our trip using a GPS – which was slightly more difficult to use but effective all the same.

Our endurance was tested every day. We skied for eight hours each day. We divided the day into four 1.5 hour segments with just ten minute breaks for some water (if it hadn't frozen) and some chopped up chocolate or energy bars. All of us were challenged by this every day and used various techniques to keep going. For me, I would typically hit a "wall" at some point in the day and I drew on my marathon training to help me get through this. I remember one day getting to hour five and feeling like I could not possibly ski a further hour, least of all three. I broke the three hours into half-hour segments and pushed on. There was unspoken pressure to keep going so we could achieve our goal – stopping was a last resort that no-one wanted. In hindsight, my marathon training was the single most important aspect of my preparation.

The environment's overarching challenge was obviously the temperature but we also had very strong head winds and whiteout conditions at times – as well as 24-hour sunlight. Full sun during both night and day was a challenge for sleeping but it was also very helpful for charging batteries and heating up the tent overnight. The overnight temperature inside our tent was possibly the biggest surprise of the expedition; our dual-walled tent could reach temperatures into the plus 20's whilst outside it was in the minus 30's – a fifty degree differential created with the aid of the sun and a five cm air gap!

You also told us that you were concerned about being bored pulling the sled. Was it boring? Was it scenic all the time, or did you 'get over' the scenery within a



short time and then get stuck with the drudgery of walking for seven days and six hours.

The scenery is beautiful in its simplicity. It was completely flat to the horizon in every direction. Dry snow was blowing over sculpted, packed snow. There were bright blue, cloudless skies on fine days and some stunning cloud patterns on others. On the occasional days of full cloud coverage, we lost all our visual cues for where the sky met the ice. On clear days, if I stood back and waited for my team members to go ahead into the distance, the image of them skiing across the vast emptiness, with snow drifting across their tracks against the bright sun and blue sky, was simply stunning.

We skied mostly in silence each day. It was too cold to talk or stop – other than during our four ten-minute breaks. So, for the most part, we were in our head for the eight-hour skiing day. I can't say I had any profound thoughts or inspiration during this time; I was mostly focussed on keeping my skiing pace up and keeping my fingers warm. Our days were far from boring, though. They were a constant mix of physical and mental challenge.

Before you left we asked you what you expected to miss the most. You were tossing up between your wife and family, and some plumbing. You ended up going with the plumbing which was the practical choice. On the practical level, was that the thing you ended up missing the most?

It's hard to pinpoint a single thing I missed. While I thought I might miss being warm, or I might miss the ease of being able to use plumbed toilet facilities, or having a shower, or eating something other than freeze-dried food for dinner and breakfast, or not having to heat ice to make water – these were really the conditions that made up the experience I was expecting to have. In the end, I'd say that I didn't miss anything in particular. If I could turn your question around a little and comment on what I might have

wished for – I'd probably say that I wished the experience had gone for longer and I'd had a chance to spend more time in this remote, extreme, beautiful and special continent.

How did the fundraising for the Humpty Dumpty Foundation go? Did you reach your targets? Do you have any information about where the funds you raised were allocated?

The four of us are very grateful for the generosity and support of the many individuals, families, organisations and companies that sponsored us. In total we will have raised nearly \$460,000. All of us exceeded our \$100,000 individual targets. I am humbled by the generosity of those that supported me and I know that the Humpty Foundation is very appreciative of the funds that were raised.

Humpty Dumpty will use the funds to further develop and support the operation of a facility known as a Paediatric Gait Analysis Laboratory. Gait analysis allows sophisticated planning and monitoring of treatment for children with Cerebral Palsy (CP), enabling many to walk with minimal or no assistance. Good treatment choices in childhood ensure these children are walking into adulthood and are not confined to spending a lifetime in a wheelchair. Humpty Dumpty will provide funding for vital state of the art medical equipment for this lab.

Do you have any advice for anyone looking to explore Antarctica?

Less than a month on this special and unique continent barely qualifies me to give advice, but I would say that because it is special in so many ways with its extreme climate, its remoteness, its pristine environment, its unique governance, and its role in supporting research, if you have an interest and opportunity to visit its shores, its peninsula or the polar plateau (as I did), then seize the opportunity. It is one of the last frontiers of human endeavour we have left to experience on our planet.

Below from left to right: On route to the South Pole

Taking a break whilst skiing to the Pole: Damien Gildea (Guide), Cath Murray, Grant Bambach, Rob Clarke.

En route to the South Pole: Kim Loane.

At the Ceremonial South Pole on January 17th, 2012 – 100 years after Scott: Rob Clarke, Grant Bambach, Damien Gildea (Guide), Cath Murray, Kim Loane.





From the Principal

Michael Scanlan, Principal

This has been a difficult semester in some ways but a typical collegiate atmosphere has prevailed, with the residents of 2012 embracing the opportunity to live at Jane with the usual *esprit de corps*.

Jane has continued to see more success than otherwise in the intercollegiate sports, and generally the College is a settled and enjoyable environment. Some notable highlights have been an entertaining Jane Idol event, a memorable International Night and a Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry themed Formal Dinner in support of the Live Below the Line campaign.

For reasons most likely attached to the changes in enrolment policies at the National level, less Tasmanians have chosen to enrol at Jane this year; the appeal of mainland university offerings seems too strong, diverting a larger than expected proportion of students away from Hobart. The lower occupancy rate, averaging at less than ninety percent, has caused budgetary difficulties but operations have not been affected. The main strategy has been to defer any immediately unnecessary expenditure and the JFH Council has approved an amended budget that aims to achieve a break-even scenario.

The Horton Link construction project has commenced since the last edition of *Libertas* and, while the renovation component of the existing Horton and Aldridge buildings has been completed with some new bathroom facilities and three new bedrooms, the actual Link portion has not been completed to occupancy stage. At the time of writing, the upper floor is at lock-up stage and the ground floor access has been re-opened for the residents' use. Due to the financial constraints mentioned above, and their subsequent effect on the College's cash flow, it is unlikely that the upper floor will be completed in this calendar year. As the reader can well imagine, a cessation of the building works for the time being will be appreciated by the residents; the construction project

has generated noise associated with the building works and additionally led to restricted pedestrian access around the campus. The new building, however, has become an accepted part of the landscape and, together with the very recent advent of reticulated natural gas to the campus, a sense of accomplishment has been achieved. The roll-out of the gas infrastructure in due course will add to the efficiency of the College and provide an opportunity to lower energy costs for catering, laundry and the provision of hot water.

During this semester the resignation of Mr Phil White as Catering Manager was received with regret. After five years of invaluable service that lifted the dining expectations at the College to a very high standard, Phil has decided to move on with his career and we wish him well. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and thanks to all of the staff, Fellows and Councillors for their continued support, and wish the residents well during their mid-year assessments.

Michael.Scanlan@utas.edu.au



From the Editor

Adam James

Welcome to the first *Libertas* of 2012! This issue we catch up with former residents who've been travelling the globe, introduce the new link building and provide lots of information for the upcoming 1988-1993 reunion. It was a great pleasure to work with the contributors to this issue, all of whom provide an interesting and unique perspective on their experiences for the benefit of us all. If you have an interesting experience you'd like to share with us all, please contact the Jane office (office@jane.utas.edu.au) and you could find your story in the next *Libertas*!

Now we are

40...ish

JANE FRANKLIN HALL REUNION

1988-1993

or thereabouts!



Family BBQ

Children's entertainment including face-painting,
balloon artists & games

Food and soft drink provided (non-alcoholic event)

Where: Jane Franklin Hall, we all know the address!

Date: Saturday 11 August 2012

Time: 11:30 - 14:00

Cost: \$12 per adult, \$6 per child (incl GST)

RSVP: 3 August 2012,

Lucky door prize for the first 25 families to buy tickets ...

Proudly sponsored by:

ALUMNI 

Gala Reunion Ball

Join us for predinner drinks,
a 3 course meal & music by Basil the Rat

Where: Hotel Grand Chancellor, Davey Street, Hobart

Date: Saturday 11 August 2012

Time: 7pm - midnight

Dress: Black Tie or Lounge Suit

Cost: \$150 per ticket (incl GST)

RSVP: 3 August 2012

Proudly sponsored by:





*Contact the organising committee
for more information*

Joanna Rosewell

Dave Ikedife (aka Andrews)

Lisa Gibson (nee Maclaine)

Nicki Wicks (nee Chilcott)

Sharon Molnar (nee Ryan)

Email us: jfh40ishreunion@hotmail.com

Or find us on facebook at

www.facebook.com/#!/groups/janereunion/

Saturday
11 August

2012



JANE FRANKLIN HALL REUNION

Q&A

Why should I go to the BBQ?

The BBQ is designed to be a family event so it's great for those who have their kiddies with them. There will be face painting, balloon artists, popcorn and lots of games to keep the young ones happy whilst their parents reminisce about the good old days.

For those who don't have kiddies, or have found alternate activities for them that day, we'd still love to see you. The BBQ is a great chance to chat to people in a more casual setting and to have a look around the College grounds to see how much things have changed in 20 odd years!

Can we wander around College?

As the students will be in residence we will need to respect their privacy throughout our visit, so we will contain our presence to the area in front of the dining hall.

For those who want to see how much the College has changed since we called it home, there will be tours running prior to the BBQ. If you and your family would like to have a good look around please come along by 11:30am.

Why is there a lunch time BBQ and an evening ball?

We're a really diverse little group and the committee wants to cater to as many people as we can. We are hoping that most people will come to both events but if the gala ball is not your cup of tea, hopefully the BBQ will be.

The BBQ is designed to be a relaxed event, and will provide you an opportunity to check out the College, catch up with old friends, and bring along your family and friends.

The Ball—we all remember Jane Balls, and whilst it may not exactly emulate the Balls of old, we can't wait for the chance to get dressed up and catch up!

What is included in the BBQ ticket price?

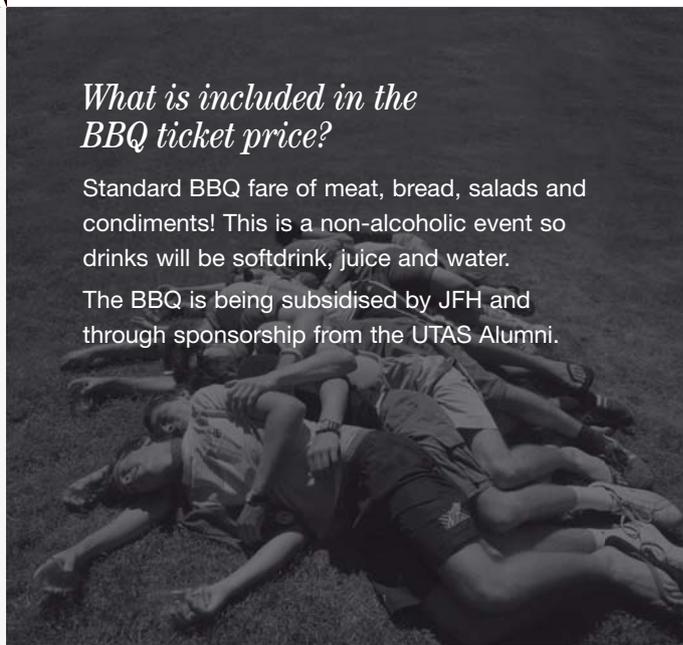
Standard BBQ fare of meat, bread, salads and condiments! This is a non-alcoholic event so drinks will be softdrink, juice and water.

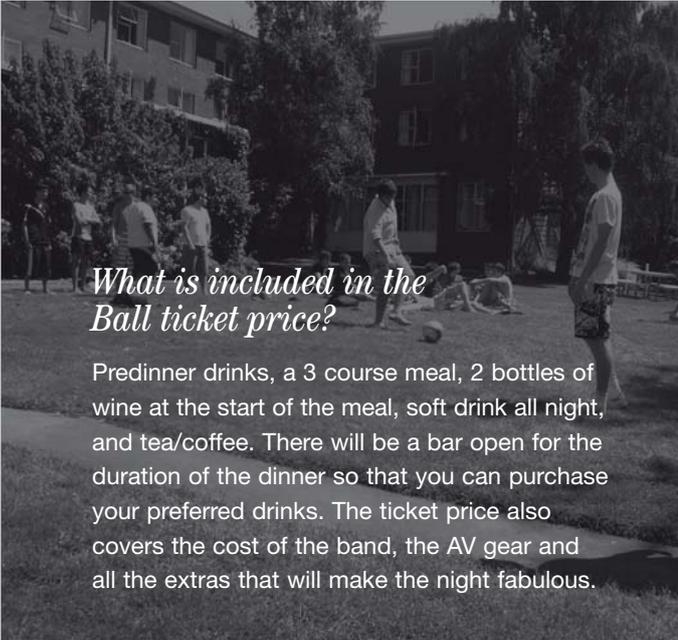
The BBQ is being subsidised by JFH and through sponsorship from the UTAS Alumni.

Why should I go to the ball?

At the moment we are in contact with over 300 previous 'occupants' and it's already great fun catching up with people. The BBQ is a nice casual event to meet up, and the Ball will provide a fabulous evening of food and entertainment.

We have organised a 3 course dinner, drinks and band with the view to recreating those great Jane Balls that we remember. Of course, we won't be as nimble as we were back then and I doubt that Sunday will be as pleasant for our sore heads – but the night will be spectacular!





What is included in the Ball ticket price?

Predinner drinks, a 3 course meal, 2 bottles of wine at the start of the meal, soft drink all night, and tea/coffee. There will be a bar open for the duration of the dinner so that you can purchase your preferred drinks. The ticket price also covers the cost of the band, the AV gear and all the extras that will make the night fabulous.

Who is Basil the Rat?

For legal reasons we are unable to confirm or deny that *Basil the Rat* may or may not contain 3 of the original *Giant Hamsters* (who we will all remember fondly). Jump in and email us your song requests to ensure that you enjoy the music!

Check out their website at www.basiltherat.com.au for a few ideas.
Email your requests to jfh40ishreunion@hotmail.com

Are partners welcome at the Ball?

This one has already come up from quite a few people. The answer is YES, YES, YES. We'd love partners to come along, and already know of quite a few intending to come.

We are guessing that those partners already attending will love more partners to come along to help them weather the 'Do you remember when ...' stories. We will be handing out name badges to all participants to make the meet and greet a bit easier for us all.

Why not 'all you can drink' tickets?

After MUCH deliberation, we went with this package for a few reasons including the acceptance that we are all older and fussier about what we drink – so this way we can just buy what we like. It also keeps costs down to enable as many people to come as possible, and recognises that many may be 'designated drivers' or just not drinking as much as we used to.

I am unable to attend but there are other options on the registration form!

Donate to the Jane Alumni Foundation Scholarship

The registration form provides an option for people who are unable to attend (or attendees if you wish) to make a donation to the Jane Alumni Foundation Scholarship.

The Jane Alumni Foundation Scholarship is offered to a first year student from any faculty who is the child of a former resident at the College. Selection criteria are financial need and academic potential. The scholarship is awarded up to the value of \$1000, and is endowed by contributions from former residents.

Donors will have an empty chair at the Ball to recognise your contribution, and the organisers would love it if you emailed us a photo and blurb with some information about what you are up to so that we can put it on your chair for others to 'catch up' with you.

Send a message but not make a donation

If you are unable to make a donation to the fund we would still like to hear from you! Please send us a comment that we will post on the message board at the Gala Ball so that other members can see what you have been up to in the years since our residence at JFH.

Check out the full version of this document on the JFH web page, or contact us at jfh40ishreunion@hotmail.com

If you have any questions

You can follow our progress on facebook at www.facebook.com/#!/groups/janereunion/ – please don't hesitate to email us!

Visiting Jane Franklin Hall

Visiting Fellow Prof Ken Beesley writes for *Libertas*

Before I applied for a Visiting Fellowship, I knew little about Jane Franklin Hall and not really that much more about Tasmania or Hobart, to be completely honest. However, I did know that the weather would be better than in Manitoba, Canada, in the February through April period and I also knew that Hobart was a capital city with countryside around – meaning there were both horses and golf courses. So, golf, horses, city, countryside and rather more heat than in Manitoba. Perfect.

My wife Heather and I were very happy to land in Hobart to 20-something degree weather, having left minus 20-something degree weather behind us in Canada. A taxi to Jane saw us met by Adam and Libby and our introduction to the Underlodge. The accommodation was spectacular! We have experienced some none-too-glorious flats in our travels, but the Underlodge at Jane exceeded all expectations. Our first few evening meals in the Dining Hall allowed us to meet so many terrific young people and to all of those fine young people, met from the first day to the last, we extend our thanks for your fellowship and camaraderie and our very best wishes for your futures, both personal and academic.

Most days during my Visiting Fellowship I went into the university to touch base with my host unit, the School of Geography and Environmental Studies. Once again, the accommodations there were terrific. I shared an office with Dr Cate Booth, a delightful young Lecturer busily doing interesting work, who generously engaged me in interesting conversations despite her hectic schedule (a schedule not unlike like so many young academics, I vaguely recalled; my youth having been, well, a while ago).

On a more pleasant note, when our daughter Rebecca joined us for a few days we were glad to have the chance to take her to Port Arthur and immerse ourselves in both the unpleasant history and the beautiful countryside found there. Heather and Rebecca then left me alone as they went off to enjoy the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour followed by a good day or three of shopping.

On the days I wasn't at the university or on campus at Jane, I was out in the countryside around Hobart on my own – often saved by my GPS. This is my academic bailiwick, the rural-urban fringe. My project for this

sabbatical was to assess golf courses and horse-related things (purposefully unspecified) and their potential in rural development. The golf part of the project was much easier to do in many ways; at least I could stop and play a round of golf at most courses. Even the 'private' courses were willing to allow a foreign visitor to play a round when the local non-members might be politely asked to go away.

For me one of the most appealing features of any golf course is the character of the people. If they are welcoming, kind, and willing to converse a bit, that course scores 'bonus points' from me. If I am able to get a hole-in-one as I did at Huon Valley, those bonus points get trebled. But I found that it didn't matter if the course was a relatively expensive private course, or a relatively low cost public course; virtually all the courses I played were staffed by generous people willing to go an extra step for the visitor. If golf is to be considered a driver of tourism development, I feel that friendly people who want to help and who want your experience to be a positive one is an important feature.

The other thing with golf, and horses too, is there must be good signage, good indicators that a courses is nearby and wants you to play! For example, I drove up to New Norfolk one day just to do some sight-seeing. I knew from looking at a map that there was a golf course nearby, but I could not find a sign to direct me on the main street of New Norfolk. Similarly, while en route to New Norfolk I went through many towns I knew had courses, but I was disappointed in the lack of signage making the courses difficult to locate.

As hinted at, the horse-related aspect of my time was significantly more difficult to unravel. I would be driving along a rural route and notice some horses, but there was rarely a place to pull over or casually do a u-turn. This is, however, much more forgivable; the horse world tends to be relatively closed and all of those involved know each other. I also think I drove past the thoroughbred race track several times before I noticed it and finally stopped.

Heather and I would like to sincerely thank the staff and students of Jane Franklin Hall for their warm hospitality. Conversations shared over meals were a highlight – particularly on High Table with the Fellows, students and guests of the College. We thoroughly enjoyed our time in Hobart and will remember it fondly into the future.

We have experienced some none-too-glorious flats in our travels, but the Underlodge at Jane exceeded all expectations.



Mt Fuji, outside of Hakone (after Owakudani trek)



A Jaunt in Japan

Emily Rudling (JFH Resident 2009 – 2010)

Former resident Emily Rudling won a Mitsui Australia scholarship tour to Japan in late 2011. *Libertas* asked Emily to tell us about her experiences in the Land of the Rising Sun.

I was selected to represent the University of Tasmania on the Mitsui Educational Foundation (MEF) study tour of Japan in November and December 2011, having recently graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with Asian Studies and International Relations as my majors. I am presently enrolled in Honours in Asian studies for 2012.

I was excited and nervous to visit Japan. As a result of my studies at university, I had a foundation of knowledge of Japanese society and perceived it to be a nation of contrasts, with subtle gestures of etiquette, custom and practice. Upon arrival I was immediately impressed by the hospitality of the Japanese people as I found them to be extremely generous, accommodating and supportive. This perspective was only reinforced over the course of my stay and, in particular, I felt humbled to be accepted into a Japanese family and treated so well during the homestay in Chigasaki.

I found Japanese history to be a rich and wonderful

aspect of the tour. Australia, by contrast, is a young nation and lacks the solidarity that results from the historical struggles, successes and the development of civilisation experienced over the long history of Japan. I was fascinated by how this history maintained an important role in modern Japanese society, as exemplified by how Shinto and Buddhism coexist and further, the rite of passage of the Shichi-Go-San festival, which we were privileged to observe at the Meiji-Jingu Shrine.

One of the most challenging and worrying things of travelling overseas is accidentally being rude or offensive to those who are accommodating you.

The study tour enabled me to engage with Japanese students, a family and Japanese workers, demonstrating to me the differences, both subtle and significant, between the Japanese and Australian cultures. More importantly, these interactions revealed what was similar between the two cultures and showed me how we can interact through channels such as family, education, music and fun in order to learn from each other and exchange culture.

A highlight of the tour was meeting with the Consul-General of Osaka, Mr. Chris Rees and then the Australian Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Bruce Miller, in Tokyo. I aspire to become a diplomat and, as a consequence, I greatly appreciated speaking with Mr Rees and the other highly successful guests in attendance in Osaka. Similarly, the briefing with Mr Miller at the Australian embassy was wonderful as I found both Mr Miller and his close staff very engaging.

I was amazed by the efficiency and time and space management of a nation with 124 million people. On the Tokyo subway, not once did someone bump into me or act rudely during peak hour. The trains arrived exactly on time and the carriages stopped precisely where they were needed. These things do not often happen in Australia! Further, the limited space was interspersed with parks, giving the illusion that everything was more spacious and relaxed than it perhaps was.

One of the most challenging and worrying things of travelling overseas is accidentally being rude or offensive to those who are accommodating you. I quickly learned that there are significant differences between Australian and Japanese etiquette and, while these were difficult to remember initially (and I hope I did not upset anyone!), mastering chopstick use or drink pouring protocol were essential to demonstrating appreciation for Japanese hospitality.

Below from left: Food in the Tokyo fish markets, and wearing a kimono for a traditional tea ceremony in Chigasaki.





Left: Golden Pavilion or Kinkakuji, Kyoto

Actions such as removing outdoor shoes for indoor slippers, using toilet slippers, reversing chopsticks for serving and remembering 'itadakimasu' before eating were all important and useful! These stark contrasts to Australian etiquette which include greeting with bows, as opposed to hugs, and using toilet slippers, reflect a difference in the value of personal space, cleanliness and respect that are not always so evident in Australia.

Below: Sensoji temple, Asakusa, Tokyo

The 2011 MEF study tour of Japan has been a once in a lifetime opportunity and I feel very privileged to have been a part of it. I wish to thank; Mr. Takashi Kubota for overseeing the tour and Ms. Kaoru Curmi for organising the tour and chaperoning us. In Tokyo, I would like to thank Mrs. Takako Kadohira for organising the lectures and presenters at Mitsui headquarters in Tokyo and the MPEs for providing an excellent experience. I believe that approaches such as Mitsui's Corporate Social Responsibility enhance businesses and empower employees to create a better world, and I have returned to Australia with a deeper respect and understanding of the Japanese and Australian trading relationship and how that can continue in the future. It was an incredible experience and, I cannot wait to return to Japan!





1960

ALMA MCKAY (FOWLER)

"I married Paul McKay on 13/7/63. I taught at Scottsdale, Taroona, and Cosgrove High Schools until I had three children, then Wentworth Special School (near Southern Support School). I retired to Launceston in 1997 after a wonderful tour of Italy with David Daintree and John Tooth in 1996. Regrettably I couldn't attend the 60 year anniversary weekend but I would love to attend anything else in the future."

1963

LESLEY RUSSELL (COCKERILL)

Lesley.russelwolpe@gmail.com

"I am currently senior policy advisor to the US Surgeon General, US Department of Health and Human Services, working on implementation of President Obama's health care reform law."

1976

KIM DEBACCO (MC SHANE)

Kimdebacco99@gmail.com

"I am currently an Instructional Consultant at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I was JFH College Club President in 1978. Writing memoirs of my childhood on the farm on the NW Coast. I am, to all, first and foremost a Tasmanian before claiming any other nationality."

1993

MALCOLM BARNES

mb_barnes@hotmail.com

"I live and work in Melbourne as a gastroenterologist. I'm married to Jane and we have three boys aged 6 and under! It's great to see the College flourishing. Well done to Low Table for their charitable Table carrying up Mount Wellington."

1997

BEDRICH ECKHARDT

beckhardt@mdanderson.org

"I'm a third year Postdoctoral Fellow at the MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston Texas. I'm on LinkedIn at <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/bedrich-eckhardt/44/b27/5a3?trk=pub-pbmap>"

2004

ANDREW TERRY

Aterry85@gmail.com

"I was engaged to Stephanie Alcock in July of 2011, and we were married in March 2012."

2008



CARLIN & SONDRA WHITE (LEIGHTON)

sondra.anita@gmail.com

We were married on the 11th of February, 2012 at Christ Church in Longford, Tasmania. We plan to have our honeymoon at the end of the year, once Carlin finishes his degree. The people in our bridal party photo from left to right are: Bianca White (Carlin's sister), Matthew Johnson (previous Jane resident, 2008), maid of honour Naomi Leighton (Sondra's sister), the best man Jeremy Smith (previous Jane resident, 2008), Sondra, Carlin, Amelia White (Carlin's sister), Lachlan Davey (previous Jane resident, 2008), Samantha Cables (current Jane resident, 2010), Angus Leighton (Sondra's brother) and Zoe White (Carlin's sister). Our flower girl was Lily Anderson and our page boy was Oliver Hadley.

Principal: Michael Scanlan
Editor: Adam James
Design: Lynda Warner
Layout: Beverly Waldie
Pre-press: Geon Group
Printing: Geon Group



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CRICOS Provider Code 00586B