



King Island Soldier Settlers Kids & Friends

King Island Soldier Settlers Kids & Friends Reunion - 27-29 August 2010

How did it happen?

In July this year Peter C. met up with Janice and Robin Murie for the first time in over 40 years. In our discussion, Janice said "It is about time I went back to the island for a visit!" As conversations go she said "Wouldn't it be great to have a reunion of all our soldier settler kids /friends and be able to take our new friends to the island and show them where we lived and went to school". Thus the idea was "planted" and so I was nominated (two sisters to one bloke - out voted) to look at, research and initiate. Thus I have taken up the challenge.

What is the proposed program and organised activities?

Friday 27 August - Meet at the King Island Golf Club for a "meet and greet" and catch up on what has happened since ... maybe reminisce about times spent together on the island.

Saturday 28th - afternoon - we believe it is the grand final day for the footy - we are looking to set up a tent and gather on the old grandstand site - hot dogs from the copper - "Is that not going back in time?"

Saturday 28th - evening - a 'grand ball' including additional entertainment from "us", yes that is you and I, we will be contacting you. Ira Cooke has agreed to assist with arrangements for the entertainment. **Watch this space!!**

It would not be a King Island Ball without a traditional supper - sponge cakes and all

Sunday 29th - BBQ lunch on the shores of Currie Harbour. Lets talk with some of our folk who made it happen. There are still soldier settlers living on King Island. We think it would be great to hear of their experiences on how they got to the island and the challenges they had to endure.

Getting to King Island today? - No you cant drive on or off the King Islander or Straitsman, and it is a bit of an ordeal getting your vehicle on and off with the SeaRoad Mersey. The best idea would be to fly to the island and use the hire car services of P & A Car Rental, Netherby Road (KI Motors), or King Island Car Rentals - Meech Street. (old Co-op Garage)

Sources for your information:

A couple of web sites that can assist you with your arrangements, the best would be

General Information = www.kingisland.org.au,

Air travel = <http://www.kingislandair.com.au/>

<http://www.regionalexpress.com.au/>

from Tasmania <http://www.tasair.com.au/>

Virgin Airlines have an interline agreement with REX.

Accommodation:

The King Island site will give you links to accommodation properties. A couple you might consider are, overlooking beautiful Grassy Bay, **King Island Holiday Village**, (on the site of the former Golf course - their email address is kiholiday@kingisland.net.au

and at Naracoopa "**Absolute Retreat by the Beach Rocky Glen**, 1 Lovers Lane Naracoopa. their web

address is <http://www.kingislandholiday.com.au/>

and email address is heidi@rockyglen.com.au

A paragraph or a page ??? You can contribute to the reunion and history.

There were many little incidents and experiences that we experienced as KIDS of the soldier settlers on King Island, these collectively have gone un-recorded. In discussions I have had with many about the reunion we feel it a great opportunity for these to be recorded and compiled. For instance, how many would remember the school bus accident on Robbins Road, when the tyre rod arm came off the old Chevrolet school bus and did not make the corner or what about travelling to the pictures at Grassy on the tractor and trailer because our parents could not obtain loans to by a car.

There are many of these little stories so your task is to put them down on paper, just email them to the KI Reunion email address and we will arrange for them to be put together for the reunion. If there is/are any

volunteers who would like to assist in co-ordinating this little project, please be forth coming.

Surnames that we remember - Do you have contact with any of these families?

Barrett, Wright, Patterson, Condon, Crouch, Evans, Pearce, McGarvie, Barnett, Griffin, Anderson, Bond, Jameson, Tennant, Lodge, Howlett, Halls, Moore, Wiggins, Ireland, Berry, Tynan, Andre, Baldock, Piggott, & etc, and not to forget the north of this island at Reekara and Egg lagoon. There were over 160, we would like to seem them!

**GETTING THE NEWS OUT -
YOU ARE A VITAL LINK & CONTACT**

We want you to send this newsletter to your KI Settler kids friends so we can span out across Australia and the world. Can you assist by passing on our email address and information. Out network is quite wide, so lets make it work for us to catch up with others we have not seen for a while.

**KING ISLAND Museum Display - Room(s)
dedicated to Soldier Settlement on King Island**

Sue Fisher (Moulden) is a very hard worker for the King Island Museum located in the former Lighthouse keepers house in Currie. The Museum committee feel it important to keep a record of Soldier Settlement on King Island as, along with the Scheelite mining it was the impetus that brought many facilities and services to the island. To this end the museum committee want to set up a room or rooms at the Museum dedicated to the soldier settlers who came to and were very much an important part of the history. Do you have any documentation e.g. some cream tickets, or documents, photographs of interest, school busses, your farm equipment, you name it, it will be gratefully received for the display.

Sue is therefore asking that any one

who has memorabilia that they do not wish to hold, to forward it to the Museum to be put on display.

We are hoping that you will respond to this request so that we can set up an initial display for the reunion.

**Another display ??? at the Cultural Centre????
What is this building?**

You may have know it as the Marine Board offices, it is now the "Cultural Centre, displaying great arts and crafts mainly produced on King Island.

Sally Marsden the coordinator would like to have a display of art works and crafts produced by KI soldier settler kids. Since your time on King Island, have you taken an interest in art, photo or craft. We would like to create a display for the reunion and we would like your works to display. Start getting your items ready and we will let you know who to contact and etc in

future newsletters.

Is a weekend enough time on King Island?

Of course not, you will need about a week to visit all those places that were part of your life's experiences on King Island.

Do you remember this?

Where is it and what is it??

Accommodation and bookings.

There has been quite a lot of interest expressed so far from people thinking about attending the reunion.

I would suggest that you make your travel and accommodation bookings early to be able to travel at the times you want and to stay where you want.

How can you assist us?

By letting us know if you are coming, the email address has been created especially for the reunion and it is a cost effective way for us to communicate. I appreciate everyone does not have access to email so I am hoping that others can pass the information on.

I am looking to create a group on face book and also on friends reunited, the easiest will be however for you to email to the reunion email address as below:-

kisettlerskidsreunion@oracletelecom.net.au.

I know it is long, but if you copy and paste, it's not so hard to do.

LAST but not least!!!

Another exciting project - The Settler's Trail.

Greg Morris and Judy Payne have taken on a task to create the "Settler's Trail" on the island. The idea is to eventually have a plaque at the entrance to the site of all the original farm houses (properties). The plaque will contain the name of the original family who occupied the farm and other information relevant to the property. Our task during the reunion will be to record information on flute boards that will be placed at each site and have a texta pen so we can add information to that on the card. We will give you more information about this great project in our next newsletter.

Newsletter 1, for King Island Settlers Kids and Friend Reunion - August 2010.

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