



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

NEWSLETTER NO 2. Issued 30 May 2010

Yes it is all systems GO!!

As I relocated in my job in February 2010 (to Brisbane) I had to pass the progression work onto our "Kids" that are still resident on the island. Ira Cook has taken on the main roll co-ordinating and I sincerely thank him for doing this as there were so many people who were keen to attend the reunion and make it back to the island, in some cases, for the first time since they left as a "soldier settler kid"

What has happened since?

The program has been firmed up and now we need to know numbers for catering purposes.

I have attached a response sheet to the bottom of this newsletter so you can email or post it back for us to be able to ensure you are well catered for whilst on the island. It has been a tradition to look after our visitors and on this occasion we don't want to be any different.

We also need to have an idea of your travel arrangements and accommodation so that we can look to try to have additional aircraft scheduled and also accommodation provided (may be by billets) if the accommodation properties are full.

There were two batches of Soldier Settlers !!!

While many of us can relate to the Soldier Settlers who arrived in the 50's, there was an original group who arrived on King Island in earlier years. These settlers took up properties at Egg Lagoon and Pearshape.

Registrations - we need to know who is coming for the reunion.

It is time for you to let us know that you and your family or friends are coming for the reunion. We have already made some outlays in preparation and therefore need to have funds to pay for same. To book your attendance to events please complete the registration form that is attached to this news letter (separate document) and return it to:

***King Island Soldier Settlers Reunion
C/- King Island Cultural Centre
PO Box 147 Currie 7256.***

***Or email it to smarsden@internode.on.net ,
and there is more you can fax it to (03)64621313.***

(I can remember the days when we used telegrams and operator connected telephone calls.)

Payment details are on the registration form.

Direct payment can be made to Westpac Bank BSB 037602 account number 152449, please include your name when making the direct debit.

Please complete and send this information immediately or ASAP as we want to be able to cater for everyone and organise a great time and experience for everyone attending.

The Program – at this time.

What is happening and what you need to do.

Friday 27th August evening, time to be advised

A meet and greet will be held at the King Island Golf and Bowling Club. This will give all the opportunity to catch up with friends and have a good old chat about what has happened since those days of being a soldier settler kid on King Island.

It is proposed to provide eats for those who want to eat at the Golf Club so we need indicative numbers for catering purposes.

Saturday 28th – afternoon – Yes it is footy finals time, why not support the teams and watch the game, it may have been a long time since you saw a great game of football on King Island. See the "registration sheet" to record, so we can have some indicative numbers of those who are attending,. We are trying to organise some "hotdogs" in the copper. "Ah remember those days!!!"

Saturday 28th August evening, The BALL – Who will be the "Belle" and the "Matron", The Music Makers will be providing the music for the evening, we may also have some "special" guest" artists??? and the KIDS will be catering for the supper, like those we had way back then!!!. Drinks will also be available at the ball.

We are approaching Jill Fenton and Terri Rhodes (nee Burkett) to judge the belle and matron of the ball as they were both Miss King Islanders and Jill of course went on to become Miss Tasmania. We envisage a charge of \$40 per head for the ball subject to confirmation. Please complete the relevant section on the attached response sheet so we can adequately cater for this function.

Sunday 29th August – Hear from our soldier settler parents, how they came to get to the island and what did they experience?

Commencement time to be advised but we think around 10.30am/11.00am.

We are going to invite our soldier settlers who are still living on King Island (and others who are visiting) to give us some idea of how they came to be selected for their farm on King Island and the progressions and setbacks they experienced to make a go of it, living and farming in Bass Strait on King Island. We want to record this for

keeping in the island history archives. This will be held at Currie Harbour and it is intended that a BBQ and Devonshire teas will be available for those attending. To assist us with catering could you please fill in the section on the attendance sheet.

Soldier Settlers Trail.

A project to mark the entrance to all soldier settler farm properties on King Island is underway and your assistance will be sought to provide and update information about the original farmers. This is being coordinated by Greg Morris and Judith Payne. Your assistance will be sought when you visit the island by adding information to the boards that will be sited at all original property entrances. This is a fantastic project to be part of and included in the reunion program.

Paragraph or a page ???

You can contribute to the reunion and history.

We want to put together some stories and anecdotes of things that happened when we were soldier settler kids, one I vividly remember is when the Yarra Creek School bus left the road on Robbins Road on our way home from school, Dave Cook was the driver and it was Chivvies old Chevrolet bus ...no one was hurt (remarkable) but it is an experience that those who were on the bus can remember

Please put your stories together, send them to our email address in a document. We want to look to produce a booklet, maybe not for the reunion but definitely following for recording this history.

There are many many stories that need to be recorded.



Original settlers Barn ... Millwood Road.

Getting to the island .. REX or King island Airlines (from Melbourne) TASAIR from Tasmania, or Virgin/Rex via Melbourne from Tasmania (Launceston & Hobart)

We are aware that booking are now getting very heavy for travel to the island. If you are going to attend the reunion you need to book immediately. Go to the relevant web sites or to

King Island web site and follow the links to the relevant service you need.

The committee has consulted with Regional Express (REX) who will monitor bookings for the Reunion attendees. Therefore if you are having difficulty booking airfares, please contact REX Help Desk and mention the Soldier Settlers Reunion and they will assess the need to put on extra flights.

Arranging Accommodation for your visit.

As with the airtravel, accommodation could be getting quite "tight" for the period of the reunion. Whilst we are looking to assist with billets, we need to explore all other accommodation avenues and options first. Again you can check out accommodation on the King Island web site.

Pictures and memorabilia for the King Island Museum.

The reunion is a good opportunity for you to take historical memorabilia to the island and leave at the Museum. I have been advised that if you are taking photographs, then good reproduction copies would be appreciated. The museum does NOT want originals as there are some implications if they accept them. I understand the museum wants to set up a separate room recognising the part soldier settlement played in the history and progress of the island.

An item for "Paragraph to Page".....from Peter

Taking the dairy cattle to the coast to winter was an experience I enjoyed, albeit quite an ordeal as we would drive the "mob" by road for two days from Robbins Road, Yarra Creek to "Buttons" coast block just south of Reekara (in behind George Tathams property.) We would overnight the cows near the Sea Elephant River where it crossed Fraser Road.

The thing I liked most of all was that in summer when we were finished working for the day we could "skinny dip" at our own private beach. We could also throw a line in and catch a few nice "parrot fish" for tea.

By wintering the cows on the coast they consumed the calcium laden coast water and therefore reduced the risk of milk fever.

WE have a group on FACEBOOK.

We have a KI Settler Kids Reunion group on facebook.

If you are a facebooker (and I know a lot of you are), please record in the group and you will be able to access information as it is posted.

Don't forget "Friends Reunited"

You can also access information through "Friends Reunited", send me a note and I can send you information updates.

Email direct:

kisettlerskidsreunion@oracletelecom.net.au

Newsletter compiled by Peter Cooper, now living at Mt Warren Park (Beenleigh) Queensland. You can contact **Peter on mobile 0488240649.**

The primary contact on the island is Ira Cooke, mobile 0428126871

