

Reunion 2021 – Members send their extended greetings:

John Clements:

I write on this with auspicious occasion with greetings for all old colleagues and friends, wishing I could be there. At the age of 89 I enjoy good health (apart from arthritis and difficulty walking) I continue to enjoy matters ornithological as well as a lifelong interest in the age of the clippers (late 18-19 cent) and have been researching them and painting scenes from life on board. I live in a delightful retirement village in Somerset West (Cape Town) where my 2 grandsons and family also live. My daughter and son-in law have thankfully now moved down to the Cape to be nearby just recently having spent 17 years in Durban. I am a great grandfather to 4 girls and 2 boys.

With best wishes to all.

John Clements

Sue Harling:

I'm so sorry I can't make it to our catch-up this year. However, I want you to know that I will be with you in spirit and I'm wishing you a wonderful evening catching up on everyone's news and just simply 'being' with each other for a few hours.

You are all very special people, whether you be ex-Nyasaland Police or family members of same. The contribution you made, in your various ways, to Nyasaland in that time can't be underestimated. Being born in Nyasaland, and living there till I was 8 and a half, Malawi holds a very special place in my heart. I still have vivid memories of life there, and of Dad in his uniform going off to work each day. I know I must have met many of you over those years, although all I can remember are the uniforms and the many wonderful children's birthday parties I attended!

Dad (Derek) is doing well and still living in Australia - he is currently in full lockdown because he lives in New South Wales where Covid is rampant. Nonetheless, he is handling everything splendidly as is his way.

I am still loving life back in the UK with my daughter, Courtenay. September marks nine years since we arrived back! I lost my job through redundancy last year but am loving my new one as the HR Business Partner at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.....working remotely from Cambridgeshire!

All the very best to you all.

Warmest Regards,

Sue Harling

Alison McLennan (nee Tomkins):

Greetings Nyasalanders, so glad you are finally able to hold your reunion, I do hope all goes well for you and you have a fantastic night.

These past few years have been very challenging to say the least so we must seize every opportunity we can to make things as normal as possible. The Nyasaland Police Website has been a great source of entertainment and information keeping us all so well informed-well done to Ken and Terry in that department.

We here in Brisbane QLD are doing okay albeit still with the occasional 7 day lockdowns and still wearing masks in public and the mandatory check-ins everywhere and of course the hand sanitizing, but that's ok we can live with that as it seems to be working. Sadly Sydney and Melbourne aren't fairing as well and are still having hundreds of new COVID cases each day. Consequently their lockdowns are going on for Months and all States have closed their borders to NSW and Victoria. So I feel very blessed that we have minimal disruptions as opposed to the rest of the Country and World for that matter. International travel is practically non-existent sadly; I'm thankful that we were able to have

our last trip to the UK in 2017. We had a fantastic trip only my 3rd visit since emigrating here in 1965. We had the best time eating and drinking our way around every Country Pub along the way! And of course meeting up with the many local characters so unique to the UK. Such fond memories of all places we visited such as Padstow where a Seagull literally knocked the Pastie from my hand just as I walked out of the bakery! And in Yorkshire when we stopped near a field to have a cuppa, and dozens of sheep came running across the field and surrounded us so a hasty retreat was made from there. Driving past the beautiful Lochs in Scotland I strained my eyes hoping to be the first tourist to catch a glimpse of Nessie. Then of course our visit to my birth place The Rhondda Valley where I had to interpret for John as he had no idea what anyone was saying and they weren't even speaking Welsh! It was truly a magical holiday. Also on this trip we had the great pleasure of meeting up with the Wonderful Gentleman Colin Baker who invited us to his home and I was greeted with freshly baked Welsh Cakes and signed copies of his books: Life & Work in Nyasaland. I felt so privileged to have met him. I had hoped to visit my home Country again and try to get to one of the reunions but unfortunately I don't think that will happen anytime soon. But you never know miracles do happen and let's all hope and pray for an end to all this.

Anyway just wanted to wish you all the very best for the future, stay safe and well and have a great night.

Very best wishes

Alison McLennan

Ray Punter:

Greetings from New Zealand to you all.

Notwithstanding the fact I am about as far away as it is possible to be from where you are gathered for this year's Reunion, I am nevertheless thankful that the Covid 19 situation in the U.K. once again allows for such gatherings to take place. I know how much you all look forward them. I do take a keen interest in the proceedings and all who are attending and depend on my regular contacts, such as Terry, Boyd and Vanessa, to keep me informed. I particularly enjoy scanning the group photographs, trying to recognise people I haven't seen in the flesh for 50 years or more! However, there are just a few who I have seen during the intervening years, including Vanessa, Anne Binney and Eric Robb (ex B.S.A.P. like myself), and others who have since passed away, like Doug and Dot Farmery, Alex and Dawn McDonald, Brian Burgess, and Alan Binney. So if any of you are thinking of coming my way I can assure you of a warm welcome and I might even be able to arrange for you to catch a trout or two!!

I send you all my warmest good wishes for a very successful and enjoyable Reunion, my thoughts will be with you.

Zikomo kwambili,

Ray Punter.