

- *Bindoon*
- *Castledare*
- *Clontarf*
- *Tardun*
- *Nazareth House*
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## Clontarf Memorial Plaque Unveiled



*by Dennis McNerney*

The presentation of a plaque commemorating the 'People' of Clontarf in former eras took place at a ceremony held at Clontarf on the 13th of August, 2008. The plaque is situated at the front entrance of the main building and forms the foundation of the ongoing Clontarf History Project.

Our first meeting for the creation of a memorial to the People of Clontarf was held at Clontarf itself on the 27th of April, 2004. Many meetings were carried out with the intention of recognising the experience and contribution of all past students of Clontarf (both residents and day students).

*Continued on page 2*

## ----- Redress WA update -----

The Redress WA scheme, introduced in December last year, continues to be an important initiative for members of the CBERS network.

Following a number of enquiries from people concerned that the change of government in WA could result in the redress scheme being cancelled or limited, we wrote to the new Minister for Community Services, Robyn McSweeney MLA, and asked for her

comment on this issue.

Minister McSweeney replied: "I can confirm that the new State Government in Western Australia which took office in September 2008 will continue the Redress WA scheme set up by the former government. Existing procedures will be maintained and all applications will continue to be processed according to the established practices".

*Continued on page 2*



*Continued from page 1*

The idea came from Old Boys who had visited the site and found there was no visible reminder of their time at Clontarf, or of the unique history of the college.

A group of Old Boys approached the Christian Brothers' Province Leader at that time, Br Kevin Ryan, who agreed to fund a history project and provided input during the planning process.

The plaque reads:

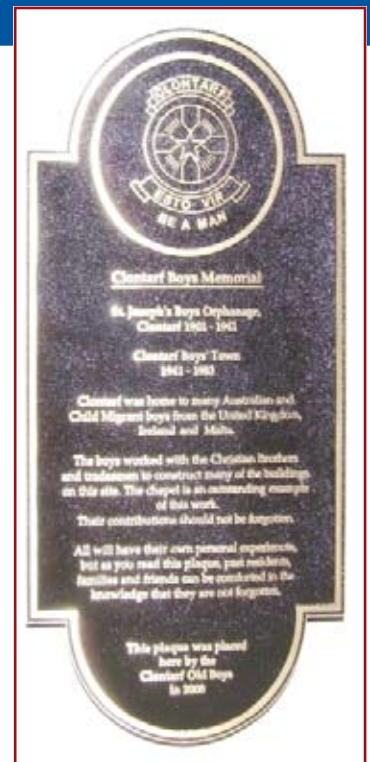
**Clontarf Boys Memorial**  
St Joseph's Boys Orphanage,  
Clontarf 1901 – 1941  
Clontarf Boys' Town 1941 – 1983  
Clontarf was home to many Australian  
and Child Migrant boys from the United  
Kingdom, Ireland and Malta.

The boys worked with the Christian Brothers and tradesmen to construct many of the buildings on this site. The chapel is an outstanding example of this work.

Their contributions should not be forgotten.

All will have their own personal experiences, but as you read this plaque, past residents, families and friends can be comforted in the knowledge that they are not forgotten.

This plaque was placed here by the Clontarf Old Boys in 2008.



*More Clontarf news on page 8*

One of the most striking things we have noticed in our work at CBERS Redress Service is the considerable distress many people experience as they undergo the application process. This process can raise old issues such as the fear of not being believed, or anger at being asked to verify painful memories.

However, our conversations with staff at Redress WA reassures us that they will accept applicants' statements 'at face value', and you will not be expected to 'prove' what happened to you as a child.

For those who may be reluctant to apply for the redress scheme, it is worth remembering that the heightened emotions you might experience during the process are transitory, and very positive outcomes are often reported by those who persevere with submitting their application.

People frequently describe a sense of 'validation' at having their experiences recorded in written form, and welcome the opportunity to 'set the record straight' on their Child Welfare files.

Some people are giving the written account to loved ones to read, and find it a useful way to start to talk about things not previously discussed. The act of sharing this important information offers families an opportunity to grow closer, and to improve communication and understanding about experiences

that may have affected all of them in some way over the years.

We find that Redress applicants use our service in a variety of ways – some people start from scratch, while others have all but finished their applications and just want some feedback before submitting the form. Remember too that it is possible to add to your application after it has been lodged.

We have prepared a document called 'Key points to consider when completing a redress application', which has been particularly useful for applicants and practitioners in remote areas. It is available on request from CBERS Redress Service.

In addition to assistance from Gail and Pip at the Fremantle office, CBERS Redress Service has a number of contractors working in various locations, some of whom can make home visits if necessary.

And finally, please be aware that there is a high demand for service, and if you are planning to use a support service it would be a good idea to make contact soon.

**\*\* NEWS FLASH \*\***

**Applicants with a certified 'life threatening illness' no longer need to be aged 70+ to apply for a 'fast track' interim payment under the redress scheme.**

W elcome to Issue #6 of *CBERS Network*.

As I review our progress at the end of each year, I often seem to say 'it's been a busy year', however I can't quite recall any other 12-month period that's been as hectic as the last one!

The introduction of *Redress WA* has had a huge impact on the demand for CBERS' services, and an even bigger impact on the client group. Although preparing a Redress application is clearly not an easy process, it's one that Gail and I believe is very worthwhile and, from a therapeutic perspective, it has great potential to assist people in achieving a sense of healing and resolution.

This year has been a successful and fulfilling one in other ways, and we welcomed an invitation to provide a submission to the new Senate Inquiry set up to review progress with recommendations of the *Lost Innocents* and *Forgotten Australians* Reports. Stay tuned for the new report, which is due to be tabled in March 2009.

This year's annual barbecue at Trinity Playing fields was a happy and relaxed event, and we were blessed with beautiful weather for the occasion. At the barbecue I made a request for volunteers to help with the various bulk mailings we do each year, including the mailout of this newsletter. Please let me know if you would like to add your name to our list of volunteers. Coffee, cake and treats are always served as part of the deal!

And finally, our very best wishes to you all for a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful year ahead.

*Pip*

Dr Philippa White  
Coordinator, CBERS Consultancy

## **Network Representatives**

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### **Nazareth House**

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### **St Joseph's**

Barbara Jean Costello Ph: 9304-1353  
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### **Tardun**

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Many thanks to Volunteers Peter Bent, Hughie McConnell and Dennis and Nicky McNerney, who assisted with the mailing of invitations to the end-of-year barbecue. Your help is greatly appreciated.

# TOBA News



## **TOBA Reunion**

TOBA's next reunion will be held at Tuppin House, Moore River, Guilderton over the weekend of 6-8 February 2009.

AGM and Election of Office Bearers will be held on Saturday 7 February 2009 at 2 pm.

Invitations and renewal membership forms will be mailed in January 2009.

## **1938/1939ers**

Child migrants (Tardun) who arrived in Australia in 1938/1939 will be TOBA's guests at Tuppin House for the February 2009 reunion weekend to commemorate their 70th anniversary.

## **Vale**

TOBA extends sincere sympathy to Lesley St. John & family and Fr. Peter in their sad loss of Paul. He will be sadly missed by all Tardun old boys' and families.

## **Edmund Rice Education Australia Announces the Closure of CBAS Tardun**

"The leadership of the Oceania Province of the Christian Brothers and the Board of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) advise that effective from the conclusion of the 2009 school year Christian Brothers' Agricultural School, Tardun, Western Australia will cease to operate in its current form as a comprehensive Years 8-12 high school".

TOBA will be informed when a decision has been made on the future of Christian Brothers' Agricultural School, Tardun.

TOBA Committee extends Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year to all its members and readers of 'CBERS Network'.

## **Contact**

TOBA Secretary Judith Marshall on 08 9457 7936 to update contact details.

# ST JOSEPH'S



Thanks to Lucy McVeigh for this photo of Pat Brady and Margaret Wyatt

## *Tribute to Mary McGourty*

*As we contemplate Redress it's a fitting time to remember Mary, an Angel to us all. She shared her life unreservedly. Mary's home was a refuge to us in difficult times - she sometimes had four or five of us there who needed a home. You don't meet that kind of love and understanding very often. Mary showed us how to live our lives with joy, and what she did for us all those years ago has had a deep and lasting influence on us.*

*We treasure the memories.*

***The Girls.***



## NAZARETH NEWS

By Bernadette Bowey Hills

Life has been busy here for the last few months with the Sydney Memorial Service last Wednesday, and with Les a member of the R.S.L.

The girls in the Geraldton area are all well and are getting ready for Christmas. We have

friends arriving from the UK on 20th December and will have Christmas with Eileen in Perth.

Do hope you all have a Merry Christmas at CBERS, from all of us all in Geraldton.

Love Bernadette and Les.



Thanks to Maureen Holland for this photo of girls at Nazareth House Geraldton in 1948

# A Fond Farewell



of origin. During her t many trips to Bindoon, hosted lunches, morning visits, and Christmas han the hand of love and K way.

Sister Flo was ab she brought a lot of s during her long career as Principal, to her position

*F*riends, colleagues, and some of the many former child migrants helped by Sister Flo O'Sullivan over the years gathered at Mercy Convent in November to say a fond farewell and very heartfelt thanks to Flo on her impending retirement at the end of 2008.

Speakers at the gathering talked of Flo's major contributions to the field; her dedication to her work; and the great humanity she brought to the role during seven years as Coordinator of the Former Child Migrant Programme at the Catholic Migrant Centre.

Yvonne Radzevicius spoke as a former child migrant who has assisted Flo with various projects and had seen the difference Sister Flo made to the lives of so many. Michael Madigan also spoke of Flo's great commitment to championing the cause of child migrants and their families. There was barely a dry eye in the house when Flo herself finally spoke to the gathering, and it was clear to all that Flo's work at CMC has been so much more than 'just a job' to her.

Sister Flo started at CMC at a time when it was becoming apparent that some of the former child migrants needed a helping hand 'out of hours' as well as with tracing services and finding families

Flo's passion for education meant she moved the First Click computing classes were started organised special tutoring for people who s "Just give it a try", Flo would say.

Thanks from all of us in the CBER wish you all the best on your well-earned you!



Files formerly held at the Catholic Migrant Centre have been transferred to the Archdiocesan archives in Perth, Western Australia. Protocols have been established to enable former child migrants, such as Sr Frances Stibi, to provide access to former child migrants to obtain copies of file documents. Sister Frances can be contacted on 9228-8020, or by email: [archives@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:archives@perthcatholic.org.au)



# ell to Sister Flo

*Thanks to Dr Debbi Rosser for her input to this story*

time at CMC, Flo initiated  
visited hospitals, prisons,  
g teas, organised doctors'  
mpers - generally extending  
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skills to her role, acquired  
s a teacher and then School  
a at the CMC. In particular,  
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struggled to read and write.

AS Network Sister Flo. We  
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Harold Street, Mt  
able the Archivist,  
d migrants wishing  
es can be contacted  
[olc.org.au](http://olc.org.au)



## *Maritime Museum in Sydney plans child migration exhibition*

The Australian National Maritime Museum is planning an exhibition for 2010 that will cover the background and history to Britain's child and youth migration schemes.

The exhibition aims to explore in depth the different schemes that took thousands of children to Canada and Australia between 1869 and 1967. It is the first time that any museum has attempted to cover the whole story – in its historical and international context – in an exhibition. We are collaborating with Merseyside Maritime Museum, in Liverpool, England, to develop this program and aim to tour it to the UK after it is shown in Sydney. It may eventually tour to other locations in Australia.

We aim to highlight broader historical themes by exploring individual stories, and are looking for objects that will illustrate the experiences of child migrants. The sort of material you may have kept that could help us tell this story includes:

- \* Documents – applications, travel tickets, packing lists, certificates and official papers
- \* Clothes, scarves, hats, gloves, ties
- \* Suitcases, satchels or bags
- \* Personal mementos brought to Australia (photos, keepsakes, items from home)
- \* Photos of your early years in Britain and Australia
- \* Objects from farm schools or homes for children
- \* Treasured objects from childhood such as dolls, toys or comics
- \* Photographs of organisations and individuals
- \* Gifts and letters sent from Britain
- \* Souvenirs from return trips to Britain

If you have any material associated with your - or your relatives' or friends' - experience as a child migrant, and would be willing to lend it, the museum would be very grateful.

Please contact Sally Hone, Curator - Post Federation Immigration, in Sydney on (02) 9298-3718 or email [shone@anmm.gov.au](mailto:shone@anmm.gov.au)

# THE CLONTARF NETWORK

## MICHAEL BOWMAN MEMORIAL CELEBRATION 2008

This year's Commemoration for Michael Bowman was held at Serpentine on the 11<sup>th</sup> October, and celebrated the naming of 'Bowman Park' in his honour.

Michael was 12 when he died in the Clontarf bus accident of 15<sup>th</sup> December 1955. The sign stands a permanent reminder of Michael's short life, and in recognition of the many other boys who were injured and traumatised in the accident.

The unveiling of the new sign was followed by a sausage sizzle and a chance for old friends to catch up and reminisce.



## CLONTARF HERITAGE TRAIL TAKES OFF *by Dennis McNerney*

Since the 'Old Boys' plaque was established at Clontarf, it was decided to form a group to plan a visible Heritage Trail as part of the Clontarf History Project. A few barbecues have been held in the past, and this particular subject has been raised in an enthusiastic manner amongst the group.

Former Campus Coordinator Peter Hann, who recently left Clontarf after more than 20 years service, has agreed to provide ongoing input to the History Project.

Peter's original role with Clontarf was as Deputy Principal when it commenced as an Aboriginal college in 1986, with Br Kevin Ryan as Principal. Peter subsequently took on the job of coordinating the Christian Brothers' gifting of Clontarf to the Aboriginal community in the mid-1990s.

Peter then worked with the Indigenous Land Corporation towards establishing self-sufficient Aboriginal agencies on the Clontarf Campus. Those agencies now comprise Clontarf Aboriginal College (Years 8-12), Abmusic, Dumbartung, the Lake Jasper Project Office, Clontarf Football Academy, Clontarf Girls' Academy, and the Marr Mooditj Foundation.

We wish Peter well in his future endeavours, and look forward to his continuing involvement in the Clontarf History Project.

We are now seeking input from Old Boys of different eras to put plans in place for the Heritage Trail. If you would like further information or to join in the project, please contact Dennis McNerney during office hours at the Clontarf Management Office on 9458-1774.



A recent barbecue at the McNerney's to discuss ongoing Heritage Trail plans

L-R: Nicky & Dennis McNerney, Mike Hogan, Peter Bent, Arthur & Carol O'Hare, Hughie McConnell, Linley & Peter Hann

# BINDOON CORNER

**Redress:** I encourage all Bindoon ex-residents who were Wards of the State whilst at Bindoon and until they were 21 years to give urgent attention to getting an application form for Redress. You don't need to get your care records, Redress will get copies of them on your behalf and add them to your application.

Do not delay your application, it must be in by 30th April 2009. If Redress WA need more information they can get it from you after the closing date!! but only if your application was lodged in time Assistance is available from CBERS Consultancy.

**Bereavement:** We join the Murphy family in their sorrow at the loss of John Murphy in August this year at the age of 67. John spent 5 years in Boys

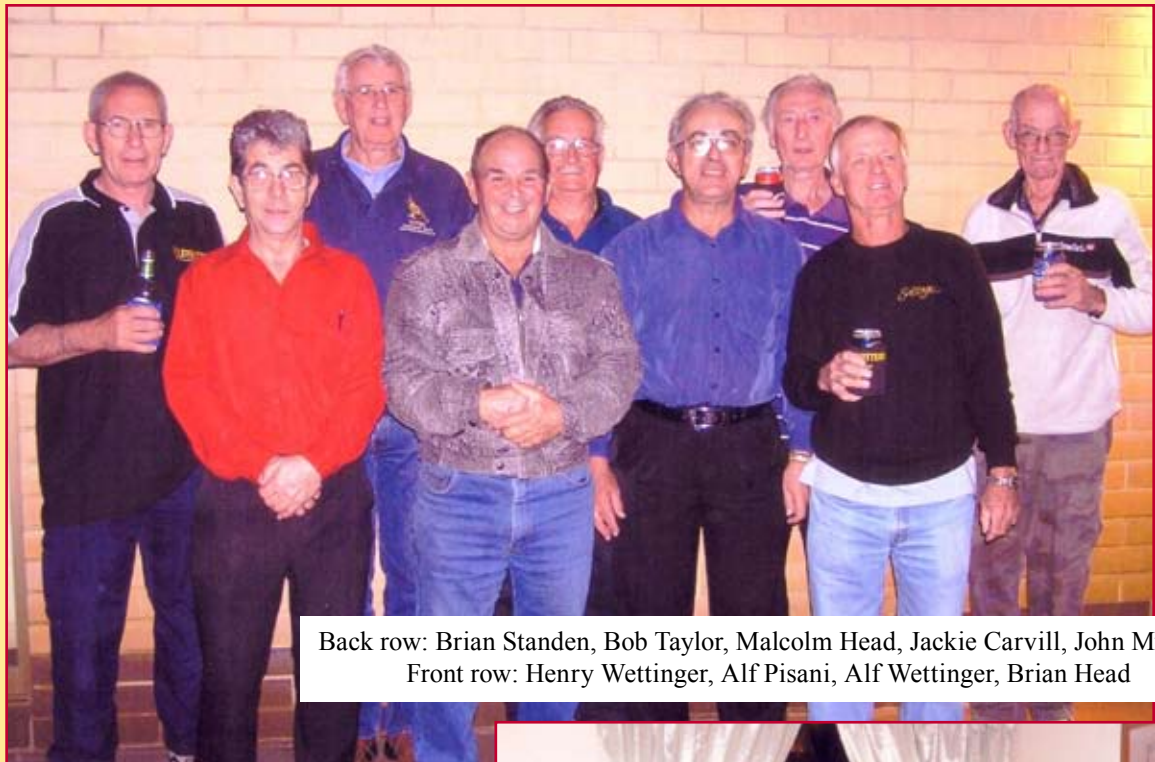
Town Bindoon and at the age of 14 was driving a truck carting sand, gravel and rocks for the building of the main administration block. As with other boys there, John worked hard and in later life was to remark that Bindoon instilled in him a hard work ethic that was to remain with him throughout his working life.

After leaving Bindoon John was self-employed in the transport industry. He obviously had a good brain for business as when a local hire firm closed down he purchased five marquees. From this, John and his son Steve built up the successful business 'Spuds Marquee Hire'. John was proud of the family involvement in this business, especially the bond he had with his son Steve as they built it up successfully together.

Our condolences and thoughts are with John's wife Lorraine and children Tracey, Stephen and Vicki.

*Laurie Humphreys*

John is on the far right in the photo below



Back row: Brian Standen, Bob Taylor, Malcolm Head, Jackie Carvill, John Murphy  
Front row: Henry Wettinger, Alf Pisani, Alf Wettinger, Brian Head

Thanks to Alf Pisani for sending in these great photos.

Alf writes: *"We are a group of Bindoon Boys that meets every couple of months and have dinner together. We have been doing this for several years. We enjoy each other's company, we also get together at each other's houses for a barbecue, and we have all grown older together since we left Bindoon"*



## **Redress WA reaches half-way mark**

Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney is urging anyone who was abused in State care to consider applying to Redress WA before the initiative closes on April 30 next year.

Redress WA is open to any adult who was abused, as a child, in State care before March 1, 2006.

Mrs McSweeney said the \$114 million Redress WA initiative had been open to applicants for six months and would be open for another six months.

“I urge people who think they are eligible to contact Redress WA for more information and confidential advice on the application process,” she said.

“So far, 606 people have applied and interim payments of \$234,000 have been fast-tracked to 24 people with a terminal or life-threatening illness.

“No amount of money can compensate people for this type of suffering.

“However, it is hoped that through Redress WA, people can be helped to move forward in their lives by providing acknowledgement, counselling and an ex-gratia payment in recognition of the abuse suffered.”

Applicants may be eligible for an ex-gratia payment of up to \$10,000 for reasonable likelihood of abuse or up to \$80,000 for proof of medical or psychological problems stemming from abuse. Applicants with a terminal or life-threatening illness may receive up to \$10,000 as an interim payment.

Those eligible to apply include child migrants, former wards of the State, including Aboriginal children, and anyone placed in State-approved private institutions and foster homes. People who have moved interstate or overseas are also eligible.

Further information can be obtained from Redress WA on 1800 446 264 or <http://www.redress.wa.gov.au>



A booklet published by the Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) has been well received by CBERS network members, and has proved particularly useful for people preparing Redress WA applications. This 16-page booklet provides a clear summary of issues often faced by survivors of institutional care – known as the *Forgotten Australians*. The booklet can be ordered from Families Australia on (02) 6273-4885, or from CBERS in Fremantle.

More information on the Alliance for Forgotten Australians is available on their website at [www.forgottenaustralians.org.au](http://www.forgottenaustralians.org.au). The AFA representative in WA is Laurie Humphreys (Ph: 9337-4850).

***A final word on the recent Memorial Plaque unveiling at Clontarf, which was such an important event, even the Prime Minister turned up!***



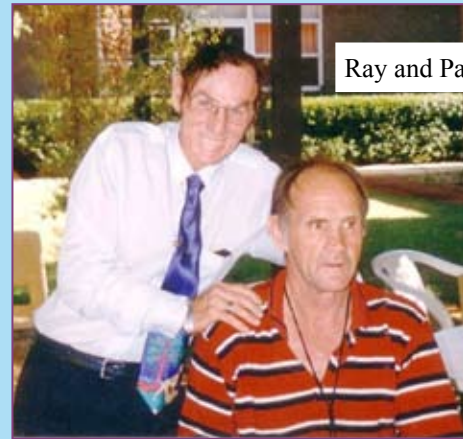
# NOTICE BOARD

## *Paul Knott 1941 - 2008* *'The Happy Wanderer'*

Ray McGowan would like to pay tribute to his dear friend Paul Knott, who passed away on 20th September 2008. Ray and Paul met on the SS Asturias coming to Australia in 1947, and were friends throughout their years at Castledare and Clontarf.

Ray and Paul remained lifelong friends. Paul was known as the *Happy Wanderer* because he travelled all over Australia on his motorbike, making new friends wherever he went. Ray says he always thought of Paul as a brother, he had a great sense of humour, and everybody liked him.

After a motorbike accident in 1994, Paul lost his leg and sustained a number of other serious injuries. Ray cared for him at that time, and was his carer for many



Ray and Paul in 2007

years afterwards when Paul was moved to a nursing home in Innaloo.

It is with great sadness that Ray farewells his dear friend, and tips his hat to the 'Happy Wanderer' one last time.

## End-of-year barbecue 2008



# NOTICE BOARD

## HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH PROJECT

Thanks to Mary Circenis for sending in this photo of Cardinal Griffin with children at Father Hudson's Homes in Coleshill, England in 1940. Photos can be submitted for scanning via your Group Representative or CBERS.



### *Seeking contact*

Julie Brown is interested in talking to girls from St Josephs, in particular Marilyn Dwyer and Glennys Love. Julie was in St Josephs from 1956 to December 1960. It would be great to catch up. You can leave your phone number with CBERS and I will call you.

### *Vale*

Condolences from the Nazareth House girls to Maureen and Peter Broderick on the sad loss of Floss McMahon

### *Vale John Hunter*

John passed away on Sunday 15th November, after losing his beloved wife Patsy only just last year.

Rest in peace '*Bishop John*'.

Love from Patrick and Mary Armstrong and all the girls.

### *Asturias website*

Vicky Doherty of Melbourne has created a website devoted to the ship SS Asturias.

Many child migrants came to Australia on board the Asturias in the 40s and 50s, and the site - which includes some passenger lists - may be of interest.

The site address is: [www.ssasturias.net](http://www.ssasturias.net)



**Full regalia:** Tardun Old Boy Professor David Plowman and CBERS Coordinator Dr Philippa White met up at a graduation ceremony at UWA in September 2008

HO HO HO! Who could this be?



Can you guess???