

Brunei reunion 26th of September 2009 in Amsterdam

We met up around 5 in the afternoon on the terrace of the restaurant de Waag. We were very lucky as it turned out to be a weekend with lovely weather, it was sunny & dry. We talked and totally forgot to take a group picture, but fortunately many other pictures were taken and they can be seen at <http://home.deds.nl/~brunei/>. After a welcome drink and nibbles we sat down for dinner around 8. We had a lovely meal, the menu catered for everyone and there was a choice of fish, meat and veggie. The wine flowed and before we knew it was one in the morning, an hour after closing time, but the restaurant staff didn't seem to mind.



People flew in from all over the Europe. Jimmy from Andorra, the Brits from Aberdeen, Manchester, London and Bristol and the Dutch drove to Amsterdam by car or came by train and Chris & Patrick cycled in from home. Quite a few of us had brought our photo albums and Roel particularly loved the pictures of his dad that he had never seen before. I have a copy now. Thanks Jane! Wouldn't it be nice to collect all these treasures in a common photo album. Well read on, as Patrick has some ideas about this. All in all it was a most enjoyable weekend in Amsterdam, sightseeing, shopping, eating, drinking and talking about old times.

Who showed up:

Annette & Dave Anderton, Ineke & Ria Bruggeman, Bibi & Dick van Dam, Ken & Jane Fraser, Paul & Roel van de Lint, Annemieke & JanWillem Louwerens, Iain MacKechnie, Arthur Neher, Anne Berdine Nieuwenhuys, Twanneke & Marion & Sandra Nijhuis, Elmy van Not, David & Graham O'Keefe, Catharine & Chantal & Patrick & Thierry Ploum, Chris Reitsma, Linda Revie, Aly & Joke Santman, Jimmy Turner, Caroline & Joop & Aart Veldhoen & partner Yvonne, Sandy Walmsley, Anne & Jane Waterland and Lindy Williamson.



Reliving almost forgotten memories:

There are too many stories to recite. Let me give you just one for the flavour:

One of my favourite memories of the evening is Ken teasing Jimmy, about Jimmy's stay in Petaluma, the 'chicken capitol' of the world. Many rude (and ruder) comments were flying around! Then there was the story of the drunken drive home with a dodgy car door, a sharp turn and Mike Werry flying out of that very door! (forgotten who was the driver!) I haven't laughed so much for a very long time!

It was great to see so many friends this time. There were 40 of us, almost double the number of the first reunion and the group is getting bigger. Hopefully there be a good showing next time around as **Linda, Iain and Jane have kindly offered to organise the next reunion in Edinburgh Scotland sometime in spring or summer of 2011.** If you read this and you'd like to attend and your name is not on the e-mail Brunei reunion 2011 list, you need to inform Linda, Iain or Jane. They can be contacted at the following e-mail addresses: jane.waterland@btconnect.com & Linda.dalziel@careers-scotland.org.uk & maclaw@blueonder.co.uk .

The reunion turned out to be a fun evening and it was really interesting to see how we all were doing and hear about our lives. Some quotes:

The most exciting bit to me was that I actually recognized quite a number of people I had not kept in contact with in the past 37 years.

Wonderful weekend, renewing friendships and catching up on everyone's lives! Every reunion the group gets bigger and we got more and more memories. Great fun, great food and awesome company and fantastic shopping!

I loved the photo's Iain had taken last year at Panaga and the neighbourhood when he returned there! Panaga has not changed much, except for the air conditioning, so said Iain... brrr... must be cold in there now! Had lots of fun talking to many old friends, too many stories to reproduce.

It was great to see everyone again and catch up. Looking forward to the next reunion already.

Lovely to see all of you and to renew old friendships. Wonderful to have some new/old faces join us this year too! Looking forward to Edinburgh! Will put pictures onto facebook over the weekend!

It was a fantastic evening in a fabulous setting! Nice to see many friend from the old days! A classmate I hadn't seen for 37 years... (Good to see you Twanneke). My second reunion and its getting better and better.

Forgot to say thanks to the organisers but I think the combination of Alzheimer's, old age, late nights and excessive amounts of Rioja meant that I just wandered back to my hotel once the Café had thrown us out. By 0655 hrs Sunday we were in Schiphol and we are now back into our life of accumulating airmiles.

I am still 'buzzing' from the BRILLIANT evening! I really enjoyed it...it was just SO good to see everyone again after all these years, wish I had done it sooner. The only downside on Saturday was that it wasn't longer...there was not half the time to talk to everyone properly! I didn't even have a chance to ask you about what you have been doing since Brunei, your wife, your kids, your life, etc, etc...in fact there wasn't really time to do this kind of thing with anyone once we had looked at photos and shared stories! But it was still seriously good fun! We had a really good couple of days in Amsterdam.

I was sad that I hadn't attended the previous reunions. Is the website going to be for ALL photos, old and new?

It was really nice meeting you all again last Saturday although we did not know everyone from way back since we were not in Brunei all in the same period, but the restaurant was nice, the food was well and we had lots of fun! Hope to see you all or some of you (including the ones that could not make it) next time!

Thanks for a fantastic night. It was good to see everyone, my apologies to those I never spoke to, just didn't seem enough time, and Amsterdam is such a great city.

It was so nice to see you all and meet old friends again. Amsterdam is a fine city and we had a great Sunday and Monday sightseeing, eating, drinking and talking about old times. See you all in Edinburgh next time.

I'm really looking forward to the Edinburgh reunion! It'll be a great opportunity to visit Scotland, which I've been wanting to do for years.

To close out we have some more news. Patrick Ploum had a great idea and has organized a Picasa web album for us where we can download our photos from the 60's and 70's. As a matter of fact, there is already a folder for the 1976 photos, including pictures Patrick & Roel have posted! So please start scanning your pictures and add them to the Picasa site. Patrick will be the webmaster for a while. Thanks Patrick. He can be contacted at Patrick.ploum@gmail.com.

Brunei reunion websites:

2005: <http://bsp70.bravehost.com/>

2009: <http://home.deds.nl/~brunei/>

**Best regards,
Ria, Bibi & Roel**