

## **RESEARCH NOTES – FRANCIS WILLIAM BAKER**

### **30 OCT 1946 BIRTH**

Francis (known always as Frank or Frankie) William Baker was born at home 57 Brangbourne Road, Bromley, Kent, England to parents Harry James Baker and Mabel Doris Baker (nee Spotswood). Registration District – Lewisham. Sub-Reg. District – Sydenham in the Borough of Lewisham. Father's occupation – Planning Engineer.

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### **9 JUL 1948 DEPARTURE FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Embarked with his parents and older brother John from the Port of London (Tilbury Landing Stage) on Friday afternoon, 9<sup>th</sup> July 1948 aboard the *Orion*. As First Class passengers they were allowed cabin trunks 3 ft in length, 1'9" wide and 1'2" high, (91 cm x 53.35 cm x 35.56 cm) representing 6 cubic feet (or about 1/6<sup>th</sup> of a cubic metre) of luggage. Children's prams were carried free of charge.

Frank's father Harry had an upper berth in cabin 531 on "F" deck, while Mabel and the children were in cabin 541/2 on the same deck – Mabel was in the upper berth and young John in the lower – while a cot was provided for little Frank, only twenty months old. Bathroom and toilet facilities were fortunately not very far from the cabins. A large playroom was provided for children, and there were regular church services.

At some stage during the trip Frank must have required the services of the ship's doctor, at a cost of fifteen shillings, as there was a receipt for this among Harry's papers.

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### **7 AUG 1948 ARRIVAL AT OUTER HARBOR**

On Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> August 1948 the Bakers disembarked the *Orion* at Outer Harbor, South Australia under cloudless blue skies with their two small boys and their cabin luggage. A hint of spring was in the air; there was a light north-easterly breeze and the temperature just over 19 degrees Celsius. What beautiful weather to greet the new immigrants! Because their passport had been already stamped in Fremantle, there were evidently no formalities in Adelaide.

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The Mail (Adelaide, SA : 1912 - 1954), Saturday 7 August 1948, page 3  
National Library of Australia <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55897344>

“Concert at Wharf in Jazz. Passengers in the *Orion* were given an impromptu jazz concert band when the ship berthed at Outer Harbor this morning. Dave Dallwitz's Southern Jazz Group lined up on the wharf and played a welcome to Graeme Bell's Australian Jazz Band, which has been touring Europe for the past 12 months and returned in the *Orion*. Later Bell's band brought their instruments on deck and joined in the concert, while passengers lined the rails and clapped appreciation ... The band, now under contract to the A.B.C., had brought back about 50 new jazz numbers, Mr. Bell said.”

\*Wendy's Note: Wendy, who became Frank's sister-in-law when she married his brother John, attended Adelaide Technical High School in the 1960's where Dave Dallwitz taught art and the history of art.

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### **1950's SCHOOLING**

Frank's primary education was at Burnside Primary School and later Pulteney Grammar School.

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#### 1960-1962 SECONDARY SCHOOLING

Frank attended Urrbrae Agricultural College

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#### 1964-1965 DEFENCE SERVICES

Frank joined the Royal Australian Navy, training at HMAS Cerberus, Sydney

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#### 1960's-1970 CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT

Frank gained farm experience as station-hand and manager on properties on West Coast and South-East of South Australia, and 1968-1970 was a day shift Leading Hand at Renison Bell tin mine, Tasmania.

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#### 1970-1973 TRAVELS

Tasmania through Australia from south to north; Timor, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Burma, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, England, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Swede, East Germany, Luxemburg – 25,000 miles by land sea and air. In the years 1972-1977 Frank was employed as a sales representative by Beaumont Tiles for some of this period.

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#### OCT 1973 1<sup>st</sup> MARRIAGE

Frank was married in a civil ceremony at Barking, England.

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#### 22 MAY 1974 NATURALISATION

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#### 1978 TRAVELS

Hong Kong, China, USSR, Germany, UK

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#### 1981-1986 HUMES-ARC

Sales representative. During this time Frank's first marriage ended.

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#### 1986 2<sup>nd</sup> MARRIAGE

Frank married his second wife at a civil ceremony in the garden of his parents' home in Victor Harbor.

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#### 1986-1990 TRAVELS

Frank travelled in Australia with his wife by caravan, and was the Caravan Park Manager in Robe South Australia and in Ipswich Queensland. They went on to travel the U.S.A. and Canada.

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#### 1991-1994 VARIOUS

Frank worked as a security guard for the Adelaide Entertainment Centre and as a janitor for the TAFE colleges of Kensington, Kingston and Panorama and Warinilla Rehabilitation Centre, before becoming a Park Assistant at Belair National Park, South Australia. Frank continued to travel and in 2007 he enjoyed a round-Australia cruise.

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#### 2004 ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

The R.F.D.S. acknowledged Frank's ongoing support of their organisation with a certificate of appreciation. Frankie was a regular contributor to Country Music S.A.'s "Prelude" magazine as their "Roving Reporter" and he also volunteered his time to Coast FM radio. He was a member of the R.S.L. and attended Anzac marches and Dawn Services. Frank generously supported some promising young Country Music performers.

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16 SEP 2011 DEATH

Frank died from liver failure at Flinders Medical Centre after evacuation from Roxby Downs by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and a short time in Intensive Care at FMC.

His funeral was held at Centennial Park.

Six weeks after his death, on 30<sup>th</sup> October which would have been his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, a Wake was held at the Kilburn RSL for family and his Country Music and RSL friends.