



"The Old Bush Telegraph"

DOWNLANDS 1956 – 61

January 2016

Issue #53

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2016!**

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all

January has been and gone – where does the time go??

Thank you to the many among you who sent greetings for Christmas and the New Year. I hope I responded to all of you, if not, my apologies.

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Thanks to everyone who contributed this month, it is greatly appreciated.

All care taken in presenting material here, but no responsibility taken for errors / omissions.

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Dated: 4/2/2016

NEWS FROM CLASSMATES



David Bowden: *David attended "The Mass" in January, but had to leave for his return to Roma before lunch. I contacted him to be sure he arrived home safely:* " We had a good trip home. Have to admit the trips are starting to take a toll on my old body. During week days I normally go to the Roma Poll at 5am and do exercises in the water for 30-40 minutes. I did not surface until 7am on Monday!

Spoke to Garth Cocks at the Mass. Looks as though he may be getting me involved in writing Downlands history. I have an appointment in early February in Toowoomba so that may be our first meeting.

Our Muckadilla Community 2015 Anzac Day Ceremony and play that I wrote on the enlistment of the Muckadilla First World War soldiers was nominated for an Australia Day Award. Will have to see how we go with that one!

I'm hoping to take my book on the Muckadilla Service Men and Women to the publisher soon.

PS Rod Cochrane contacted me after the week-end too. Much appreciated. David.

Bernie Casey: Very kindly used his skills with his camera on Mass Day. All subjects were suitably impressed with his work. Many thanks Bernie!

noel clanchy. merry christmas to you and your family jack, and to all the good old boys who read this. I was talking to adrain cooney yesterday, he's laid up with a damaged leg and is catching up with old mates. good to hear burnsie is still going strong. happy new year to all. not only is our world heating up but the time is going faster. cheers noel.

[I've edited clance's email this month because it contained a number of 'capital letters'. He said some months ago that he was far too busy to use the 'caps'

button – so I deleted them from his message for him – JD]

Rod Cochrane: “Margaret and I are going to Hobart for Christmas with our daughter Rebecca and her family which includes two (2) granddaughters. Our other daughter Deirdre is coming from Auckland for the Festive Season as well so it will be a wonderful time for all of us. I will see you at the Mass in January.

Marg & Rod”

Hugo Fitz Herbert OAM: “The quiz ...? I love the quizzes”. *(Hugo correctly answered all the questions from last month's quiz – see last page for the answers)*
PS: 55 yrs ? Sounds good to me ... IF I make it ... !!
and I knew you would think up something to say about the bike ! *(last month)* ACTUALLY ... some of the BIG Harleys DO have a tow bar to pull a small fold up van ! Fair dinkum !- HFH

Denis Fogarty: “Lucky I made the move to 21st century. I did come up with the German in your quiz. I was going to Mass at Wavell Heights for 20 yrs until they cut out 7-30 - I then went Kedron, 7-30. I used to sit in front of/behind or beside this couple & exchange sign of peace. I now realise it was Brendan O'Brien and his wife whose RIP notice was in last month's newsletter. What a small world? Cheers Denis”

Peter Low: I spoke to Peter briefly today (4/2/16). He tells me he has slowed down a bit but continues to be involved in the Chinese Community in Brisbane. He's not travelling to China so much these days but seems to be the 'go to man' for many members of his large network of friends and acquaintances.

Bunny Meacle: “15/11/2015
Thank you once again for wonderful newsletter, as luck would have it we missed issue 48 & 50. With issue 48 it was due to a computer malfunction (blew up) and was dispatched to the dump and issue 50 because of a Telstra Fiasco, when we attempted to change our internet and phones from a business account to a private account. The process took at least four months with dozens of calls to Telstra, hundreds of dollars billed incorrectly but eventually it has been sorted out.

Unfortunately we also missed your story about the naming rights for your Newsletter. During my life on the land we would wait for the 'The Country Life' newspaper to arrive on Saturdays. This weekly was always referred to as 'The Bible of the land', info on wool and cattle sales etc. I thought a good name for

your newsletter would have been similar. *(A good one Bunny! –Ed)* The proof being here, miss two newsletters to the disciples and we miss two topics of extreme importance!

In answer to Mick Borger's thoughts I am sure we the (Invincible 7 stone 7's) were the pioneers of the DIY coaching. Poor Father Phil! I was still in the same team in Junior!! Now Jack that you have taken on the world with Éinsteins Riddle I say the German owns the FISH!” *(Another smarty pants !! – Ed)*

We're both keeping well. Kind Regards, Brian & Jo

Philip Moloney: Rang just prior to Christmas. We had a good chat. I was delighted to learn that Phil has arranged for his daughter to receive future newsletters by email, then pass them on to him. His were formerly posted. Good on you Phil – you'll be like Denis Fogarty tapping away on the keyboard yourself before too long. Phil was hoping to come up to the Mass but unfortunately couldn't make it.

Terry McHugh: Rang with Christmas greetings and said they had good rain a couple of months ago, but now need more. He and Erica are going to pull their 'van to Mataranka later in the year to help Black Jack with his bull sale in September.

He and **Paul Stark** are still making the Comfort crosses and will make supplies available as needed.

Brian Herzig: Has very kindly offered to help in sorting out something for the 55 year reunion later in the year. We'll keep you up to date with what we're thinking for a weekend get-together.

Black Jack O'Brien:



This is a photo of the happy O'Brien clan which I imagine was sent wishing Season's Greetings to all their friends

Bill Sexton: Bill should have joined ASIO. Yikes! Maybe he is a spy! He rang me recently to tell me he noticed the name 'Goodchild' on a teller's nametag at his bank. He engaged the young lady in conversation and learned she is Neville's niece. 'Teller Goodchild' said uncle Neville is well, and living the high life on the Gold Coast after spending all his working life in 'the bank'.

Squiz Taylor: Here's a brief report on Squiz's busy schedule: He returned home from a couple of weeks in Canada, on Tues 19th Jan. He'll then be home until 11th Feb when he and Barbara leave for India (2 weeks holiday) and Bangladesh (1 week working). Somewhere in here we hope to catch up for a cuppa!!

SPECIAL NOTICE

The reunion committee had a meeting on the phone today (1/2/16). I'll keep you posted about the proposed "55 Year Reunion" later in the year. There hasn't been a great response to date, but we presume 'no news is good news' at this early stage.

We're thinking Brisbane will be the host city. We'll make some tentative enquiries about a venue etc., and will keep you informed over the next couple of months.



Last month Phil Derriman mentioned it is 60 years ago that some of us little darlings entered the gates of Downlands to spend six terrific years in its hallowed halls.

There were 22 of us who started in sub-scholarship in 1956, but, for many and varied reasons, most did not go through to Senior. Those 'babies' from 1956 were: **Daniel Brilliant**; Pat Brosnan; **Adrian Cooney**, *James Croft*; Barry de Hayr; *Daniel Diwaya*; *Basil Donohue*; Neville Fanning; John Hede; **Gerald Hegarty**; **Brian Herzig**; *F X Kondolo*; Peter Low; John McCawley; **Brian Meacle**; Brian Pauli; *Henry Saina*; Francis Seeto; **Ken Simpson**; *Michael Stack*; John Taylor and myself.

The seven names in '*italics*' are now deceased.

Those names in '**maroon**' had started their boarding-school experience years before 1956, having spent some time earlier, together, at Freneau Park.

John Sullivan and James Wong who were also in our class back then, had been to Downlands for some time in 1955, so they knew the ropes long before the rest of us arrived.

So Happy 60th Anniversary to that class of 1956.

News from other years



Redmond Byrne 1955 – '58: "Great to hear from you last evening and looking forward to catching up with you next Sunday.

If pressed, I will join Barbara Poole's choir, but have no claim to be a chorister. I think she may have confused me with my brother Jim (or James as the family call him) who inherited our old man's vocal skills. My younger brother Denis has greater claims than I! With only one exception (which Barrie and Glenda O'Brien may recall), I have only sung along with the rest of the congregation, but will try my best

I assume you were aware of the sudden death of Peter Cleary (Greymare) via Warwick, only a year or so after the death of his brother Ray. Although some years after my time at the College, from all reports, Peter lived and breathed Downlands. I have heard him described by many who knew him as "one of the finest men they had ever met". I rang his brother John (my vintage) who farms at Bowenville on the Downs to tell him of the Mass. He would have loved to come but has his hands full thanks to a tornado that all but wiped out his crops etc recently. His sister Helen Carmody (who now lives nearby at the Sunny Coast) would also like very much to attend next year's in their memory. (I offered to give her a lift), but she can't come this time because of family commitments this Sunday. Incidentally, she told me the extended Cleary family would be gathering at Greymare in 2 weeks time to celebrate the 140th anniversary of their great grandfather taking up their homestead block which was part of the historic Leslie Brothers South Toolburra station.

I am ashamed to admit that I only recently learnt of the death several months ago of former Brisbane solicitor Brian King. No doubt you have him on your list. He was a good friend of mine. I hope his son Bede will be coming. The Kings were of old Toowoomba stock and good friends of my folk and no doubt of yours?

I mentioned that my brother (father) Jim, who now lives in County Donegal, Ireland, is in contact with cousin Peter Fitzpatrick, *elder brother of your classmate Anthony*, who lives near London and has emeritus professorial status at the UK University where he worked for many years. Best wishes, Redmond"

(Thanks for these stories Redmond. Thanks too for being part of the 'duet' which carried the singing on Sunday 17th January. Peter Joseph has been marked to join you and Ken Stegeman next year!! – Ed)

Bob (Kit) Carson 1961 – '64: I had noted the upcoming Downlands Mass and Lunch this Sunday but I regret that I will be unable to attend. We have a family gathering at the Tweed this weekend to farewell my sister, Kathy, and brother in law, Bob Jordan, back to Canada after a lengthy Christmas visit.

Regards to all attending the Mass & lunch, and best wishes for the year. Regards, Bob

Bob Carlile 1960 – '63 sent an email to wish Season's Greetings to all

Frank Coleborn 1960 – '63: "I received the latest edition of your newsletter. You certainly have a network of reporters on your staff, which makes it very informative and thoroughly enjoyable to read.

My brother, Peter, passed away on April 17, 2008 in Millmerran, so you probably were seeking information about him. *(Peter's widow passed on this sad news about two or three years ago and he received a special mention at our Mass in 2013 – Ed)*

It would be great to see some of guys you mention in each edition. I will surely be in touch with P.J.G. in the near future. We may bowl a few overs!!!!

Jack, hope that 2016 is a great year for you. – Frank"

Gary "Apex" Collis 1957 – '60. On hearing about, and seeing, the devastating fires south of Perth, I contacted Apex to see that he was OK. He kindly rang to tell me that my geography was way out, and his home town of Denmark in WA was a safe place to be. He sends his regards to all his old mates.

John Gagen 1953 – '56 (Mid December '15): Got your letter re the Annual Mass and I certainly shall be there, and I would also like to attend the lunch at Doomben.

Tim Gaffney (53-58) died in Sydney on Sunday after a long period of poor health. His funeral notice will be in the Courier Mail later this week, but most likely will be held on Monday 14 Dec at St Ita's, Dutton Park.

After the sad loss of my wife, my life is now back to normal, and I am enjoying travel, theatre and the like. Also enjoying a stint as State Laird of the Queensland Malt Whisky Society which involves a bit of travelling to sip whiskies with the members at the Society's branches - well someone has to do it!

I went back to Toowoomba for a few days in November - now, there's a town going places!. With huge amounts of inner city improvements, a fantastic new airport, and better (and getting better) access. Some parts haven't changed - your end of Bridge Street has seen a lot of renovations, but still easily recognisable. Regards - John "

Pat Hayden 1959 – '62: Thanks for the newsletter and always a bit sad at seeing the passing of other students.

At a \$1 per stamp, agree that non email users should read the smoke signals.

I am still working in my pharmacy at Zillmere so my time is not entirely my own.

Best Wishes for 2016 – Pat"

Dennis Manteit 1957 – '59: "I just arrived back in Australia and saw that Peter Yeates had passed away. We were really good mates at school. I rang his wife Margaret yesterday and had a long talk with her. She said he spoke of our mateship a lot, and I was very sad to hear of his long time of illness.

I was back at Downlands at the end of last year and inducted into the hall of fame++. The old school brought back a lot of memories (Some good and some not so good when Fr Tyson Doneley used to hit me with a cricket bat). A lot of ladies attended which was nice to see as in our time all we had was the old matron who gave us castor oil no matter what was wrong with us.

I live in Hervey Bay and get some news from Tony Goodwin, as we all live scattered across QLD it is hard to be together at different times. At this time of life it is nice to still be able to catch up on old memories and remember those who aren't still around.

I still attend the Australian Kangaroos reunion every year in Sydney at Grand Final time as it is the only time you can still say hello to the mates you played with here and overseas.

I would like to keep in touch as the years go by and enjoy life while still able, and would appreciate any correspondence related to our times. Regards, Dennis."

Great to hear from you Dennis you're now "in the loop".

See below under "Other Downlands News" to see what Dennis is talking about.

Pat Moore 1950 – '55 (Mid-December '15): "John, Just finished, your new epistle. (whrit, no doubt wif a fum-nail dipped in tar). So sad, to lose Ben Kennedy. I used to read about him occasionally in the Country Life, when we were struggling to get ahead on our first little farm. He was a very successful meat works owner.

Actually, I used to be a little guilty of one of the least likeable sins --envy.

If we don't see you before . Have a happy Christmas. Love Marcella Pat. P S . We will of course see you at Clayfield in Jan . Love the Doomben idea

Don O'Donoghue 1951 – '53:

"Dear Ladies and Classmates of the Class of '54.

During the week I received an invitation from Jack Duggan – attached – to attend the 21st annual Mass for deceased past students of Downlands. I have never attended as the dates always clash with our booking of a couple of units at Perigian where we take our grandkids for a week before they return to school. I know the Littletons go, and JC attended this year, and the function comes highly recommended.

We are indebted to Mary June and John Littleton for sending Denise Kennedy a lovely flower arrangement of Australian native blooms and a suitable card from the Class of '54. Thanks Mary June and John.

Do not forget our proposed men only lunch at Tattersall's Club at 12 .30 pm on Tuesday the 2nd of February 2016 .I will contact you closer to the event for an RSVP and numbers.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Best wishes - Don O'Donoghue."

Thanks for the plug about the Mass Don, John & Maryjune Littleton and JC Ryan were great reps for your class group - Ed

Des Reppel 1954 – '57: "Compliments of the Season to you and Deb. Many thanks for your efforts on behalf of Downlands Past Students. I look forward to every issue. Hope you can relax over the Christmas period. Sincerely Des Reppel"

Trevor "Tanglefoot" Stewart 1953 –'57: Kindly rang prior to Christmas. He told me he had received a recent visit from **Des Dowling '53 – '57** who came to see him from a very parched part of the State, outside Hughenden (?) Des continues to work hard under trying conditions. Trevor also sees a fair bit of his old mate **Col Warnick '54 – '57**. I think they tell each

other how good they were on the Main Oval! Trevor told me a funny story against himself about falling out of his wheelchair at a junior cricket game recently where he got over-excited about how well one of his grandsons was playing. We had a good giggle about it.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

I've dropped the Quiz's in here so you can check the answers on the last page.

For the Lexicographers

1. Who or what is a snollygoster?
2. What is a spurtle & what is it used for?
3. What is a snood? Who or what would wear one?
4. What fictional character would be described as abdominous?
5. If something is thixotropic, what would it be like?
6. If you were described as pixilated, what would they be saying about you?
7. If you're futzing, what would you be doing?
8. Who or what is apugple?
9. If you had lost your aglet, what would you have lost?
10. Who or what is a somepelabocisyoutimteethesingout?

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Mens' Fashion!: Aren't you glad we're not having to make a statement to our peers through fashion these days? Tight pants and very, very tight jackets!

I remember, and occasionally call on, some of the jewels from the mouth of Fr Jock McCowage at Sunday morning 'etiquette' classes. I distinctly remember him saying "Never wear brown shoes with a blue (Navy blue?) suit.

Have a look at the photos of some of the celebrities in the magazines these days – obviously Jock's message didn't get through to them ! [Somebody told me once that it IS OK to wear brown with blue, as long as you know it's wrong !! – He was an Irishman!!]

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The Australia Day Honours List last week included: **Robert McDonald (1960 – '64) OAM** for service to Local Government, and the beef cattle industry.

He joins his elder brother Don, AM, OBE & Centenary Medal winner whose AM citation in 2006 indicated that

he too was recognised for service to the community in regional areas of Queensland, particularly Cloncurry, through agricultural, transport infrastructure, political, community health and volunteer organisations: **AND** his sister-in-law, Don's wife, Christine OAM, whose honour was bestowed in 2012 for service to the community of Cloncurry and to the arts.

Obviously the McDonald's are **VERY** involved in their community, and, deservedly, are well recognised for their contributions to their district.

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Mass for Deceased Past Students:

Thank Heavens that Sunday 17th January, 2016 passed into the annals of time without a major hiccup.

In a brightly refurbished chapel at St Rita's in Clayfield, 108 people arrived to remember Past Students of the College whose deaths we became aware of since we last gathered in January, 2015.

Father Jim Littleton MSC, from the Class of '45, under whose patronage the Mass is celebrated, and who with a small group of his classmates started this annual tradition some 20-odd years ago, was again the principal celebrant. He was joined by Frs Denis Uhr MSC, and Joe McGeehan on the altar. Fr Jim spoke about the old priests at Downlands and the benefits we all obtained through our MSC education.

Other men, and wives, from the Class of '45 in attendance were **Graham Joyner, Martin McGrane and Leo Moloney.**

Peter Joseph deserves a special 'award' for his attendance. He came up from the Gold Coast, with his leg in a brace, to join his classmates Mick Maguire, Bill Martin, and Don McDonald. 'Drac' sang so lustily he was noticed by the choir-mistress: he will be co-opted into the choir next year – unless his voice breaks in the meantime!!

I'm delighted to say that 13 men from our years made up the largest representation from any group. I offer my sincere thanks to each one of them, and their wives, who continue to offer their support to this day. It's not always easy to commit to the day with it being so close to Christmas / New Year every January. So I repeat my gratitude.

Without attendance from groups like this it would be easy for the Mass day to fold. I'm grateful too to fellows from other year-groups who are building their numbers. I'm committed to the blokes who started this tradition, the Class of '45, to keep the Mass going for as long as I'm able.

I've attached to this edition, a copy of the names of the people for whom we offered special prayers, along with a list of the people who attended the Mass and lunch. Lou Young observed..."*My only regret is that a lot of Downlanders and their wives don't know how good this day is*"

I have received many emails and phone calls over the past couple of weeks acknowledging the day as being a success once again. The new venue proved to be a hit with our patrons too. I hope more of you might join us in future years.

Here is a sample of Bernie Casey's work: (Bernie's wife Marie was his assistant for our group photo)



L – R: Bernie Casey, Tom Flynn, Hugo Fitz Herbert, Peter Edlich, Brian Herzig, Ken Stegeman, Terry Wells, Rod Cochrane, Mick Doherty and Lou Young.
Front: Jack D and David Brown
Absent: David Bowden

The next three photos show the men from the Class of '45



Fr Jim Littleton MSC, Graham & Pat Joyner



Martin & Marie McGrane and Fay O'Toole



Leo & Margaret Moloney and Fr Jim

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From the Infirmary



Peter Joseph has been in the wars lately after missing a step or two coming down the stairs of his home on New Year's morning. The fall resulted in him tearing the tendon away from the bone in one leg. Thanks to the skill and dedication - on New Year's Day mind you - of a young former army surgeon who was on call, the problem was addressed immediately. Peter is now well on the way to recovery, and is probably back at his in Sydney as I type. He's another man who, like a few of us, has endured pain worse than that experienced by Mothers during child-birth !! (hahaha)

Brian Poole, a regular stalwart, has not been well for some weeks. I spoke to him briefly today (30/1/16) to learn that, thankfully, his condition is not heart related. He is however continuing to have tests to find just what his problem is. We wish you well Brian.

OTHER DOWNLANDS NEWS

Anna Bartlett, has advised that she has resigned from her position as Marketing and Development Manager at Downlands. Anna will concentrate on her art business, with a dash of marketing consultancy thrown in.

Since taking up her position at Downlands, Anna has always been most helpful whenever I have sought her assistance or guidance on matters that have been of interest to me (us). She was ideally suited to her job in no small measure due to the fact that she is a past student of the College herself. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Anna every success in the future. She has told me she'd like to remain on the mailing list for future editions of *The Old Bush Telegraph* – DONE ANNA!

Melanie Cavanough, also a past student, has returned from maternity leave and will fill the role vacated by Anna.

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FORTES –SUMMER 2015 EDITION

Is now available online.

I've stolen a couple of items which may be of interest to you – see below

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New Honour Boards Unveiled

The current Downlands Sports Supporters recently voted to create two new honour boards - one to list our International Sporting Representatives and the other to list College Sports Captains. Both boards were unveiled at "Derby Day at Downlands" on 31 October, 2015, with (pictured below) **Bob Potter**, **Dennis Manteit**, **Wade Bootes**, **Brett Johnstone**, **Mark Murray** and **Garrick Morgan** present. Mark Murray did the unveiling honours. More names have been added since that day, and if you know of any other Downlanders who should be included on the International Sporting Representatives board, please let us know and we'll pass their details onto the Sports Supporters Club



Incidentally, former past student and Wallaby, Garrick Morgan has joined the staff at Downlands, commencing January, as Director of Rugby – look out TGS later in the year!!

INTERNATIONAL SPORTING REPRESENTATIVES		
KEVIN BOURKE	1938	Rugby Union
THOMAS VEIVERS	1955	Cricket
ROBERT POTTER	1958	Rugby Union
GREGORY VEIVERS	1965	Rugby League
CHRISTOPHER ROCHE	1975	Rugby Union
BRETT ROBINSON	1966	Rugby Union
TIMOTHY HORAN	1987	Rugby Union
BRETT JOHNSTONE	1987	Rugby Union
WADE BOOTES	1987	BMX & MTB
GARRICK MORGAN	1988	Rugby Union
JOHN BOWLING	1989	Polocrosse
MARK MURRAY	1989	Rugby Union 7s
SELENA WORSLEY	1992	Rugby Union
WILLIAM POWER	1994	Motorsport
MICHAEL KATSIDIS	1998	Boxing
HOPE BROWN	1998	Hockey
CHRISTOPHER BURTON	1999	Equestrian
GENE FAIRBANKS	1999	Rugby Union
GREGORY HOLMES	2000	Rugby Union
KATIE KELLY	1992	Paratriathlon
ANGELO CREMA	1959	Rugby League
DENNIS MANTEIT	1960	Rugby League
CATHY GREEN	1989	Equestrian
JOSH EAGLE	1990	Tennis
BRAYDON SMITH	2005	Boxing
CATH WEIRLAND	1985	Athletics

I can't read all the names on the board, but here are some you may recognise:

Rugby Union: Kevin Bourke ('38); Bob Potter ('58); Chris Roche ('75); Brett Robinson ('66); Tim Horan ('87); Brett Johnstone ('87); Garrick Morgan ('88); Gene Fairbanks ('99); Greg Holmes ('00) – Mark Murray RU/7's ('89)

Rugby League: Angelo Crema ('59); Dennis Manteit ('60); Greg Veivers ('65)

Cricket: Tom Veivers ('55)

BMX: Wade Bootes ('87?)

Motorsport: Will Power ('94), and

Boxing: Michael Katsidis

The name Katie Kelly appears on the list as being involved in Paratriathlon. Katie is on the cover of the current edition of **FORTES**, and commands the lead article in it, so she must be a special athlete

REQUISCANT IN PACE

Eric Brookbank (1940 – '43) Samari, passed away on the 11/12/15

Bob Comerford (1941- '47) Dalby, passed away in Brisbane on 23/1/16. Bob was a well known grazier having worked properties in Murrurundi, Goondiwindi and Dalby. Peter Dodson attended the funeral of the father of eight and said it was a wonderful farewell to his former classmate.

Bob Kennedy (1941 – '44) "Kelso" Dirranbandi passed away on the 31/12/15, aged 88. Bob, described as a 'true gentleman' had a private funeral in Warwick.

Brian McCafferty (1942 – '46) Brisbane, passed away on the 19/12/15, aged 83. Brian rang me a week before his death to apologise for not being able to attend this year's Mass for Deceased Past Students. He was a regular until his health deteriorated in recent years. He was a solicitor with the prominent Brisbane law firm of Morris, Fletcher and Cross and graduated in 1957 with John Ward's former partner, Leo Luton (RIP). Leo was a member of the White clan.

Keith McLean (1940 – '42) Beaudesert passed away on the 28/12/15. He was a long-term president of the Gold Coast Turf Club. Keith was initially a dairy farmer, then became involved in the catering and hotel businesses. For many years he and his family ran the liquor outlets at the Ekka. He was also a member of the McLean rugby clan.

Peter Yeates (1957 – '59) RIP in Brisbane on 4/1/16, originally from Nanango.

Peter's wife, Margaret, sent the following email to friends, and some of Peter's old classmates following his death:

"My darling Peter – Peter died on January 4 so peacefully in my arms at home.

He kept smiling and saying "I love you".

He fought a long and courageous battle for over 30 years with great dignity and bravery to the very end whilst always taking a great deal of interest in the world around him and exuding care and concern for all who crossed his path in the most gentlemanly of ways.

His ever present smile graciously welcomed everyone to our home and sustained and uplifted me through all the years of caring for him.

It is our decision to have a completely private farewell.

We thank all those who supported us in so many ways.

I appreciate your concern but if you wish to contact me please do so by email. I am emotionally, physically and mentally exhausted as well as utterly bereft. Peter was my whole life.

FROM DOWNLANDS YEARBOOK 1960

"In everything that's going including mischief

Peter perfectly illustrates the delight in mere living."

What a joy it was to be the lifelong companion of a man who lived his whole life in that manner.

Margaret"

A month or so earlier I received this email from **John Lyons:**

"Thanks for all your work on our behalves during the year Jack.

It is interesting just how much the Downlands culture permeated our bones.

As many would know Peter Yeates has suffered courageously for many years, and for most of the past decade has been immobile and unable to speak, except through his iPad voice machine.

Talk about an inspiration! Peter and his wonderful wife Margaret have soldiered on through all of this. Peter is a serious internet researcher and publisher, still grins and carries on with great humour as he did at school.

For the past few years several of us including Tony McCafferty, Leo White and Bill Weeks have been getting together with Peter and Margaret, spending the afternoon recounting memories and solving the issues of the world.

A couple of months ago we hired a van, which you can imagine was driven with precision by Tony, and took Peter on a trip around some parts of Brisbane and the Coast that he hadn't seen for some years.

Strikes me that none of us have changed much over the years. We might look a bit the worse for wear, but what hasn't changed or been forgotten is who we are and the enduring friendships from those years together at School.

With every good wish for the Festive Season- John"

Both fitting tributes to Peter – we prayed for him on 17/1/16 – Ed.

Our sincere condolences to anyone who may have lost a loved one in recent times

St Ursula's News



This is a little out of left field but may be of interest to some.

The name Professor Tess Crammond AO, OBE may not be familiar to most.

Tess was the wife of the late Dr Humphrey Crammond who practiced medicine, initially in Dalby, then in Brisbane for many years. There's a long story, not for here, about Tess and her work, particularly, as an anaesthetist in developing resuscitation techniques which are now standard throughout the world.

Every backyard pool in Queensland bears her legacy. That legacy is a sign, 300mm x 300mm with simple instructions for performing pulmonary resuscitation. Her Obituary, printed in the Courier Mail on 23/1/16, is an interesting read.

Anyway, as Teresa Brophy, she attended St Ursula's during the '40's.

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As always, it was a great pleasure to welcome some St Ursula's Past students at Mass in January. Margaret Emerson (nee Bligh) spoke about her late brother Ray, who we remembered in our prayers.

As well as Margaret, Glenda O'Brien (nee White) and Leigh Herzig (nee Filshie) once again joined their husbands at our Mass.

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Nothing really 'grabbed me' this month, but I was surprised last week to see 'hot-cross buns' on the shelves at Coles and Woolies!!



When a father gives to his son; both laugh

When a son gives to his father, both cry.

FUN & GAMES

A bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman- "Which book has helped you most in life?"

'My husband's cheque book' she replied !

A prospective husband in a bookstore enquired "Do you have a book titled 'Husband – The Master of the House'?"

The sales-girl promptly replied, "Certainly sir, 'Fiction' and 'Humour' are located on the 2nd floor!"

Someone asked an old man, "Even after 60 years, you still call your wife 'Darling'; 'Honey' and 'Love'. What's the secret?"

The old man replied, "I've forgotten her bloody name and I'm too scared to ask her what it is!"

(Thanks for these Don!)

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I was flicking through an old book I have about the coaching secrets of the late, legendary Rugby League coach, Jack Gibson.

Here are some of the 'priceless' sayings attributed to him, and some he pinched from other people:

- Carry a clipboard, it always gets you in the gate
- He's been promoted to the sit down team
- For the money he's being paid, he should be playing in two positions
- NSW were in the game until the end of the National Anthem
- The coach needs a good doctor to find out if his players have the heart and stomach for the game
- His knee and ankle are so bad he can't even limp
- A good coach needs a good dog, a good wife and a good captain – not necessarily in that order
- I was once told 'never invest in anything that eats'
- Courage is the magnet that draws success

Last month's quiz

1. Johnny's mother had three children. The first child was named April. The second child was named May. What was the third child's name?
2. A clerk at a butcher shop stands five feet ten inches tall and wears size 13 sneakers. What does he weigh?
3. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
4. How much dirt is there in a hole that measures two feet by three feet by four feet?
5. What word in the English language is always spelled incorrectly?

6. Billie was born on December 28th, yet her birthday always falls in the summer. How is this possible?
7. In British Columbia you cannot take a picture of a man with a wooden leg. Why not?
8. If you were running a race and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?
9. Which is correct to say, "The yolk of the egg is white" or "The yolk of the egg are white?"
10. A farmer has five haystacks in one field and four haystacks in another. How many haystacks would he have if he combined them all in one field?

ANSWERS:

1. Johnny.
2. Meat.
3. Mt. Everest. It just wasn't discovered yet.
4. There is no dirt in a hole.
5. Incorrectly (except when it is spelled incorrectly).
6. Billie lives in the southern hemisphere.
7. You can't take a picture with a wooden leg. You need a camera (or iPad or cell phone) to take a picture.
8. You would be in 2nd place. You passed the person in second place, not first.
9. Neither. Egg yolks are yellow.
10. One. If he combines all his haystacks, they all become one big stack.

Okay, some of these are a bit corny. But they all illustrate several brain idiosyncrasies that affect how we make decisions in the world.

For the Lexographers – The Answers

- 1/ A *snollygoster* is a *shrewd, unprincipled person*
- 2/ A *spurtle* is a *Scottish stick for stirring porridge*
- 3/ A *snood* is a *loose nt for a woman's hair*
- 4/ *Santa Claus* is *definitely abdominus – corpulent, having a large stomach*
- 5/ *Thixotropic substances* *ae ones that can be solid but if shaken will turn into a gel or solution – quicksand*
- 6/ *Pixilated* means *bewildered, crazy, drunk. So next time, you're not tipsy, you're....!*
- 7/ *Futzing* means *unproductive time spent on a computer while at work. Solitaire anyone?*
- 8/ A *puggle* is a *baby echidna*
- 9/ *You would have lost the metal or plastic tag at the end of your shoelace.*
- 10/ *Somepelabocisyoutiminteethesingout* is '*a piano*' in *PNG pidgin*