



## "The Old Bush Telegraph"

**DOWNLANDS 1956 – 61**

**April - May 2016**

**Issue #55**

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### NEWS FROM CLASSMATES



**Mike Borger:** "Thanks for the Easter epistle according to St. (–). Name left blank to safeguard the humility of a certain scribe."

The combination of 'Snooker' and the Religious prize was an interesting event. Not sure of the depth of Snooker's theology but my theory was that Snooker's copper plate handwriting so impressed the judges that it was a gift from God that they had no other option other than to follow suite and confer on him the Religious gong.

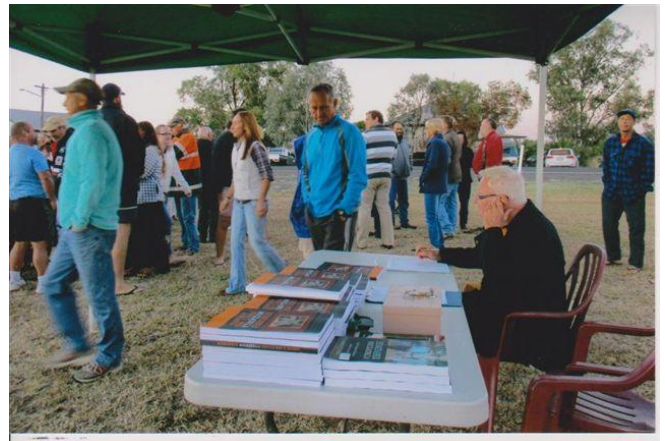
A couple of other beautiful hand writers spring to mind – Gabriel Gris and Lou Crema. They would have been favourites to win any 'Mastery of the Quill' awards.

Cheers. Mick "

My reply: "I agree with you about Luigi's dexterity with a fountain pen Mike, and I'll take your word about the late Gabriel's handwriting. I don't recall him ever sending me a Christmas card ! – JD"

**David Bowden:** David once again threw his hat into the ring for a councillor's position on the Maranoa Regional Council. No doubt he'll try again next time. The Mayor, Robert Loughnan is a former TGS boy so that wouldn't have helped David's cause!.

Those of you who have followed David's regular contributions to this publication will know how much his heart is in his home district, particularly Muckadilla.



Here he is flogging his book "Remember Muckadilla Service Men and Women" at the Muckadilla Dawn Service on Anzac Day.

He went to Muckadilla to set up for the May Day Shoot last week-end. People "shoot" on an eighty acre property that David and his brother Lloyd owned for many years.

He says "We are a bit busy...maybe just as well I did not get elected to Council!"

### **Blue Bredhauer:**

"Hello Jack, still enjoy your old boys news, so in case you think I'm dead, I had better give you the 'goss' from drought stricken west Queensland.

We are now into the beginning of our fifth year of drought although we have had small periods of relief rain so I suppose we are lucky in some respects. We have managed to keep our cattle numbers intact, and it's fortunate I still had a couple of big bulldozers sitting around. Cattle prices have been good lately so all the work has been worthwhile, A bit less government interference would make our job easier.

I'd like to comment on Fr.Doneley RIP. He was a wonderful priest and person who ,looked after us bush kids. Anyway I will relate this tale about one of our encounters: I had a vision to see how big an explosion I could create, so I got a heap of bungers, wrapped them tightly in notepaper and durex tape, I think Derriman was the fuse maker - he used to make them out of blotting paper and some other stuff, (those talents would be sought after today).

Anyhow, I stuck the bomb in a large biscuit tin, then put it in the bookcase in the corner after lighting it up, then started my escape!

Just as I ran out the door I run straight into Fr.Doneley as my bomb went off. BAM!!

As far as bombs go I thought it was a success because it blew up the biscuit tin, took one door off the bookcase and filled the room with lots of smoke.

Fr Doneley said I had to see him that night. Well I was sh\*\*\*\*\*g myself. I thought at the very least 6 up and 6 down would be my fate. So in I go to Doneley's room; he's sitting at his desk, looks up at me, I could see he's having trouble not to laugh, and he says, "You can stay grounded for the free weekend." He would have known I didn't go anywhere on free weekends, so my punishment was zero! It's a good thing Fr Tyler didn't catch me!!

Here's the family news: All, except Renton, who is still at "Claverton", battling drought like most people out west, went to Downlands.

Grant is at 'Packsaddle', Broken Hill growing fat lambs. He's doing really with organic lamb. The lambs are slaughtered in June on Thursday, and they are sitting on the shelves in Los Angeles on Monday morning! The world is certainly getting smaller.

Jacqueline, who was with Premier Oil in Saigon, is moving to Austria when they finish in Shanghai. Her husband designs cars for the big German car makers, so we might see if he can design a B.M.W. Bull catcher !! :0)

Jack is manager at 'Mayfield', at Oberon. They have magnificent gardens there which are run separately. He and wife Tammy have a son. Wyatt goes back to bronc riding in Canada and is expecting a girl soon.

Chelsea is married to a rapper in L.A. She writes music, and works for Lamborghini in Beverley Hills on Charleville Boulevard, so she won't feel far from home.

I'm having trouble believing 'Snooker' Sheppard won the religion prize ( !?), 'Butch' Crowley I could believe, but 'Snooker'??.

Anyway Jack, all the best. 'Blue' aka (The Tambo Termite)"

**David Brown;** Sent the following photo and asked the question "Is Bill telling the good folk of Northgate how old he is now?"

Good one DBB!



**Ralph Burge:** Ralph has been 'fired up' about the education funding debate. He wrote a 'Letter to the Editor' with his views which appeared in the Courier Mail on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Since then he's been in the Editor's ear on three more occasions, on different topics each time.

See below (Ian Fairweather RIP). Ian was a regular letter writer to the paper. It seems the baton has been passed on to Ralph. Go get 'em tiger!!

**noel clanchy.** hi jack. nothing ever happens here. I could use capitals but I save time this way. here is one for you : "**dammit im mad**" spelt backwards is still "**dammit im mad**". u like? cheers - noel

*ha ha ha – I like, a goodie mungalalla - jd*

**Rod Cochrane:** " Thank you for the Autumn edition of the *Old Bush Telegraph* and the news of our class mates and others who also went to Downlands.

Wishing Deb yourself and family a safe and happy Easter - Margaret & Rod"

**Frank Crawford** "Thanks Jack, once again, but why are the new subscribers "odd" ? ;0) Cheers and Happy Easter, Ladder"

I saw Ladder on Friday 15th April. He tells me he and Marnie are heading off in a month or two to visit son Peter in Singapore. Peter's wife is due to have a baby in a couple of weeks time.

*I feel for grand-parents whose grand-children live long distances away, more so for those who live in a different country. Those of us whose little ones are so accessible, are very fortunate aren't we?*

**Peter Edlich:** "DPSA" Committee member 2016? Maybe?

**Joe Ensing:** I hope I have recorded this correctly!

Meetings have been occurring around the MSC Province in preparation for the MSC Provincial Chapter. In February one such meeting was held at St Joseph's International School, Port Moresby, and was attended by Australian MSC's working in PNG. Representatives from Port Moresby, Eastern Papua, Papua, Tapini and Bereina diocese appear in the photo below with *Joe Ensing, Regional Community Leader, fourth from the left, looking as though he's in charge of the refectory!!*



**Peter Guilfoyle:** "Jack, Before even savouring your awaited Telegraph, just great to hear from you. Thanks Old Son for your continued efforts, hopefully in good health.

"Thanks to you Old Son!!" Who used to refer to all and sundry as "Old Son"? I can't remember the originator - we'll have to float it next month! (Any ideas? -Ed)

First some corn flakes then the pleasure of a wonderful read. Warmest Regards, Peter .

PS..We're settling in to a routine at Buderim Gardens!

**Johnno :** "Hi Jack

Re October , the National Day of China is 1st October and as I missed the last reunion will definitely come if it is the 1<sup>st</sup> - Regards , Johnno"

**Terry McHugh and Black Jack O'Brien:** Both rang during the month and, as always, good to hear from them.

**John Ward:** What a lovely way to spend a Thursday morning having a cuppa with JDW. We covered many topics over an hour or two, but a couple of things stood out!

Flasque flew to Mackay to help celebrate his eldest sister Mary's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in mid-April, and by the sound of things it was a spectacular celebration.

Immediately after graduating as a teacher, Mary, his sister, returned 'home' to Millmerran. Among her first pupils was young brother John – he was miffed because he had to refer to his teacher as 'Miss Ward' rather than Mary!

We were talking about wedding anniversaries – a very happy topic. Flab and Di celebrate their 47<sup>th</sup> on the eve of Anzac Day – congratulations to you both. They hope to find a nice restaurant which features their son Tim's "I'll fly away" wines on the wine list. We reckon, like the Bowdens, there must be a few 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries coming up.

Flab also saw Scats while shopping at The Gap during the month. Bill was in good form according to JDW

## PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Two items this month!

1 / I received a gift of a pair of Pyrex double wall glass mugs (250 ml) at the end of March. They are "Freezer safe", "Dishwasher safe" and "Oven & Microwave safe". They really do seem to keep the tea/coffee hotter for longer at morning tea time,

2 / We did take the grand children to see "Zootopia" during the school holidays.

The animation was spectacular, the storyline, with a series of 'messages', went over the heads of the six year olds I think, but they had lots and lots of laughs.

Flash, the sloth, did steal the show from my point of view'





### SPECIAL NOTICE - REUNION

The reunion committee had another phone meeting on 5/5/16. As there has been a very limited response to having a 'reunion' later in the year, we have taken a management decision as follows:

With the first weekend in October being a long weekend (Queen's Birthday) we will arrange to have a lunch – *venue, in Brisbane with plenty of easy parking, to be advised -, on*

**SATURDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2016.**

This suggests it will likely be a 'club' or 'pub'. I'll give more details well in advance

We have also proposed to have further lunches, 18 months – 2 years apart, rotating between (say) Toowoomba, Gold / Sunshine Coast (?), Clifton (?), etc., until no one turns up!!

We may do something 'special' in 2021 to celebrate 60 years away from school.

In the overall scheme of things we did check availability, prices etc., from a number of venues for weekend packages and so on for early October, but we thought them to be out of our range (\$300 rooms/Dinner from \$70 plus drinks/ Breakfast from \$30, plus, plus, plus) Then, considering travelling expenses for some, we thought the idea of a weekend event to be a bit over the top.

We trust the majority is in agreement

**Brian Herzig & Jack Duggan (Organising Committee)**



### News from other years



**Barry Collis (1949 – '55):** Barry too has been putting pen to paper to the Editor of the Courier Mail. He wrote a very good letter about the importance of wearing a helmet while riding a bike in the past couple of days. There has been a suggestion the Brisbane City Council is considering relaxing the rule for bike-riders in the CBD.

**Vince Lester (1955 – '56)** sent a note, hoping we all enjoyed a Happy Easter

**Pat Hayden (1959 – '62)** also sent a note through to say 'g'day'

**Gerry McCormack (1955 – '58) :** " On Saturday, 23 April, Fr Denis Uhr msc presented two talks in Darwin. The first was on the subject of Mercy; the second was on Our Lady of the Sacred Heart. The group represented those belonging to either the OLSH Associates or the MSC Associates.

Fr Dennis was in the 1957 Year 12 group; I was in the following year, along with Kerry Prior, Mick Newman, Jim Scattini etc. Regards - Gerry "



**Gerry & Fr Denis**

### Des Reppel (1954 – '57):

"I attended Downlands between 1954 and 1957. So you have to remember that some of these things happened over 60 years ago so please allow for some slip ups. We travelled by train to get to the boarding schools in the south. Plane travel was very expensive in those days and I only managed to fly home once and that was for a special reason that I will mention later. The 'Sunlander' had just started in 1954 but, especially in the first two years we were on the old steam trains with coal dust coming in the windows, definitely no air conditioning only a barely moving fan, three bunks to a cabin, no sheets or pillows. There was no dining car then but most stations had refreshment rooms so we had to buy food there. It took almost two days to get to Brisbane and then we had to wait and catch the "co-ordinated train/bus" to Toowoomba. We hopped off the train at Helidon (I think??) and McCafferty's buses took us to their depot in Toowoomba. There were only three terms in the year and to the best of my knowledge the term fees for 1954 were around \$100 for boarding and tuition!!! But then we had at least 18 MSC priests and 20 MSC lay brothers.

On this Northern Mail train as it was called were students going to schools in Rockhampton (St Brendans) and the Brisbane schools like Nudgee, Churchie, Brisbane Grammar, Brisbane Boys College, All Hallows, Lourdes Hill, St Ritas etc. Downlands had students travelling in my days from Innisfail, Tully, Townsville and Mackay. There were no such things as mobile phones, texting or Facebook then so to interact with boys and/or girls you had to walk the train. Sometimes the conductors locked either end of the carriages the girls were in.

A dining car was added to the 'Sunlander' eventually and it was shunted into the middle of the train in Rockhampton and taken off in Mackay (?). One amusing incident happened in Rockhampton. The usual announcement was made re the front three carriages were to be locked while the engine took them off to collect the dining car and then it would return. Unfortunately there a lot of new immigrants on the train going north to cut cane. They couldn't speak a word of English and they panicked when they saw the train supposedly leaving without them.

The only time I flew home to Innisfail was a sad occasion. I think it was in 1954 or 1955 that some of our students contracted polio. As it is very contagious we were all sent home. I can't remember exactly I think the school was closed for about two weeks. Maybe someone could comment better than I on what happened. As far as the plane trip was concerned it was no Brisbane/ Cairns like it is now. The plane

landed at five or six towns on the way to Cairns. – regards - Des"

### Kerry White (1959 – '62)

In the last edition I made mention that Kerry had interviewed Kevin Carmody, and that he (Kevin) didn't seem to want to remember his Downlands days during the interview.

Kerry points out "Just to clarify, I have never interviewed Kev Carmody. The comment about him not recognising Downlands in his life came from some media coverage about him"

Just in case this causes any problems, I subsequently contacted Kerry, and in case it causes any problems down the track, *I apologise to Kerry and retract the comment I attributed to him in the last edition – JD*"

### 1959 BOYS 'OCCASIONAL LUNCH' – 6/5/16

Thanks to Peter Quinn's superior organising skills and the equally dexterous skills of Peter Joseph to send the 'invite' to everyone, the "Occasional Lunch" for the 1959 'boys' was held in Brisbane on the 6<sup>th</sup> May.

In alphabetical order: **Mike Ahern, Ian Brady, Tyson Doneley, Noel Hood, Damien Jones, Peter Joseph, Bill Martin, Don McDonald, Peter McKenzie, Peter Quinn, Earl Taylor and Ken White**, joined to break-bread together as they did in the refectory at Downlands in 1959.

Three other 'little kids' **Ben Crosby** (representing his popular, late dad, 'Bing'), **Bill Sexton and myself** were very happy to be included. We did our best to ensure that the old men, **1)** Didn't spill anything on the floor, **2)** Had somewhere handy to leave their walking sticks, and **3)** To translate any stories they couldn't pick up!



Apologies were received from **Ed Fitzgerald, Mick Maguire, Joe McCorley, Liam O'Moore, Phil Derriman & Brian Joseph**.

It was a fabulous couple of hours with lots of laughter and banter, particularly between the two Peters, each of whom claimed to be a 'winner' following their stand off after cadets one Friday in 1959 when CUO Joseph kept L/Cpl Quinn marching, with rifle, in the quadrangle, until close to dinner time!

Lots of "Memories" shared eg:

**Quinny's** first stint at serving Mass for the lightning fast Fr Tom Whitty, and his imaginary 'route march' from cadet camp at Harristown to "Glennie";

**Hoodie's** recollection of a late night pillow fight in the senior dorm, where, in the dark, he clobbered Fr Tyson with his best shot thinking he was lining 'Brow' Brady up for a whack around the chops.

**Macca**, (the hero of 1959's win against TGS with not 1 but 2 field goals when, unexpectedly every Downlands team won its match) was in great form particularly as he hadn't seen most of his fellow classmates for eons. He has 8 children, spent all his working life in Local Government, retiring as Town Clerk in Roma, and is now a hobby farmer in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. He told us that he spent many years as a rugby league player and coach out west, and is sure he is the only coach in Australia who would NOT pick Darren Lockyer in one of his teams (Reason: Darren was a 15 year old school boy; the team was a Roma "A" grade side in an important match, and consisted of men, mainly from the Roma meatworks!!)

Pretty well everyone shared a special memory from their time at school.

**Peter Joseph** made a special mention of the last time that he and his mates, together, saw 'Tiger' Kelly. They held a reunion in Brisbane, not long before Tiger's death, when he was very sick. Tim was advised by Doctors and family members not to travel from Melbourne to Brisbane for the gathering, but he did. It seems it was a moving experience for Tiger and his past students.

There were a couple of formal aspects to the lunch. Peter J passed on **Arg Whitton's** apology and suggested that Mike Ahern might like to organise a lunch in Sydney in the future so that Arg could attend.

**Noel Hood** proposed a Toast "To Downlands" (copy of his remarks are attached to this newsletter);

**Mike Ahern** proposed a Toast "To Absent Friends", & **Ben Crosby** a Toast "To Friendship"

All three were heartily endorsed.

I'm sure, following yet another successful day, it will be repeated next year – I hope so!

*As a follow up to this there was a news item on tonight's News (10/5/16) about a stabbing that took place in the very restaurant we were at in Toowong. Quinny reckons this was the floor show that turned up three days late !! :0)*

## EDITOR'S COLUMN

### Brain Teaser - No cheating now!

- 1) *Feed me and I live, yet give me a drink and I die  
Who am I?*
- 2) *What kind of room has no doors or windows?*
- 3) *What word describes a woman who does not have  
all her fingers on one hand?*
- 4) *What gets broken without being held?*
- 5) *What kind of tree can you carry in your hand?*
- 6) *A girl who was just learning to drive went down a  
one-way street in the wrong direction, but didn't  
break the law. How is that possible?*
- 7) *If you have me, you want to share me. If you share  
me, you haven't got me. What am I?*
- 8) *Take off my skin – I won't cry, but you will! What  
am I?*
- 9) *Imagine you are in a dark room. How do you get  
out?*
- 10) *What invention lets you look right through a wall?*
- 11) *What is at the end of a rainbow?*
- 12) *What is always coming but never arrives?*
- 13) *What occurs once in every minute, twice in every  
moment, yet never in a thousand years?*

*[Answers on the last page!]*

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There was a snippet that caught my eye in the Courier Mail on Easter Saturday headed 'International Easter Traditions'

'Poland – On Easter Monday, Poland participates in perhaps the most delightfully named Easter tradition, "Sigmus-Dyngus" , in which boys throw buckets of water over girls they like, and the girls get their revenge on Tuesday'

I can't imagine this practice ever having a positive effect on any lady I've ever tried to impress. It's been hard enough to do that with a Rocky-road Easter Egg !

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Something else I noticed: A person wrote in to the paper suggested nominating Brendan Farrell for 'Australian of the Year' in 2017. Who is Brendan Farrell? I must admit I didn't have a clue.

He's the bloke who has organised, for the ninth time, the hay-run to drought-stricken farmers in Queensland. He has organised this regular event with the help of hundreds of truckies, who have also given time and money. **What do you reckon – a worthy nominee?**



**'The Australian'** had a supplement on Toowoomba recently. As you'd expect, I take a fairly keen interest in what's happening in my old home town. What surprised me most was that the population has basically trebled since the late 60's. Figures say the region is home to 163,000 people! I enjoyed the company of <50K far more than I would 160K I think. Another little snippet was that 2016 will celebrate the 67<sup>th</sup> Carnival of Flowers!

I'm sure old band members will remember fondly how proudly the Downlands College Cadet Band represented itself at, at least, the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Carnival processions.

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In flicking through my Mother-in-Law's copy of the 'Catholic Leader', 17/4/16 edition, I noticed a headline **"Journey to becoming a permanent deacon – Married and Ordained"** This is news to me I thought.

The article was about three men and their wives. One of the photos in particular caught my eye! **Andrew O'Brien!** Andrew, a past student, is the son of the late Bill ('38 – '40) and Elaine, nephew of Tom [RIP] ('44 – '48) and Ted and Tony [RIP] ('47 – '50) cousin/relative to many more O'Briens over the years.



Andrew, a Chartered Accountant, pursued a career in local government culminating as CEO of Mount Isa City Council from 1998 – 2003. Subsequently he worked for the Queensland Government in the area of Aboriginal and Torres Islander Policy, followed by two years in the Department of Infrastructure and Planning

Between 2011 and 2014, Andrew worked for the Archdiocese of Brisbane in the role of Director of Centrecare Employment (Brisbane) and interim Director in Toowoomba

Andrew has a degree in Theology and is now working towards becoming a permanent deacon in the Brisbane Archdiocese. He has the support of his wife, Colleen, and three sons in this career path. We wish him well.



This is a photo, taken some years ago, of Andrew's late father Bill who passed away in August 2011

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Some of you may recall that I was very fortunate to have been chosen as a member of a pretty slick, at the time, Downlands swimming team in the late 50's early 60's. The team had such illustrious members as Peter Quinn, Peter and Brian Joseph, Bill and Denis Sexton, the Tiffin brothers, Snooker Sheppard etc., etc. You may also have seen a reference that I have returned to the water over the past year or two to 'connect' with my forebears, the disappearing DUGONGS.

Well, this month I've made little splashes towards joining the hallowed halls (that should be pools) of Masters' Swimming. I have been encouraged in this endeavour by (big) Drac Joseph.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> April I went to a carnival in my 'home' pool at the Albany Creek Leisure Center. What caught my attention most was seeing a former TGS swimmer at the carnival. – **Who** and **why** you ask?

Dr George Coronos, originally from Charleville, was a boarder at TGS in the mid – 1930s. He was a GP until his retirement, aged 80, in 1998.

**He celebrated his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday on the day of the carnival!!**

Diving from the blocks he swam the 25m freestyle in <37seconds (he holds the world record for his age group 95 – 99, set in 2013 as a 95 year old, for 50m free at 47.43). George, who is recovering from recent surgery, also swam in the 25m breast-stroke.

He hopes to be able to swim in at least one carnival in 2018 where he will have his sights set on world records in the 100 - 104 age group!!

There were a number of competitors, both men and women, in the 90 – 94 age group, more between 80 – 90, and more again as the age groups lessen.

Men, in particular, are pretty competitive up to age 70, then, thankfully, they seem to settle down a bit.

I'll keep you posted as to how I go, *if* I keep going. My 50 free time-trial was slower than Cam McEvoy's winning time for the 100 at the recent Olympic trials! Mind you I am pulling 90+kgs of old meat through the water! :0)

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I had a haircut at a new barber shop the other day. For years I've been frustrated with my hair getting a wave in it when it gets a bit long so, could the barber 'cut that bit much shorter please?' He said 'Mate, you know why that happens don't you?' 'Because I've got an odd shaped melon' was my response. 'No, it's because you part your hair on the wrong side!' 'What? My Mother put that part in my hair over 70 years ago, and no one has ever said!'

Now I know why for over 60 years, at least, people have had a laugh, at my expense, it's because I've been parting my hair 'on the girl's side' all those years!!

What with this, and the gap in my front teeth, I'm not expecting June Dally Watkins or any other modelling agency to be ringing for a photo shoot any time soon. So I think I'll stick with what I'm used to.

Since typing this, *what I'm sure you'll classify as very interesting*, I noticed at lunch on 6/5/16 three other men are 'girl's side parters', as is the Prime Minister!! So I'm in good company!

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'Catholic Leader' edition of 1/5/16 had a column giving brief stories about simple pastoral moments experienced by MSC Priests. I noticed the names of Joe Ensing, Roy O'Neil, Jim Littleton, Bernie McGrane, John Franzmann and Vince Carroll among the contributors – *Thanks to Rod Cochrane for sending the article – JD*

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## OTHER DOWNLANDS NEWS

From the Downlands Past Students' facebook page comes this !!:

"MONDAY MEMORY | 1956 saw some very special visitors around the College. One of the benefits of living at a rural College. Does anyone know this little ladies name?"



OK Daniel, Bunny and Luds – what was your little lady friend's name ?

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During April I sent out details about a reunion dinner which was to be held at O'Shea's Royal Hotel in Goondiwindi on the 16<sup>th</sup> April. The Dinner was part of celebrations, I understand, to celebrate 80 years of the DPSA (formerly DPSU). Information about the lunch was supplied by Garth Cocks, a member of the DPSA, committee.



Back: Cameron Donaldson (President DPSA) & Gath Cocks with David Lennon (front) at the lunch.





Garth also advised me about a lunch which was to be held (subsequently cancelled) in Brisbane on 5th May at Damian Griffith's "Le Bubbles", in the Valley.. This was to be the official launch of the Bursary Appeal in Brisbane. The Hon. Justice Martin Daubney '73 – '77 (above) was booked to be guest speaker, and the Principal Mr. McIlhatton was expected to be in attendance.

No doubt the Bursary Appeal will have a launch in Brisbane sometime. I'll keep you posted.

*In talking to Old Boys to whom I send this newsletter, the vast majority of whom who are aged between 70 – 80, there seems to be a common thread about fund raisers. Almost without exception, those thinking of making a donation to a school will be more inclined to want to support their grand-children's school with any fund raising activities than any other.*

*Don't let this influence you, just passing on what I've been told.*

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The Downlands First XV won the inaugural 'John Elders Country Cup' on the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

They beat Rockhampton Grammar 30 - 0

Look out TGS in 2016!!

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## WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT



*I was talking recently to a 'young' fellow who finished at school in 1966. I was trying to track his elder brother down for some reason. When I explained what I was doing he asked me "Are you the Welfare Officer for your lot?" Ha ha!! So I thought I'd use that moniker here for a while*

Flab has plantar fasciitis and was limping noticeably. His main concern, apart from pain, is that it's affecting his golf.

Bernie and Marie Casey have both had a bad dose of some bug that's doing the rounds. After a week or so both are now back to full duties.

Ladder still has 'issues' with his shoulder.

Brian Herzig has found a miracle cure for his problem shoulder. He's been pretty much pain free for months now.

## REQUISCANT IN PACE

**Dan BRADY:** 1953 – '54, from Pittsworth. Passed away on 14/2/16. [See Paul Stark's note in ~~ABC~~ 54]. I didn't realise at the time that Dan was an old 'Downlands' boy.

**Ian FAIRWEATHER:** 1941 – '44, from Nanango, passed away, aged 89 on 6/4/16. Ian and his wife had seven children. He spent his final years at 'Magdelene Court', Bardon. His funeral was conducted at St Finbarr's, Ashgrove on 12/4/16. Ian was a prolific writer of 'letters to the Editor', on a variety of topics, for many years.

**Gavin GLEESON:** 1955 – '59 from Stanthorpe. Details unknown but mentioned at lunch on 6/5/16

**Walter "Boy" SPEEDY:** 1944 – '46, from Thargomindah. Spent his last years on the Gold Coast, and ran "South Comongin", Quilpie for many years. Walter, father of 4, passed away peacefully, on 4th April, 2016. Walter had three brothers who went through Downlands "R.W", 1939 – '40; Kevin, 1951 – '57 and Jeff 1954 – '56.

**Kevin O'DONOGHUE:** 1955 – '58, from Goondiwindi. Passed away on 12/4/16.

"Dear Relatives and Friends.

My brother Kevin died on Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. He was 75. Kevin had not been well for some considerable time with multiple health problems including congestive heart failure, diabetes and emphysema. He had only 19% lung capacity and had been on full time oxygen for over a year. For the past 20 months he has lived in the high care unit at the Carinity Retirement Village at Brookfield. Gloria (his wife) had him at home for four days over Easter and he came out to dinner at our place with the grandchildren and family regularly on Thursday nights.

I visited him at dinner at Carinity on Monday night and he was Ok. He phoned his son Ryan at 10 pm that night. He woke on Tuesday morning and spoke to a nurse, but when a carer brought in his breakfast some ten minutes later he was unresponsive and had passed away peacefully from what was probably a heart attack.

Kevin is survived by his wife Gloria , nee Bastille – formerly of Boston, and his sons Ryan and Michael, and their families.

Kevin’s funeral will be held at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church on the corner of Moggill and Kenmore Roads Kenmore at 10.30 AM on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of April. Interment will be at the Brookfield Cemetery, followed by a Wake at our home at 57 Rafting Ground Road. Brookfield.

Yours sincerely - Don O’Donoghue.”

Following Don’s advice to Kevin’s classmates, here are some of the replies:

**Leona Collins (Widow of Brian):** “Thank you for including me in the email with the sad news of Kevin’s passing.

My Brian kept in touch with Kevin over the years. Kevin was supportive of Brian during his long illness. God Bless them both. Kind regards - Leona

**Redmond Byrne:** “Sad news. I knew he was quite ill and had been meaning for some time to make the trip to Brookfield to see him. I last saw Kevin at Otto Haag’s house just before Otto’s death. He was in poor shape himself but made the effort to go all the way to Samford to see Otto. I regret I didn’t make the effort to visit him. I know Kerry Prior has visited him at Carinity.

I have copied your email to Kerry, Barry White, Jim Gall and Paul Neville. I don’t have contact details for Jim Scattini, Bob Potter, Mick Newman or Vince Canti. The list of remaining classmates is noticeably shrinking!

I plan attending the funeral. Redmond”

**John Gagen:** “ In Tassie till Sunday week so sadly will miss Kev’s funeral. Please pass on my condolences to his family, John “

**Jim Gall:** “Kevin has been a close friend for a long, long time and I regret that I did not get to see him more of recent times. I spoke to Kevin and Gloria at Christmas time and had intended so often to go and see him. We get so busy these days and don’t seem to have time for the important things. It is like losing a brother. Kevin had such a big heart and knew everything about everyone in the NLP. I will be there on Monday. Jim”

**Gerry McCormack:** I’ve just been speaking to Jim Scattini (who does not have an email address but I try to keep him informed).Please pass on my sympathy to the family. Gerry

Connie Brady, Mother of Howard ‘53 – ‘56, Ian ‘54 – ‘59 and Greg ‘59 – ‘61, passed away recently just short of her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Mrs Brady spent the last years of her life in “Marycrest” at Kangaroo Point.

**Our sincere condolences to the relatives and friends of all those mentioned above and to anyone who may have lost a loved one in recent times**

### Classified Ads



Eddie McCormack’s wife Carol has a display of her art at The Gallery, 4 Russell Street, Toowoomba.

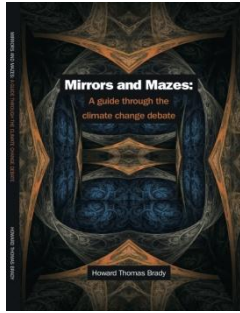
Gallery opening times M-F 9-5, Sat & Sun 11am – 3pm

Exhibition closes 15 May.

Carol’s website

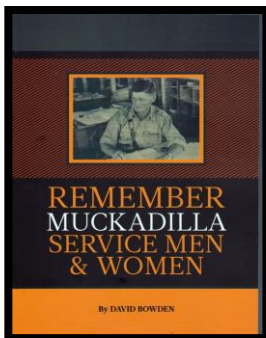
[www.carolmccormack.com.au/exhibitions.html](http://www.carolmccormack.com.au/exhibitions.html)

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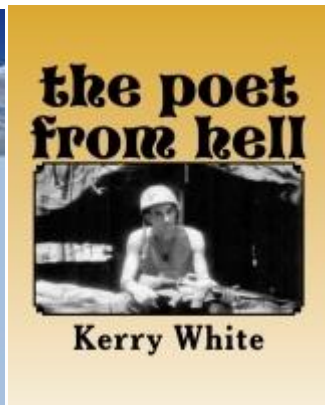
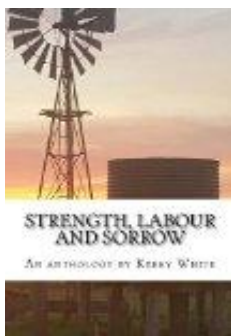
**“Mirror and Mazes” - A guide through the Climate Change Debate by Dr. Howard Brady ('53 – '56)**

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**David Bowden's Book**

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**Kerry White's Books**



Kerry's latest book 'Three of a Kind' is about three military pilots from different wars.

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The best speaker is the one who can turn an ear into an eye.

Good company makes the journey short

Never hurt anyone intentionally; you do it only too often unintentionally.

## FUN & GAMES





## St Ursula's News



Aaaaah memories! Some are aroused from the strangest places. In this case it's from the Funeral Notices in the Courier Mail!!

Like many of you I'm sure, I check daily to make sure my name is not listed.

In the second week of April the name "Patricia Ryan" was recorded. Oh No!, not that lovely girl from St Ursula's in the late 50's, early 60's, I thought. Thankfully 'no' it wasn't.

The poor deceased person was a Mrs Ryan, (nee?), aged 89.

I remember a dear friend and I spent a delightful Third Sunday afternoon in 1960, under a big tree near the main entrance of St Ursula's, off Taylor Street, posing, one as a cousin of Patricia's from Dalby, the other (me) as a close family friend of the Petersen family from Millmerran. We were passing through Toowoomba after a sporting event in the city and had promised our families that we, *grudgingly*, would call in to say 'hello' to Patricia and Rita to make sure they were both well and happy:0)

We were granted an audience with the girls but could feel the glares from Sister Mary Goodness Gracious who was walking along a path nearby pretending to be saying the rosary, but more likely it was other prayers for the long-term welfare of the young ladies under her care.

Remember that William??

I'm pretty sure Jake was a serial offender in this sort of thing too, but maybe that was at Fairholme or Glennie??

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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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Ph: 07 32636532

10/5/2016

Answers to the 'Brain Teaser' on Page 6, above:

1) Fire; 2) A mushroom; 3) Normally people have half their fingers on one hand. So she can be called a normal woman; 4) A promise; 5) A palm; 6) She was walking; 7) A secret; 8) An onion; 9) Just stop imagining; 10) A window; 11) No, not clouds or the ground. It's the letter "W"; 12 It's tomorrow. So better do it today!; and 13) The letter "M"