



## **"The Old Bush Telegraph"**

**DOWNLANDS 1956 – 61**

**May - June 2016**

**Issue #56**

### ***In this edition:***

- News from Classmates – Thanks to Mick Doherty and Tony Fahy, as well as all our regulars for contributions to this edition.
- Special Notice – 55 Year Reunion !!
- News from other years – See *Cameron Donaldson's message in particular.*
- Editor's Column – I know you find it riveting!
- Welfare Officer's Column
- Other Downlands News
- Requiscant in Pace

***A couple of people have told me they were unable to 'open' the last edition of TOBT. I hope that wasn't universally the case. A second attempt seemed to have fixed the problem whatever it was.***

***The only reason I could give for this 'issue' was that the size of edition No 55 was a bit bigger than previously because of having more photos in it. Please let me know if you're unable to open the newsletter at any time and I'll see if I can rectify the problem.***

***Speaking of things 'technical' – As the user of Windows Live Mail 2012, I have recently been receiving regular advices from "Outlook" telling me that after the 30<sup>th</sup> June I "will no longer be able to receive email sent to my Outlook.com account in the Windows Live Mail 2012 application".***

***I presume I'm being pressured to upgrade from Windows 7 to Windows 10, but I've heard that 'upgrade' is hard for 'oldies' to adopt.***

***Is there anyone else among you who has received a similar advice, and if so what have you done? Any suggestions ??***

***My apologies to a couple of you who made contributions which should have appeared last month. I've included your notes this month.***

## **NEWS FROM CLASSMATES**



**Mick Borger:** "As usual, a delight to read the names and stories of yesteryear. I must admit I was a bit bemused by the Tambo Termite's suggestion that Kerry (Butch) Crowley should have been the short priced favourite to take home the Gold Logie/Religious prize. If you can recall, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (aka Blue and Butch) ran the School's SP operation. Now some might say that such an enterprise meets a need and offers a legitimate service to punters. However, I maintain that the odds they offered for our rare sixpences were scandalously under the odds and were nothing short of daylight robbery. Their claim that they were offering a secondary benefit, a community service so to speak, by helping punters to sharpen up their Maths was not given much credence when the neddy ran unplaced. No wonder Blue ended up owning most of the Channel country. My view is that his former Big D 'clients' could legitimately claim a hide or two from his four legged assets or, at the very least, a couple of trays of meat. Nowadays, however, the Gold Logie would not look out of place on Butch's mantle piece.

**Peter McKenzie** spoke about his coaching stints in country towns. I can recall a game when I was playing five eight for Cities (Roma) against Macca who was a Centre in the Mitchell side. I was unaware of Macca's presence among the opposition until early on in the game when I drew the inside back and passed the ball to my Centre. My opponent however grabbed hold of me and would not let go. I shrugged him off and whirled around with the intention of suggesting to him, in the most unambiguous way possible, that he imitate the great Russian writer and 'pissinoffsky'. Much to my surprise, it was none other than the Big 'D's' 'drop kick hero' Mr McKenzie – respect where respect is due. What could I do but soften my advice with a smile when I alluded to a certain Eastern European. Macca seemed a bit startled by the combination of advice and friendliness.

I have very fond memories of playing sport in the Roma district. As far as I know, it may have changed by now, for many years only two people had played both cricket and footie for the Roma district. The other

fellow was Byron Kelly, a Mungallala lad who went to school with Noel Clancy. Clanc has a vivid memory of Byron and his siblings arriving at school in a sulky driven by Byron's father. Such imagery invokes a lot of nostalgia for the 'good times'.

Thanks for once again for your 'magnus opus' efforts.  
Mick

**David Bowden:** " Hey Jack - some good news in this edition. I met up with Terry and Erica Mc Hugh last week. We met at the Amby Cemetery for the funeral of an old friend. Terry had called to see me on his way through Roma. However I was at the Roma Show trying the patience of a car salesman.

The Anzacs Day Book Launch sales have continued. I'm pleased because it really was a local Soldier history.

I went to the Mitchell Show and met up with Nick on the Downlands College Stand. He's a likeable bloke, and is promoting Downlands the right way too. - David".

**noel clanchy:** "hello jack. hope I'm on the right newsletter. everything good here. lots of sandcrabs around lately but there in 35ft.of water and the pots take a lot of lifting. I got a mate with a good boat who is very strong so I do the driving.(bad back), tough footy last night, but I think nsw was lucky to get any points, well that's about it. u do a good job jack. all the best - mungallala



**Red Cochrane:** I have obtained the following Telstra phone numbers whilst getting the NBN working .

They could be useful when you will have phone or internet problems

Telstra Customer Support	1800 726
247Prepaid Customer Support	12 58 80
Telstra NBN (Complaints)	1800 834 273

Landline Faults	13 22 03
Credit Management	1800 816 025
Big Pond Customer Service	13 76 63
International Roaming	12 51 09
Whilst Overseas	+61 439 125 109
Extend Mobile Ring	**61*101**30#
Telstra Recharge/Balance	#100#

Hope you do not have to use these too often unless you have about an a hour to spend - Rod

**Phil Derriman:** Many thanks for all that, Jack. A well rounded reply! I can recall being at boarding school with another kid called Cocks or Cox . . . a poor little buggler at Nudgee Junior, aged then about nine, who used to wet his bed fairly regularly. The brother in charge of the dorm used to make him drag his mattress downstairs and dry it in the sun on the lawn. I've often wondered whether Cox ever got over the humiliation of it.

Cathy and I still intend to get up to Brisbane/Buderim (where Bernice now lives) around July, so I hope we can get together then. We're going to Europe for a few weeks this Friday. We'll be at the Villers Bretonneux war memorial on Anzac Day. Hope nobody blow us up!  
— Phil

**Mick Doherty:** "Thank you again for your Telegraph, full of updates from student colleagues.

We are trying to adjust to the first hit of winter which arrived yesterday (11/5), but I presume those who were whinging about the heat, will soon be whinging about the cold. The bike will enjoy having many rest days during the season.

I have been doing the usual routine of cycling, bridge , tennis , and family ventures — enjoying the animated movies with the grandkids, two of which are attending Downlands Have been keeping in regular contact with J,E.Hede, playing bridge with or against him twice a week . He is keeping well , keeping busy examining the foreign doctors trying to register here , but don't see any other 61 ers .There is a lot of construction taking place in the region , with the airport having been finished , and functioning well ,with 3 return flights to Sydney daily ,with Jetstar and daily flights to Melbourne and Cairns with Air North . Our daughter in law, Stephenie, is a flight attendant with Air North, with all flights being well supported ,so far .Construction of the new by-pass is starting any day , passing under the highway between Downlands and Mt Kynoch, a number of retirement villages is under way , a new shopping complex accompanied with residential, has been approved west of the racecourse, and today a 29 hectare site seeking council approval for a huge Technology Data Centre by FK Gardiner, allegedly creating 10000 jobs . We went to the Empire Theatre last week to see The Ten Tenors, although there were only 9, with one being sick. The restoration of the



Theatre has been one of the additions to the Toowoomba region. A lot of us will remember it being an ordinary venue to see the pictures, as they were called then. It was left to deteriorate, vandalised, vermin infested and later boarded up. Crunch time came when a decision was to be made, whether to restore or demolish. This was some 16 years ago, with the estimated cost of restoration to be \$14 million . Of course much discussion was floated around, with the decision finally decided by council, in favour, with the casting vote of the Mayor Ross Muller. It was restored to its former glory, achieving flattering comments from entertainers and with wonderful acoustics and vision The Tenors provided a show with a broad spectrum of the varieties of music and national songs. Each member contributed as a major contributor on most presentations ,and very difficult to select the most important member .There was, I believe, a narrow winner, saying to Janet “that fellow looks like John Duggan” he had a wonderful voice , the physique was similar but a bit heavier, with the ‘ signature ‘ hairstyle the real give away . I was unaware he had such talented offspring —but you never know. Will go to the ‘Celtic Thunder ‘ shortly ,a group of five young Irish, followed by ‘ Mirusia’ ,from Tasmania, possibly the best singer in the Andre’ Rieu band , who has quoted her as having the voice of an Angel . The complex has been added to, by including the Uniting Church and building the Armitage Centre as smaller concert or function halls. Encores at the Empire Restaurant is adjacent .This is now a production centre, of which Toowoomba is fiercely proud and I would recommend a visit. Best wishes to you and all, Mick

#### Joe Ensing:



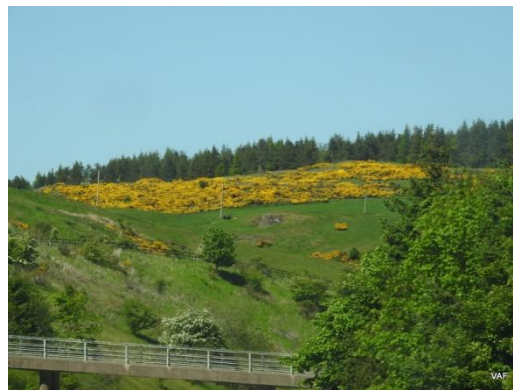
With the recent PNG Government decision about the closure of the Manus Island Detention Centre, and with Refugee and Asylum Seeker issues central to the Australian election campaign etc., - Joe Ensing MSC, Superior of Australian MSC in PNG, has made some comments about the Manus situation.

Here is Joe, above, with a group of friends who joined together to issue a statement in support of the PNG Government's decision.

**Tony Fahy:** “Hello Everyone, Having a morning off from travelling to reconcile everything. Weather has been very kind to us, and the countryside very beautiful especially around Cumbria.

Edinburgh a bit crowded and grotty, but countryside very pretty. We are doing a climb/walk near Ben Nevis tomorrow, and then fly to Dublin on Saturday. Weather quite cold here, guess it's still spring.

A couple of photos from my travels for you. – Tony



**Tony Fitzpatrick:** I had a note from Diesel on the 21<sup>st</sup> June. He seems well and busy, and is looking forward to what happens in the Senate after 2/7/16

**Peter Guilfoyle -** Another very pleasant morning being brought up to date. Thank you to you and your scribes. I'm now looking forward to a meeting on the first weekend in October. Late this arvo we head to Nambour to board the Spirit of Queensland.

Tomorrow evening we'll be in Cairns for a week. There's a six pack of us. FNQ may not be the same again. (We've never travelled on the Sunlander)

Kay and I celebrate our 50th Anniversary early in August. Same day we hit the trail for Canada and Alaska. We have a couple of days on another train, the Rocky Mountaineer, included amongst some fab sightseeing.

Again many thanks for The Old Bush Telegraph - Peter

**John Hede:** Now that he has semi-retired, Luds fancies himself as the natural successor to his hero, Omar Sharif, in the world of bridge. He has this photo of Omar over his bed I believe, just to remind himself about his goal.



Each week he and President of the Darling Downs Bridge Club, Mick Doherty, pull on their tennis visors, *Mick still has his from his tennis days in the late 50's/early 60's*, and head off to the Toowoomba Showgrounds for their regular game of bridge.



You can see from the photo above that Mick is a bit worried about what his partner is going to bid! It would seem though, that, after the game, Mick collected the trophy!!



Anyway, I digress. Luds has very kindly supplied me with a new name for my mailing list. John Kaufer, originally from Biddeston, now retired to Armidale. John was at school between 63 -67.

Thanks for your help in increasing the readership of this newsletter Luds, and welcome John!

**Brian Joseph:** has recently returned from a trip to China.

**Terry McHugh** has just come home after a caravan trip 'down' to Lightning Ridge

**Black Jack O'Brien:** Rang on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Yesterday (16/5) he and Clare headed off in the very early a.m. to drive the < 420km trip to Darwin to pick up a mobile cold room for their use on "Coodardie". About 40kms out from home the travellers realised there wasn't a ball on the tow bar!! Back they went – then 9 and a bit hours later, and a round trip of 960 kims, they arrived back home after an eventful day in the 'big smoke'.

Mike told me that he called in on Adrian Cooney on his return from Brisbane some weeks ago. Adrian is well by all accounts and is keeping the 'pledge'!

He also told me that Jim Scattini has retired, and not all that long ago, from his medical practice in Katherine.

The Coodardie Cattle Sale, one of the highlights of the O'Brien family's year has been moved forward to the 17<sup>th</sup> August this year.

Black Jack has sent his apologies for the October lunch – quite understandable. As I said last month we'll organise something special for 60 years away from school, God willing, so that the people who live long distances away will be able to prepare for extended leave!



**Bill Sexton:** I'm fairly confident that 99% of you will know of Bill's complete dedication to his business. His commitment to his work is only superseded by his love of his family, and his passion for the "Gallopers". We all know that, right?

Well can you imagine how surprised I was to learn recently that William has found a new sport to direct all his energy!? And, it does **not** involve horses. I can't reveal too much at this stage but it has meant that Bill is heading overseas in the next couple of months to further investigate the possibility of promoting this new sport that has hitherto not been seen in this country. He has asked me to join him in a fact-finding mission, and for me to make sure my passport is in order. Strangely he has suggested that I obtain a visa for Russia!

If he is looking for potential partners in this promotion, he could do worse than approach the likes of prominent US entrepreneurs Vince McMahon and The Donald!!

**Bill Smith:** "Thank you for the effort that goes into "The Old Bush Telegraph". It is very much appreciated.

For my 5 cents worth on the reunion I would favour the inclusion of wives at a drinks and dinner function, rather than a men only lunch.

I have had a month of minding the grand-children in Perth. My son's wife was on clinical placements at various hospitals as part of her physiotherapy degree. In addition they had to move house at the same time, so I had to organize that as well. Wendy, who stayed in Melbourne to help out with the other grandchildren, considered it poetic justice given the number of moves she had to organize for us while I was safely isolated at work. Anyway, all went well and my daughter-in-law completed her final exam successfully.

I share your shock at the Brussels atrocity. I had the good fortune of visiting it a few times when I was in the uranium business, and found it to be a very enjoyable destination, particularly their food and beer. However, there was always a tension between the Flemish and Walloon factions which was manifest mainly at the political level. As one businessman explained to me "the politicians are pre-occupied with that issue and let us get on with business." Unfortunately, nobody seemed to address the social issues, nor the consequences of open borders. Regards, - Bill

**Ken Stegeman:** "Well I have returned from Sydney after another successful show (although in a smaller venue at Grammar School at St Ives) and made

\$95,500 for the Oncology Treatment Centre at Westmead Children's Hospital.

Saw Sr Helen from Josephite Community Aid at the show and she was most distressed that the Josephites had pulled out of their operation in Sydney that we had supported since 1999. A long story that will require something stronger than a cup of coffee!

Had a grandson (Jared Stegeman) who was born on 22 February while I was in Sydney. He had a few problems but is now getting along very well indeed. He was nearly 6 weeks premature.

I thought retirement was supposed to be relaxing?

Cheers and all the best to Deb - Ken

**Lou Young:** 'It is some time since I've been in touch, but I wanted to reiterate how much I really enjoy reading and appreciating everything that is in the Bush Telegraph.

I was away for probably all April, firstly in Perth for work and then on holidays in Africa. Ros would not come, so our daughter Anna and I went on safari to Tanzania, Rwanda and South Africa. It was fantastic and something all should do if they like different people and animals.

Anyway, enough of that. I hope Deb and all the Family are well. How's the swimming? I did 1500 metres in a terrific pool in Kigali, Rwanda, but I won't tell you how long it took! Regards - Lou '



#### **SPECIAL NOTICE - REUNION**

**The reunion committee will meet in the next couple of weeks to confirm a venue etc., for our get together later in the year.**

**As advised the reunion will be held on**

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

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



## News from other years



**Gary Collis:** Apex rang to tell me it was absolutely 'no surprise' to him that 'Snooker' won the RE prize in 1958.

As a "Shepherd" he has been around 'religion' since Bethlehem. He also won the RE prize at St . Catherine's School (Cunnamulla, Qld.)

**Barry Collis** and his wife Margaret have both featured, independently, in local northside Brisbane newspapers during May. They, and Barry's sister Veronica, were all involved in celebrating community events at their retirement complex, *Viridian*, at Boondall.

### **Cameron Donaldson (1980 –'81) President of the DPSA:**

"Hello John, I apologise for taking so long to introduce myself. My name is Cameron Donaldson and I am the proud President of the DPSA. I am relatively new to the role and fortunately have **Garth (Cocks)** to guide me through. It is obvious to me that there is a vast history relating to the role and the work of the DPSA, and I am learning as quickly as I can. I finished at Downlands in 1981 and still have a love for the place as strong as my days actually at school there. This is something which I am well aware is shared by many past and present Downlanders. It has become apparent to me, in my relatively short stint, that there is much to do to bring the DPSA up to the point where many of the past students would like it to be. Unfortunately as volunteers it will take time but the will is there.

Apart from introducing myself, I really wanted to congratulate those men who do such wonderful work in organising and sustaining the Mass to remember deceased past students. I note that there has been running for <20 years . I was unable to attend this year as unfortunately I was stuck in Oakey but I have always received lovely feedback that it is a moving and touching occasion to reflect and remember deceased past students.

With what Garth tells me about the "Old Bush Telegraph", I feel inspired to attempt a similar idea for the years around mine.

**Melanie Cavanough** (2001 – '03), our DPSA secretary, works at the College several days a week and is the Alumni Officer. Melanie, a lovely young woman, is responsible for maintaining the past students facebook page, and communicating with the DPSA network which includes some 3-4,000 emails I believe. The facebook page is a tremendous forum to promote and inform. You don't have to have a facebook account, as I don't, to read the information. Hopefully you have seen this as it is full of news about Downlanders. It would be nice to provide a follow up story on the Mass so that others are made aware of the wonderful concept.

Anyway I really just wanted to say hello and let you know that the DPSA committee, as proud past students ourselves, is very conscious of our responsibility to represent fellow Downlanders and to seek to connect us all so that we can continue to carry a bit of Downlands in our hearts. This causes me to think of that little piece at the head of your Mass invitation.

All the best and I look forward to staying in touch.  
Regards – Cameron

PS: I would love to be part of your mailing list.  
Although from a different time, I do find it interesting to read the newsletter as invariably there is a name or article that is known to me."

**Bishop Michael McCarthy (1972 – '74)** was written up in the Catholic Weekly over the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> June. Michael and one of the priests from the Rockhampton Diocese travelled to India on a goodwill visit to say 'thank you', in person, to the many Indian priests who have assisted in the Diocese over a number of years.

Together, Bishop Michael and Father Don White celebrated a Mass at the tomb of Blessed Mother Teresa, founder of the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata, Western Bengal.

**Father Bernie McGrane MSC (1940 – '43)**

**Congratulations and Happy Birthday!**



**Fr Bernie McGrane** MSC (1940 – '43) elder brother of **Martin** (1940 – '45) turned 90 towards the end of May. He has given many decades of service to the MSC's principally in the mission of Eastern Papua. Fr Bernie currently resides at the St Joseph's Aged Care facility at Kensington which is close to the (old) MSC Monastery

**Don O'Donoghue:** Don and his classmates are off on their annual reunion safari in October. The group is returning to Happy Valley at Stanthorpe from the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> October. The itinerary he has prepared would make the Tourism Development Department of the Stanthorpe Regional Council delighted.

On a recent trip to Sydney he and Deann stopped off in Tenterfield and enjoyed themselves at the local museum, Stannum House and the local railway station. Each of these venues will be on the itinerary during the reunion.

He also reports that his old classmate, **Tom Cullinan** (53) and his wife Judy are off on a Seaborn cruise in mid-June. The cruise leaves from Stockholm then up the fjords of Norway to the Arctic Circle, returning to Copenhagen. One of the highlights being three days in St Petersburg. Tom celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday while they are away. What a Birthday present!! I believe 2016 is a year for many of the Class of '53 joining the octogenarian club – best wishes to all of you, and may there be many more birthdays ahead of you. I can imagine there will be some sort of celebration to mark 80<sup>th</sup> Birthdays during the Octoberfest in Stanthorpe.

**Paul O'Sullivan: (1953 – '56):** 'Hello John, good to hear from you. I would appreciate your including me in future newsletters.

I've been through a lengthy period of illnesses, including hospitalisations, but I've finally got to a stage where there is some light shining at the end of the tunnel.

Looking forward to the 60th reunion of the class of '56 towards the end of the year. Best regards, Paul.'

**Kerry Prior:** " Your mention of the Sr Philomene Tiernan tragedy in the Telegraph a couple of issues ago reminded me of an incident which occurred at Dermot Tiernan's funeral.

As you know, Derm was struck by an indigenous boy whilst intervening in a disturbance outside his hotel in Murgon. He did not regain consciousness and died a couple of days later.

The Courier Mail (it hasn't improved!!) attempted, over several days, to portray this as some kind of simmering racial confrontation. His grieving wife, Gillian, and her young family would have none of this nonsense and publicly said so. (Derm was, in fact, widely liked and respected in the indigenous community for his work with aboriginal people).

At Derm's Requiem, I happened to notice Sr Philomene just as Communion finished. She spotted an elderly aboriginal man in the aisle at the back of the Church. He had clearly intended to take Communion but had left his run a bit late and was looking lonely, hesitant and confused. She walked back down the aisle from the front pew where she was seated, took him by the hand, walked with him to the altar, went up to the altar, spoke to one of the (many) priests celebrating the Mass and arranged for him to be given Communion. She then walked him back down the aisle to his seat and returned to hers.

This was for me a perfect (and, of course, perfectly unscripted) response to the newspaper campaign and a powerful statement by this impressive family.

You mentioned Derm's football career which was cut short by a serious injury. I agree that he otherwise may well have achieved representative honours. Three of our playing group in fact did viz. Bob Potter (Wallabies), Mick Maguire and Barry White (Reds).

Kind regards – **Kerry**"

**Des Reppel (1954 – '57):** 'Jack, Sorry about not getting back to you sooner but I've had a few health problems.

Thanks again for the good read. Mention of Fr Whitty certainly brought back some memories. If there was a competition at the Olympics for the fastest mass and genuflections then he would have won a gold medal.

This mention also reminded me of the 5 (?) altars behind the main altar where the priests celebrated their daily masses. I served as an altar boy there many times and relished the close personal aspect of these masses. I think most of the priests didn't think much of them but they meant the world to me. I see Howard Brady has written a book on climate change. Howard's parents were wonderful people and accompanied us on the 1<sup>st</sup> 15's tour to Sydney (in 1956) and gave some of us just those little things which mean so much when you are so far from home. Please pass on my sympathy to Howard, Ian and Greg, who were at Downlands while I was there, on the passing of their mother.

Keep up the good and once again many thanks for your efforts. Des '

**Kerry White:** "I am doing a Masters in Creative Writing at University of Sunshine Coast so more books may be on the way. As part of the course, I am working on a 'memoir of sorts'.

Best regards – Kerry"

**Arg Whitton:** "Jack, mate,  
You can't beat T.S. Eliot on chance :

#### ***Footfalls echo in the memory***

*Down the passage we did not take  
Towards the door we never opened  
Into the rose garden.*

**Chance 1.** When I was teaching at Downlands (1950-63), I chanced to study History as a Queensland University as an external student.

Q. How did Canning's foreign police differ from Castlereagh's?  
A. They didn't.

When I got into the shoddy trade of journalism, I suspect I was the only reporter who knew how a pattern can emerge from a strict chronology, and that an historical narrative can run to any length. Hence 26,000 words in *The National Times* in 1975 on how that war criminal, Bob Menzies, who prudently did not volunteer for World War I, had sent our lads to kill and be killed in a civil war (Vietnam) of no concern to Australia. Warwick Fairfax tried (and failed) to sack everyone connected with the article, but it got a gong.

**Chance 2.** In 1967, I was freezing on the pension for a series of articles in Melbourne *Truth*. (They also got a gong.)

To get warm, I went into the public library and happened to read an article by Tom Wolfe. It said a reporter observing some event should use the

techniques of the novel: description, dialogue etc. Hence fun stuff at inquiries into various organised criminals: Neville Wran, Sir Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, Sir (as he then was) Terry Lewis.

Best – Arg"

## **PRODUCT OF THE MONTH**

### **Two this month:**

**"All Fall Down"**, the 'gripping' finale to *'Three Crooked Kings'* and *'Jacks and Jokers'* which brings to a close Matthew Condon's best-selling, true-crime trilogy from pre/post the Fitzgerald Inquiry days, and an unforgettable period in Queensland's history. Acknowledgements, from the author, of assistance in compiling these books include the names of a number of past Downlands men: former premier Mike Ahern, inspirational scribe Evan Whitton (see above) and the late Justice Bill Carter.

I received "All Fall Down" as a father's day gift last year, and finished reading it on 7/6/16. I've now read all three books and enjoyed them mainly because the names of 90% of the characters in all three books were well known to me, and I'm sure to most of us back then.

### **"Gorilla Personal Painting Platform"**

In chasing up 'Brain Teasers' recently I read that a dear old mate, Michaelangelo, painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. He would have been greatly assisted had he bought one of my second "Products of the Month" - a 'Gorilla Personal Painting Platform' it's safe for painters up to 120Kg ! You see, I too am painting ceilings throughout our home at the moment, and, after losing a couple of arguments with my trusty ladder, I find standing on the GPPP extremely safe and a wonderful aid to my work.! On special now at Bunnings for \$55-10!

## **EDITOR'S COLUMN**

### **Brain Teasers - No cheating now!**

- 1) What are the two permanent non-member observer states of the UN?**
- 2) Who wrote the 1988 book 'A Brief History of Time'?**
- 3) Muttiah Muralitharan was the first person to take 800 wickets in Test cricket. True or false?**
- 4) Ingvar Kamprad founded which company in 1943?**
- 5) What catastrophic nuclear accident occurred in 1986?**
- 6) Which Australian capital city would you be in if you were playing sport in the nib Stadium?**



- 7) In which city is the High Court of Australia situated?
- 8) Who was the first Australian to win the 500cc Motorcycle World Championship?
- 9) Who was Australia's First Prime Minister?
- 10) In relation to the material known as PVC, what does the 'C' stand for?

(Answers on the last page)

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There was an article in the "QWEEKEND" supplement on the 14 – 15<sup>th</sup> May headed "The Ice Road". It seems the home town to many of our old schoolmates, and that jewel in the crown of the nation's booming wool years last century, Cunnamulla, is, according to journalist Matthew Condon, sadly, being ravaged by 'ICE'!

Police raids so far seem to have failed to rid the town of the 'scourge' of ice, but many of the old locals, who say the money for drugs is coming from across the border from Bourke, remain committed to fixing this ice problem.

I'm sure we all wish the people of Cunnamulla, and similarly affected area like St George and Roma, all the best in fighting this insidious drug problem.

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You may remember that last month I wrote of my sporting activities in the pool.

This month I have to report that I share something with one of the WORLD'S most prominent sportsmen – Tiger Woods!

Now I know what you're thinking and, **NO**, it has nothing to do with the ability to attract attractive women, *nor* the ability to smash a golf ball 285 yards!

I read that Tiger has not played in a major championship since undergoing 'microdiscectomy back surgery' in September last year.  
ME TOO !!

+++++

Thanks to Mick Doherty I have received details of an article from the Toowoomba Chronicle dated the 10<sup>th</sup>, May. The story relates to the proposed new \$1.6 billion second Range Crossing set to be named "Toowoomba Second Range Crossing Multuggerah Way".

Multuggerah was the spiritual leader of the Jagera nation in the 1830 and 40's, and is remembered by his

ancestors as a hero who fought the expansion of Europeans into the Lockyer Valley and the Darling Downs. During the 1800's, the battle between the thousands of indigenous inhabitants and the European newcomers lasted for 15 years. The most famous and serious of conflicts was the Battle of One Tree Hill which took place on what is now known as Table Top Mountain, which is a 'must see' attraction from Picnic Point by visitors to Toowoomba.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> September 1843, King Moppy, as Multuggerah was known to his people, led about 100 Aborigines in an ambush of three drays heading up the Range crossing. Ensuing fighting to regain supplies stolen by the aborigines took a number of weeks. During this time Multuggerah was killed.

A memorial plaque to Multuggerah sits in Duggan Park at Middle Ridge. [This last sentence is factual –Ed]

I have checked the Toowoomba Regional Council website on 3/6/16, No name seems to have been 'officially' given at this time.

Mick thought that as former and possibly future visitors to Toowoomba, you would be interested in this news.

Thank you Mick!

+++++

We went to do a pre-poll vote for the Federal Election during the week.

I went in thinking I'd fill out the Senate Polling paper, below the line, in its entirety, as I wanted to put one particular candidate "LAST"!

After fighting with size of the paper, there are. As you may know, **122** candidates, I took the easy way out and voted from 1 – 6 above the line.

I don't think that by doing this I achieved my goal, but you never can tell.

Oh! Something else! If you happen to be left-handed, take your own pencil as the ones supplied are attached to a piece of string, and it's almost impossible to fill out the Senate Paper in the small cubicle – the short piece of string causes the problem!

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The 14<sup>th</sup> June marked the 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first of two armed hold-ups I experienced at our bank agency during Expo in 1988. The second was three weeks later on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

I still remember those days vividly, sawn off shotguns and all.

The robber and his associate used to catch an evening bus from Gosford, travel to Brisbane, steal a car, rob a bank then catch an afternoon bus back to Newcastle. During the months of Expo they robbed 14 banks in outer northern suburbs.

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## OTHER DOWNLANDS NEWS

“John, the DPSA Committee, at our last meeting, asked me to contact you regarding the DPSA Bursary appeal which we initiated last year.

The appeal is moving along quite strongly although we are still a long way from our target of \$1M. We are currently in discussions with the college and the board which governs the Trust Deed, and we hope to be in a position to award the first bursary for a yr. 11 student in 2017.

I note from reading The Old Bush Telegraph, that many of our past students are busy helping financially in educating their own children and grandchildren at other schools and may find it difficult to contribute to their own Downlands Bursary. I think that happens across the board in many schools, however, old boys/ girls of many schools also support their Alma Mater by contributing large amounts of money. Whilst many may be on fixed incomes, we have found that there are many who are in a position to support our Bursary and have done so.

We know the funds are out there, and we know many of our past students want to contribute. The problem is getting to talk with them. One person said recently he wanted to give something back, however had never been asked.

**Consequently, we are now inviting people to attend our function at Le Bubbles on 28th July.**

Mike Ahern will be the guest speaker. We are considering another larger function later in the year. Perhaps you could mention this in the Telegraph if it coincides with the time frame.

If you could help us promote this bursary, by encouraging those who can, to contribute, it would be appreciated. You do great work for our past students and it does not go unnoticed.

Thanks John, and kind regards, Garth (Cocks).  
[DPSA Treasurer - Bursary Sub Committee]

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## Dates for your Calendar:

15/8 - DPSA AGM Tyson Hall 5.30pm

3/9 - Downlands / Grammar Day @ “Home”

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**School fees:** One or two of you have asked “What are the fees at Downlands these days?”

I’ve taken some information from the website which I believe to be accurate, but if not precise, the following figures will give you an idea.

## Tuition & Boarding Fees 2016:

Years 7 /8 Annual Fees \$29 400 \*\$28 371.00

Years 9 /10 Annual Fees \$29 600 \*\$28 564.00

Years 11 / 12 Annual Fees \$30 825 \*\$29 746.13

*\*indicates 3.5% Discount if paid ‘up front’*

Also appearing on the website is a comparison of fees with other prominent schools in the country. While I’m not positive, I think these are 2015 figures, and relate to ‘Tuition only’ (Don’t sue me if they’re wrong!! JD)

Geelong Grammar School - \$30,820.

Sydney Grammar School - \$25,776.

Brisbane Girls Grammar - \$18,680.

Fairholme College - \$12,010.

Toowoomba Grammar School - \$11,196.

The Glennie School - \$9500

Downlands College - \$8800.

Have a further look on the web if you’re interested. I just thought this might be of some general interest.

Following on along this theme I have gone back through some old school mags to find what the fees were at Downlands in years past.

*The first magazine is 1932. The fees between ’32 and ’36 are basically the same and were:*

## 1936:

Full Board & Tuition Under 12 - 16 Guineas per term

Over 12 – 18 Guineas per term

*(Added extras included Music - 2 Guineas per term; Typewriting – Half a Guinea per term)*

*Outfits: One ‘good’ suit’ – Navy Blue; One suit for ordinary wear & 2 pairs of boots or shoes*

## 1946:

Full Board & Tuition Under 12 – 16 Guineas per term

Over 12 - 18 Guineas per term

*(Added extras; Music & Typewriting both 2 Pounds 10 shillings per term.*

*Outfits: 1 Best suit (Navy Blue – We wish to note with regard to outfits, because of present rationing **NO** insistence is placed on any particular article of clothing. However, every effort should be made to obtain a Navy Blue suit for best wear. The rest of the articles should be seen as a guide only)*

**1956:** *(From the 1955 Annual)*

*Board and Tuition for all students 50 guineas per term*

*This covers: Text books, dispensary, picture shows, bus transport and sporting materials.*

**NO** compulsory extras but, if required, music, elocution, typewriting, swimming, dancing and tennis coaching are available for 1 Pound 10 shillings per term. Accident Insurance is available for 1 Guinea per annum.

**1966:** *(From the 1965 Annual)*

*Board and Tuition for all students \$160-00 per term*

*Book hire \$11-00 per annum*

*Laundry \$5-00 per term*

*Ambulance/ Accident Insurance \$3-25 per annum*

*Extras: Music & Art of Speech \$13-00 per term;  
Dancing & Swimming \$2-00 per term and Tennis \$4-00 per term*

**1975:** *(From the 1974 Annual):*

*Tuition ranging between \$90-00 and \$110-00 per term*

*Boarding Fee \$335-00 per term*

*Text book hire between \$25-00 and \$35-00 p.a.*

*Laundry \$25-00 per term, and*

*Amenities like Movies, use of pool etc \$25-00 p.a.*

**What do you think about all that??**

## WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT



Don O'Donoghue has made another very worthwhile contribution to this month's edition. He says it is especially for his senior citizen friends (*that's us!*) and if you have already seen this, it doesn't hurt to read it again.

**For those who get up regularly at night/early morning to 'go to the bathroom' :**

It is important that when the call of nature occurs we do not bound out of bed and rush to the bathroom, because if we stand up immediately from being asleep our ECG pattern can change. The brain may be anaemic which could cause heart failure due to a lack of blood. It is therefore recommended that we observe the '3 – ½ minute practice' before dashing to the loo.

Here are the '3 – ½ minute' rules

1. When waking from sleep, lie in bed for the first 1/2 minute;
2. Sit in bed for the next 1/2 minute;
3. Lower your legs, sitting on the edge of the bed for the last half-minute.

After 3 x 1/2 minutes, blood flow should be established

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Don also reports on his old schoolmate **Denis Curran** ('49 – '54) who has been in the Holy Spirit Hospital in Brisbane after an action packed couple of weeks. Denis experienced problems while driving home to Yeppoon. Thankfully he reported directly to his Doctor who sent him back to Rockhampton for tests which resulted in his trip to Holy Spirit. Denis's wife, Jill, during the same period experienced 'indigestion' followed by a pain in the jaw. She too ended up in Brisbane for surgery for placement of two stents in her coronary arteries. She is doing OK.

Denis has subsequently had carotid surgery followed by a triple by-pass operation, but things did not go so well. He was placed in an induced coma for some time but was eventually revived.

Don visited Denis on Sunday 19th June to find him sitting up, with all tubes removed. Although weak, Denis has been up, walking with assistance, and is eating.

Jill has bounced back exceptionally well from her surgery and Denis seems to well on the road to recovery. The couple will stay in Brisbane for some little time until they get the all clear to return home to Yeppoon.

**Please also keep other members of 'our group' in your thoughts and prayers as a couple go through**



chemotherapy and associated procedures needed to assist them in returning to good health

## REQUISCANT IN PACE

**Donald B. Martin: 1934.** Originally from Emerald but lately of Clayfield, aged 91. Buried from St Agatha's at Clayfield on 27/5/16. Don was a relative of Robbie, John (RIP) and Bill.

**Dr. L. Peter Ryan OAM (1938 – '40)** originally from Southport, who passed away peacefully, aged 91, on the 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2016. Peter's funeral was held at St Agatha's on 15/6/16.

Peter, his wife Ariane and sister Jan (**O'Sullivan**, widow of **David** RIP, 1945 – '50) have been regulars at our annual Mass to remember Deceased Past Students. He rang after this year's Mass to say how much he enjoyed coming along and that one day he, like everyone else, would be a beneficiary of the prayers said at the Mass. I'm sure he did not think this would be the case, for him, in January, 2017.

During the same conversation he suggested we consider holding future lunches, which follow the Mass, at his golf club, RQ at Hamilton, where up until recently he played twice a week.

Peter was a member of Bomber Command during WWII, and was part of the Dambusters' Squadron. His group did not get to bomb their target as the War ended before their sortie was scheduled to fly.

After the War Peter studied Dentistry under the Australian Repatriation Scheme which was set up by the Government to assist all those people involved in the War effort, to transition back to civilian life.

**Peter Dodson, Don O'Donoghue and Jack Buchanan** were among those who attended Peter's funeral

**Vincent Henry York** (1941 – '44) originally from Wallumbilla. Passed away in Dalby on 10/6/16 aged 87. His wife June pre-deceased him. Vince had a younger brother R.J. – (1944 – 46)

**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**



**Ask not what tomorrow may bring, but count as a blessing every day that Fate allows you.**

**The best exercise for the heart is to bend over backwards for someone else.**

## FUN & GAMES

*As I was getting in bed, she said, "You're drunk"*

*I said, "How do you know?"*

*She said, "You live next door."*

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### SIGNS !

*A sign in a shoe repair shop in Vancouver read:*

*We will heel you  
We will save your sole  
We will even dye for you.*

*In a Podiatrist's office:  
Time wounds all heels;*

*On a Septic Tank Truck:  
Yesterday's Meals on Wheels*

*At an Optometrist's Office:  
If you don't see what you're looking for,  
You've come to the right place.*

*On a Plumber's truck:  
We repair what your husband fixed..*

*On another Plumber's truck:  
Don't sleep with a drip. Call a plumber*

*On an Electrician's truck:  
"Let us remove your shorts.";*

*In a Non-smoking Area:*

"If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take appropriate action.";

*On a Maternity Room door:*

"Push. Push. Push.";

*Outside a Muffler Shop:*

"No appointment necessary. We hear you coming.";

*In a Veterinarian's waiting room:*

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!";

*At the Electricity Company:*

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time.

However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted.";

*In a Restaurant window:*

"Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up.";

*In the front yard of a Funeral Parlour:*

"Drive carefully. We'll wait.";

*At a Propane Filling Station:*

"Thank Heaven for little grills.";

*In a Chicago Radiator Shop:*

"Best place in town to take a leak.";

And the best one for last:

*Sign on the back of another Septic Tank Truck:*

"Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises"

***Thanks again 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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***24/6/2016***

***Answers to the 'Brain Teaser' on Page 6, above: 1 - The Holy See and Palestine, 2 - Stephen Hawking, 3 - True, 4 - IKEA, 5 - Chernobyl disaster, 6 - Perth, 7 - Canberra, 8 - Wayne Gardner, 9 - Edmund Barton, (1901 - 3), 10 - Chloride.***