



# REUNITING OUR PRESENT WITH OUR PAST

# KINAWAH



VOLUME 2020

JULY AUGUST EDITION

## Coming to Grips with the New Normal...

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Coming to Grips with the New Normal 1.
- Editor's Notes 2.
- 2019/20 Committee 2.
- Cookie's Corner 3.
- SCPSA Membership 3.
- 2020 AGM and Dinner 3.
- WCC 2020 News 4.
- Jest a Moment 4.
- We revisit St Catharine's Chapel for that wedding in 1954 5.
- School Reunions 6.
- More Reunions 7.
- Upcoming Reunions 8.
- Roma Round Up
- Brekkly Creek
- 2021 Celebrations
- PNG connections 9.
- Barry Awui
- Slade Senior Class 1964 9.
- Slade Seniors 1968 10.
- Where are they now?
- Vietnam Veterans Day 11.
- Roll of Slade Vietnam Veterans known to us 12.
- Vale 13.
- Paul Bailey
- Jennifer Gardiner
- Dorothy Marsden
- Facebook Update: 14.
- 405 Members Strong!
- 1982 Slade Seniors

**A** number of changes and conversations of late have helped reinforce the reality that while some of us may at last be emerging from the isolation of recent lockdown measures, that isolation has meant different things to different people.

Some of us already enjoyed the splendid, though chosen, isolation that living in a more remote rural environment brings.

Those who are sole carers for an ailing spouse, widowed and/or aged, live in a different kind of isolation and many are still coming to terms with everything that bereavement means. Others, who may be found in assisted living communities have been struggling with loss of contact with family while those facilities have been in enforced lockdown.

Some of us have lost friends and family of late and not been permitted to attend funerals and share grief with fellow mourners in the comfort of a group setting. Others have been struggling with lack of normal social contact for the first time in their lives because of greatly changed work conditions, whether it be paid in employment or as volunteers, while still others are quietly getting on with what needs to be done. Trevor Hourn mentioned recently that with no clergy in or close to St George where he lives, it has fallen to him to conduct funerals for the past several months and that with strict limits imposed on such gatherings, these have been even sadder and more solitary occasions than they might normally have been.

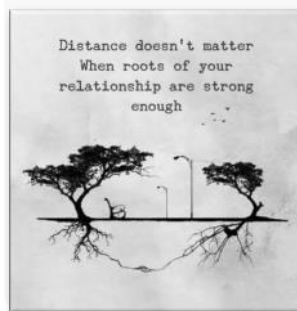
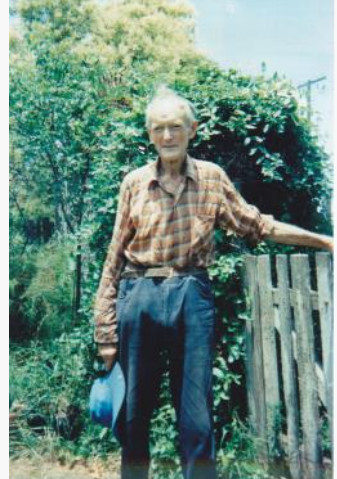
Others again, of our number live in Victoria which, even now, is still being seriously affected. This is a stark reminder of how quickly and how easily coronavirus can get out of control even with extreme safeguards put in place. One highly sobering statistic that recently emerged is that worldwide, it took three months for reported infections to reach one million and just eight days to reach the next million.

Clear Perspex barriers at high volume checkout points, hand-sanitiser front and centre at entrances to businesses with staff urging its use, masks and gloves, visible and frequent cleaning up in outlets where customers touch screens and other surfaces plus shop floors marked to help maintain physical distancing may well represent the new normal for some time yet.

MISS CORALIE TELFORD.  
Miss Telford was a teacher at St. Cath's for some years circa 1950.



MR. RAY TELFORD.  
Mr. Ray Telford was a cook in the army during WWII + after his service finished in 1947, he later was the cook at St. Cath's circa 1950.



SCPSA Inc  
www.scpsawarwick.com  
info@scpsa.com.au

Editor  
Joan (Clothier) White  
28 Teesdale Avenue  
Toowoomba QLD 4350  
07 4634 4853  
kinawah.editor@gmail.com

Steve Cooke President  
Shailer Park QLD 4128  
0418 403 733  
steve.cooke37@  
bigpond.com

**IMPORTANT**  
Are the contact  
details we have  
for you current or  
about to change?  
Don't forget us  
when you change  
your address or  
email service  
provider.



IS  
YOUR CLASS  
celebrating a  
MILESTONE in  
2020 or  
2021?

CAST YOUR  
NET WIDER  
FOR LOST  
CONTACTS  
AND  
ADVERTISE  
HERE!

## Editor's Notes...



**AS WE MOVE ON THROUGH JULY** I suspect many of us will have little trouble recalling Warwick winters from those long ago school days. Still, Winter is not completely without its own charms. As Richard Adams declared in his 1972 classic novel, *Watership Down*, when human beings claim to enjoy winter, what they are in fact enjoying, is *proof against* the winter. Linger in the warmth of a cosy bed or in front of a cheery fire-place, bundling up against the chill on frosty mornings exhaling misty vapour with each breath, huddling together in groups for warmth and camaraderie, expending youthful energy on football and hockey fields and netball courts are all things guaranteed to forge memories which last a lifetime. At least half of us share vivid recollections of assembling before breakfast, lining up for shoe, hair and fingernail inspection and walking briskly in a large single group to church on Sunday mornings as silently as could reasonably be enforced by the staff member who had drawn the duty...

I have been keeping as up to date as I can with COVID-19 stats in PNG. As of July 13, confirmed cases are updated to 11; 8 recovered and still zero deaths in stark contrast to the dire situation reported in other countries and even some of our own Australian states.

This Kinawah, we revisit the wedding in the school chapel with some much more detailed information that Marion Mackenzie has unearthed and make note of Vietnam Veteran's Day August 18. With upcoming reunions very much on our minds just now, we also look at a few milestone reunions celebrated in the past and pause to consider the lasting and immediate value of such occasions. In the process of confirming names with which to label photos, I felt the following heart-warming 2018 memory from Vicki Schroder summed things up perfectly. *"It was so good to catch up. Honestly it was just like we had gone home on holidays and came back. We all just gelled again."*

I have asked this before but has anyone from Colin Jackson's class that came together 50 years ago in 1970 made contact yet? Lots of options for this to happen with the Roma Round Up in August and the Brekky Creek in November! I am happy to pass on your intention to Colin if you respond through me—pretty easy really with all the electronic options available to us. Over to you...

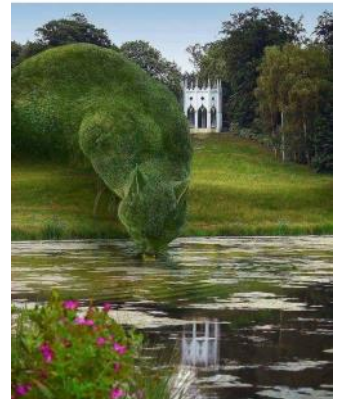
Until next time, enjoy the extra reading Joan White

## IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL

"In the depth  
of winter, I  
finally learned  
that within me  
there lay  
an invincible  
summer."

**Albert Camus**

Surrealist topiary cat at Painshill Park, England.  
Art by ©Richard Saunders.



## 2019/2020 Committee

### EXECUTIVE

President	Steve Cooke	0418 403 733
Vice President/Membership	John Bayliss	0418 987 900
Secretary	Jenny Schonfisch	07 3279 8197
Treasurer	Nigel Faulkner	0412 973 831
Archivist/Patron	Ted Ross	02 4885 2227
Museum	Leigh Nisbet	0418 156 296
School Liaison	Peter Ramsay	07 3245 4706
WCC Student Liaison	Timothy Sommerlad	0447 524 324
Assistant Archivist	Helen Moloney	07 4635 0573
Special Projects	Jacque Baxter	0458 731 172
Kinawah/Contacts	Joan White	0428 344 853

### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Pastoral Coordinator	Rob Nolan	0439 784 457
Area Reps	Ray Dickson	0419 702 657
	Paul Masson	07 4623 5307
	Peter Ramsay	07 3245 4706
	Irene Woods	07 4655 3078

steve.cooke37@bigpond.com  
johnbzz@bigpond.com  
bonniedoon07@bigpond.com  
nigel.faulkner@hotmail.com  
cro56704@bigpond.net.au  
leenis@bigpond.com  
peterramsay47@gmail.com  
timothysommerlad@gmail.com  
hmoloney@aapt.net.au  
jacque.baxter@gmail.com  
kinawah.editor@gmail.com

rw.nolan@bigpond.com  
dicksonsare@gmail.com  
pbmasson@bigpond.com  
peterramsay47@gmail.com  
woodsfamily06@hotmail.com



## Cookie's Corner

I'M DELIGHTED TO SHARE THE REUNIONS THEME WITH YOU FOR THIS JULY AUGUST KINAWAH AND THERE IS PLENTY MORE TO BE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT...

■ It seems that after the months of uncertainty we have lived through with COVID-19, we can now look forward to further easing of restrictions with a dash of cautious optimism. As I write this for our Gold Medal winning Editor, I would ask us all to spare some special thoughts for our many Past Students living in Victoria, mostly Melbourne with the second wave of COVID-19 running rampant down there and now the Sydney cluster. We wish them all a very speedy FULL and FINAL recovery.

■ On the theme of reunions, I can add that a 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion for my own class was held in 1993 at the then Powerhouse (now Quest) some 3 minutes stroll to the Brekky Creek Hotel. For our 40<sup>th</sup> in 2008, we joined forces with the guys from 67/69 and the Brekky Creek Annual Reunion /Lunch was born.

■ Looking at all the youthful faces from my 1968 Senior Class on page 9, brings back a ton of memories for me. We have tried to find those few who remain elusive. If you know anything about those unknowns in the *Where are they now?* item on page 10, please let us know.

■ Great to see the likes of Brekky Creek regulars from the Class of '68 attending the Roma Roundup... namely (Leigh Hartog (Sydney), Rick Noon (Emerald), Lloyd Bailey (Pittsworth) and Paul Masson (Yuleba). Please get behind this event and attend if you possibly can.

**Congratulations John Farquhar for coming up with such a great Country concept!**

■ In closing I would just like to mention the 2020 AGM, finally on track to be held 12<sup>th</sup> September. See details below. I would personally like to see you there. We have gone further with the Country theme by holding the AGM and Dinner in Toowoomba and hope this allows more people to attend. We have outings planned for Sunday... resembling our previous PAST Student weekends.

Until next time, take care and stay safe — from the good ship SCPSA. Captain Cooke!

**PLEASE NOTE**

**DOMAIN NAME NOW**  
for revitalised website:  
[www.scpsawarwick.com](http://www.scpsawarwick.com)

**WHAT'S ON IN 2020**

**August 15**

**ROMA ROUND UP \*\*\***  
Royal Hotel, 99 McDowall St. Roma

**September 12**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING \*\*\***  
Burke & Wills Hotel, Toowoomba

**November 7**

**BREKKY CREEK LUNCH \*\*\***  
FROM 11.00AM

**November 11**

**Remembrance Day\*\*\***  
\*\*\* COVID-19 PERMITTING

If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be. Maya Angelou

## SCPSA Membership



Membership fees are the sole income for the Association and are used to maintain buildings and other significant features on the Slade Campus, for insurance, upkeep of our museum, and to provide bursaries each year to students at the College.

The new membership year commenced 1 July 2020 and I invite and encourage those who are not financial members to please consider joining for the small amount of \$40 a year or \$180 for a five-year membership.

Should you have any questions about membership please contact me via the membership email at: - [scpsa.membership1@bigpond.com](mailto:scpsa.membership1@bigpond.com) or call me on 0418 987 900 to facilitate your membership.

John Bayliss

People who wonder if the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable. Anonymous

## SCPSA AGM and Dinner 12 September, 2020

Meeting, Dinner and Accommodation AT ONE CONVENIENT VENUE  
Burke and Wills Hotel - Central CBD location - recently renovated

554 Ruthven Street, Toowoomba

Phone (07) 4632 2433

<https://burkeandwillshotel.com.au/>

Check in from 2.00pm. Off-Street Parking for overnight guests.

Meeting: 2.00pm start

Dinner: 6.30pm for 7.00pm

2-course alternate drop \$35 pp

Accommodation: from \$119 per room

Book and Pay for yourself PLEASE QUOTE SCPSA REFERENCE

RSVP: ASAP but no later than 21 August

Jenny Schonfisch [bonniedoone07@bigpond.com](mailto:bonniedoone07@bigpond.com) 07 3279 8197

Dinner and use of private meeting room included in \$35 pp package and payable to SCPSA as shown below.

PAYMENT: BSB: 124001 Acc. No: 90641027 Acc. Name: SCPSA Reference: Your Initials and Surname

Toowoomba Sightseeing tour with commentary an option on Sunday if sufficient numbers. Bus seats 23.

OR, for a round of golf Sunday morning at Middle Ridge contact Peter Moloney 07 4635 0573 for details.





## WCC and SCPSA...

Some of our past students may be a little confused about the current connection between the schools we were once part of and Warwick Christian College. For those who have recently reconnected with us and are finding out about it only now, the short story is, that after the campus ceased to be an educational facility under the oversight of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane it came under the control of Warwick Regional Council. This body, subsequently finding maintenance and upkeep something they no longer wished to be responsible for, made the decision to sell it for redevelopment as a housing estate. Fortunately, after a hard fought Save Our Slade campaign, the campus was bought by Warwick Christian College to be used once again as the educational facility it was always intended to be. Happily our Association enjoys a harmonious relationship with the College which has retained the official Slade Campus name for the site. The College was also generous enough to allow the wonderfully successful 2018 C.E.G.S. centennial celebrations to be held in St Catharine's Hall which was moved to its present day Horsman Road address from its old Palmerin Street site in 1977. Past students are welcome to call in and visit at any time. You only need to make yourself known at the office first as is normal procedure for visiting any school.

The following introduction is taken directly from the Warwick Christian College website.

Established in 2007, the College aims to provide quality, Christian education to the families of the Southern Downs. Warwick Christian College is operated by [Christian Community Ministries \(CCM\)](#). Our main campus, Slade, caters for students in Prep to Year 12. Glengallan campus is an accredited Special Assistance School with students studying for Vocational Education pathways in Years 10 to 12. Our Glengallan Campus also caters for students in Years 7 to 12 who have disengaged from mainstream schooling and require a supportive and flexible learning environment.

In its first year of operation, the College commenced with a very small number of students at Canningvale Road.

At the start of 2013, Warwick Christian College re-located to the Slade School Campus.

In 2017 the College was able to purchase Glengallan Campus to operate as a new facility closer to the main campus to operate our Special Assistance Campus for disengaged students.

The College now operates as a full P-12 College with enrolments at both campuses at approximately 200 students and over 30 staff members.

Work is continually being done to restore and enhance the historic Slade School Campus.



Blessings in Christ

Carmelo Rubio, Principal

## *And now, to jest for just a moment*

While deciding whether or not to make kids wear masks at an undisclosed school recently, one of the teachers imagined the scenarios that you see below concerning how making masks compulsory might work in primary school...

**Please don't snap Billy's mask in his face.**

**You should not be using your mask as a slingshot. Please put it back on your face.**

**Please do not chew on your mask.**

**No, you may not blow your nose in your mask.**

**Please take the mask off your eyes and watch where you're walking. I don't care if you have X-ray vision.**

**Please take the mask off your pencil and stop twirling it.**

**I know the mask fits over your pants like a knee pad, but please take it off your leg and put it on your face.**

**What do you mean you tried to eat your lunch through your mask?**

**Please don't share your mask or trade masks. I don't care if you like Ingrid's mask better than yours.**

**We're not comparing our masks to other kids' masks... everyone's mask is unique and special.**

**You're not a pirate, please take your mask off your eye.**

**Try to get the gum off as much as you can.**



## We revisit the school chapel for that wedding in 1954...

The May June Kinawah, harked back to the wedding of an old girl in St Catharine's school chapel. Our June Extra Kinawah then brought us Jean MacKinnon's photo of the very wedding in question at right. Marion Mackenzie was subsequently able to provide the following detailed account published in the Warwick Daily News Thursday 29, April 1954. The words from more than half a century ago immediately bring to mind the manner in which such occasions were celebrated at the time. The chapel, of course, is now long gone but it was such a huge part of our daily school life that it is rather nostalgic to revisit it again. More than a few of us will find it gratifying to reimagine it as the setting for such a happy and life affirming occasion as this.

"St Catharine's School Chapel, which many years ago was an old stable, was bedecked with flowers on Easter Saturday when a past pupil of the school became the first bride to be married there.

"Present scholars of the school formed a guard of honour while the school choir sang the choral service and rendered the school hymn during the signing of the register.

"The bride, Jennifer Jean Smith, who was married to James Ronald Gardiner, entered the chapel looking very sweet in a gown of white Swiss embroidered organdie. The deep V-neckline sleeveless frock had a full circular skirt and was worn over white taffeta.

"Jennifer's shoes were of satin to match her pearl studded Juliet cap from which fell a finger tip-veil.

"Her bouquet comprised frangipani, roses, carnations and asters in tonings of white and lemon.

"She was attended by one bridesmaid, Annette Webber, whose white frock was cut on similar lines to the bridal gown. Annette chose pastel blue shoes and a matching minute hat and carried a bouquet predominantly lemon.

"The groom's brother, Dick Gardiner, of Sydney was best man.

"After the ceremony the guests adjourned to 'Toorak', the Locke Street home of Mr and Mrs J.F. McDougall where the reception rooms were decorated with seasonal blooms. The two-tiered wedding cake was surrounded with tulle and white, pink and red Rose of Sharon.

"Mrs Smith received the guests wearing a lightweight charcoal grey suit, a smart black hat and accessories. She wore a spray of deep pink roses on her lapel.

"Assisting Mrs Smith was Mrs Gardiner, wearing a deep blue, heavy crepe frock featuring a deeply tucked square neckline. She added a mulberry hat and accessories and a spray of flowers in pink tonings.

"When she left for her honeymoon at the South Coast the bride was wearing a slate-grey gaberdine suit and a white nylon and matching felt hat.

"Jennifer is the eldest daughter of Mrs M. Smith, Locke Street, Warwick, and James is the eldest son of Mrs J.J. Gardiner, Bega, but formerly of Inverell, NSW.

"Mr and Mrs Gardiner will make their home in Albury NSW."

1954 is the last year currently available on Trove for Warwick Daily News News, so Marion noted it was rather lucky that she was able to find this account. Marion's further investigation using the Ryerson Index has revealed that both the bride and groom passed away at Yeppoon some years ago. We have included them in our Vale record in this issue.

ECCLESIASTES 3.1 *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...*



**St Catharine's Chapel, a converted stable 1960s**



**The Chapel Sanctuary all decked out for Easter, 1955**

**Chapel Interior 1960s photo from Helen Sanderson**



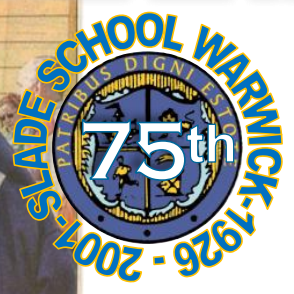
# SCHOOL REUNIONS are occasions for us to



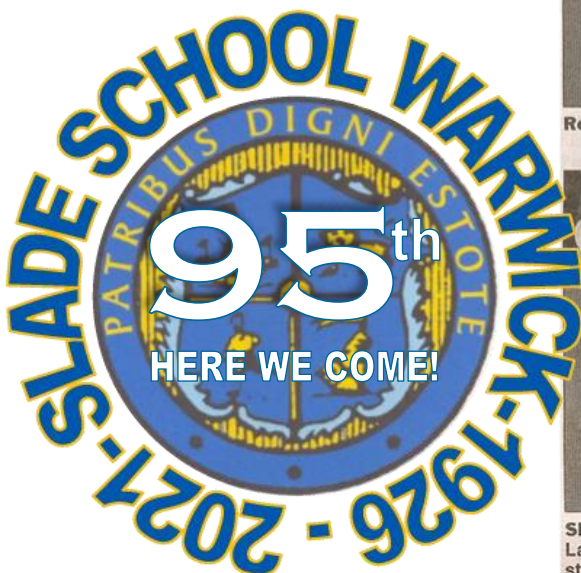
**Flying the flag:** Slade School 75th reunion organisers Steve Rowan and Ann Eilersen at the flag raising ceremony to begin the celebrations on the weekend.



**St Catharine's reunion:** Sister June Ruth, Mother Eunice a sister at St Catharine's and Sister Dorothy, a student at St Catharine's, from the Society of Sacred Advent at the Slade and St Catharine's reunion.



**Reunion capers:** David Vickers, Ron Ladner, Jennifer Vickers and Eric Donaldson at the Slade 75th reunion dinner on the weekend.



**Slade gathering:** Member for Southern Downs Lawrence Springborg talks with former Slade students Richard Cleal and Derek Burnett at the Slade reunion dinner on Saturday night.



**Treasured memories:** Treasurer of the Slade School past students association Steve Cooke with Warwick Shire Mayor Ron Bellingham and Mrs Bellingham at the Slade 75th reunion.



remember, revisit and reaffirm.

# School Reunions Continued... 1940s



Names for the faces on this page are listed for you on Page 14.  
We welcome any IDs you might be able to provide for the 1951 photo.



On a wing and a prayer, unfurled hopeful and free,  
First feelers were floated—might this be or not be?  
An affair to affirm that one hundred year mark,  
Re-assemble as old girls, celebrate and remark...

Is that really you? How long has it been?  
It's so good be here—a make-believe meme.

Across ages and eras, over state lines and seas,  
Common schools, diverse backgrounds, recollections flow free,  
Different pasts, common threads, loosely woven in time,  
Gathered neatly together, aged like cellared fine wine.

Yesterday meets today. How long has it been?  
In a flurry of friendships, feckless fancies and dreams.

Per volar sù nata, born to rise and to soar,  
Winged hope fledged with substance, aspiring to more,  
Altiora in votis, seeking things higher too,  
Aloft in the slipstream amid the bright blue.

How long has it been since those long ago teens?  
We're a few decades older, no longer grass green.

Were we ever so young, full of brio and brass?  
Not a care in the world as we straggled to class,  
Timetables and chapel, assembly, meal queues,  
Thick stockings, suspenders, under formal dress blues.

How long has it been? Many years in between,  
Life has sped onward, since we were sixteen.

Lined faces like road maps smile and nod in recall,  
Former teachers, shared memories, many milestones and more,  
Old school friends, more stories, fondly come to the fore,  
'Remembered with embroideries' like Henry...at Agincourt.

How long has it been? Years and spheres intervene,  
Savour the occasion, celebrate what it means...

Joan Clothier White

Written for the 2018 C.E.G.S. Centennial celebrations held in St Catharine's Hall, now at the Slade Campus, revised 2020



Inaugural St Catharine's Old Girls Reunion Dinner held in Mytton House Refectory 1951



# Reunions, Reunions, Reunions:

## GOING BUSH FOR THE ROMA ROUNDUP ? \*\*\*

**TIME:** August 15, 2020 ~ 11.30 a.m. start

**VENUE:** The Royal Hotel, 99 McDowall Street, Roma

**AGENDA:** Roll up and enjoy a cracking great reunion.

Visit <http://www.mymaranoa.org.au/visitors> for information re local attractions, accommodation and more. Free camping available at Judd's Lagoon at Yuleba and The Fisherman's Rest, in Mitchell.

\*\*\* Final outcome is COVID-19 permitting including border restrictions that may be in place closer to the due date.

All those who attend are responsible for organising their own accommodation.

If you have not already done so, RSVP ASAP

John Farquhar

[farquhar.john@optusnet.com.au](mailto:farquhar.john@optusnet.com.au)



## Breakfast Creek Reunion

2020 ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

Slade/St Catharine's Past Students

2 Kingsford Smith Drive - Breakfast Creek. 4020

- There will be an area set aside for us at the front.
- Buy your own drinks and meals
- Partners etc. are more than welcome
- No speeches or formal proceedings

**Saturday, November 7**  
11.00 AM FOR LUNCH

**2020 DATE**

**TO FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT**  
Richard Cleal: (07) 3420 6541 0447 447 236

## 2021 Slade Celebrations: are you on board?



We are pleased to announce our 95 year celebrations set to take place **October 9, 2021** at the Glen Hotel

24 Gaskell Street, Eight Mile Plains.

Expect more details soon.



# More Proud PNG Associations...

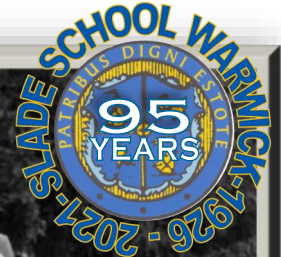


**B**ARRY AWUI, is the son of an Anglican Minister, hometown on enrolment was listed as Konedobu, PNG. A gifted athlete at school, Barry was a champion sprinter, opening bowler for the 1968 First XI, a handy First XV Rugby player, a prefect in his final year, 1968, and was always highly thought of by his school fellows. One of a long list of students who came to Slade from PNG over the years, Barry left his Australian school days behind, applied for, and secured, a flying scholarship offered jointly by the Department of Civil Aviation and the Education Department and became the first PNG National to qualify as a flying instructor in February 1972. He went on to pursue a career as an Air Safety Investigator as the following illustrates.

**June 18, 1999 - The Tribune: 17 die in crash** <https://www.tribuneindia.com/1999/99jun18/spotlite.htm>

PORT MORESBY, (New Guinea), June 17 (AP) — A plane carrying 17 persons crashed in mountainous terrain in Papua New Guinea's highlands today, official said, all on board were believed killed. A twin-engine turboprop Bandierante aircraft operated by Papua New Guinea carrier airtlink crashed 19 km southeast of Goroka, in eastern Highlands province, shortly before 9 a.m. local time yesterday, the office of Air Safety Investigation said. The aircraft was en route from Nadzab, 300 km north of the capital, Port Moresby, in the Morobe province, to Goroka, 140 km further west, in eastern highlands province, Air Safety Investigator Barry Awui said.

PNG aviation has a long, rich history of aviators who have devoted their working lives to the blue skies of Australia and PNG. In fact, many Australian and New Zealand aviators began their careers as PNG pilots, because this is a region operating a large number of small aircraft services and not without its challenges. The world famous aviatrix, Amelia Earhart, is even part of PNG aviation history. It is believed the last place she took off from on her ill-fated 1937 round-the-world journey before disappearing without a trace was Lae. This was part of the reason why the Morelae Airlines' inaugural flight took place in a Fokker F27 from Port Moresby to Lae, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1973. Some of the airlines that have operated in the PNG area are: Air Niugini, Sunbird Aviation, Tropic Air, Airlines of PNG (or the MBA). AIR NIUGINI was founded in 1973 and was actually the National Airline of PNG. In 1976, the PNG government bought out the holdings of TAA and Qantas, ending its takeover in 1981, at which time it became the major holder of Air Niugini. Even with modern communications, we understand that internet access in PNG can be both problematic and expensive to access but we are pleased to hear that Barry Awui is hoping to join everyone, if possible, at the 95<sup>th</sup> celebrations in October next year.



## 1968 Slade Senior Class

**Back Row:** Barry Awui, Peter Hansford, Ray Dickson, Jeff McKillop, Kenneth Khoo.  
**Middle Row:** Tony Streeten, Clive Lindenberg, Paul Masson, Will Roberts, Geoff Tyson, Lloyd Bailey, Graham Nicholls, John Gosper.  
**Front Row:** Richard Noon, Leigh Hartog, Richard Cleal, Mr Loten, Steve Cooke, Homu Kavora, Michael McDade.



# 1968 Slade Seniors: Where are they now?

IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE ON PREVIOUS PAGE:

<b>Barry Awui</b> 1963-1968	As per brief bio on page 9. Barry lives now at Alatoa, PNG.
<b>Peter Hansford</b> 1967-1968	Lived at Mitchell whilst at Slade. Enjoyed a banking career spanning 40 years: Geelong to Thursday Island and many places in between. Retired, with wife Margie, in the Redlands District of South East Queensland, now enjoying a bit of golf and tennis.
<b>Ray Dickson</b> 1966-1968	Lived in Dalby and Woodgate when going to Slade. Moved to Townsville in 1969 where he put down roots and stayed on. After a few jobs, went to work at the local paper, the Townsville Bulletin, for 34 years. After retiring some years ago, now works part-time at ABC North Queensland radio as an announcer and producer. Married Jenny in 1976, two grown-up children and one granddaughter.
<b>Jeff McKillop</b> 1965-1968	Member and spokesman for the Liston Community Hall Group which, in January 2019 installed a Cobb & Co Coach lovingly restored by a local craftsman taking pride of place as a new landmark in Liston.
<b>Kenneth Khoo</b> 1967-1968	Unknown. Came to Slade from Johore in Malaysia.
<b>Tony Streeten</b> 1965-1968	No response. Came to Slade from McLean, NSW. Living now at Everton Park, Brisbane.
<b>Clive Lindenberg</b> 1965-1968	No response. Came to Slade from Pittsworth. Living in Toowoomba.
<b>Paul Masson</b> 1967-1968	Lived in Yuleba when he went to Slade. Studied education at Kelvin Grove Teacher's College in Brisbane before being posted to schools in Yuleba, Quilpie, Dalby, Imbil, Somerset Dam, Emu Vale, Ambrose, Injune and Chinchilla. Married to Beryl with three children and eleven grand children. Retired to a small property in Yuleba 14 years ago and have enjoyed, gardening, building/renovating, property work, community involvement (Cobb & Co Festival), travelling Australia with friends and travelling to visit family.
<b>Will Roberts</b> 1967-1968	Spent most of his life working in the motor trade. Saw service in Saigon in 1972. Always had a great love of travel and has visited over 50 countries. Has been very happily retired south of Bangkok for the last seven years.
<b>Geoff Tyson</b> 1965-1968	No Response. Came to Slade from Rabaul, PNG. Living now at Everton Park Brisbane.
<b>Lloyd Bailey</b> 1963-1968	Grew up on and then owned farm, "Bonroy" at Bongeen a district 45 km west of Toowoomba on the Central Downs. Some of the best times of his life with the friendships made endure to this day. Married Beverley in 1975 (God, he hopes he got that right) and had two children, one of whom works at the mines and a daughter in Brisbane. His five grandchildren are aged 7 to 16. Sold the farm in 2004 and moved to Toowoomba after Beverley's cancer returned and took hold. He lost her in 2008 and sincerely expresses thanks for all those friendships made at Slade lending support. Moved to Pittsworth 2015, bought a caravan with a friend having decided there had been enough travelling the globe and keen to see more of Australia. "Should have started twenty years ago" he says, adding "Big place". First learned to fly the day after he got back from school in 1968. Has been flying privately ever since, owning a couple of aircraft and then eventually building his own. Like his old mate from Slade, Barry Awui, Lloyd has always been interested in aviation even to the extent of skydiving—380 jumps—for a few years. Retired since selling the farm but busy with casual and voluntary work here and there. Has since married again to Margaret, his travelling partner, to live HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
<b>Graham Nicholls</b> 1968-1968	Currently unknown but worked for the Commonwealth Public Service and lived in Townsville in the early 90s. Came to Slade from Boroka, PNG.
<b>John Gosper</b> 1963-1968	No response. Came to Slade from Roma and later lived in Warwick. Last known to be living at Murphy's Creek near Toowoomba.
<b>Rick Noon</b> 1960-1968	No response. Came to Slade from Mitchell. Last known to be living and working in Emerald.
<b>Leigh Hartog</b> 1963-1968	Lived in Bingara NSW. 1969 worked on a local farm at Bingara, then moved to Sydney surveying 1970. Moved to Forster 1971 surveying and making beds in a motel. 1972 spent three months in Europe and moved back to Sydney surveying. In 1973 started working for J K Williams Constructions as a surveyor, married, had four kids and lived and work [still] at Penrith NSW. Bought the company in 1992. Also, in 1992 Leigh took Steve Cooke to the NRL Grand final when Brisbane won the first time. He wouldn't go home for a week! Moved from Penrith to Pymont (Sydney CBD) in 2008. Last year built a new house back in Forster/Tuncurry where most of his time is currently spent now that travel is restricted. With the COVID situation, TEAMS and Zoom save a lot of travel to the Pymont and Penrith offices. Most of the kids are in the business—only eight grand kids.
<b>Richard Cleal</b> 1964-1968	Lived in Goondiwindi when he went to Slade. Moved to Brisbane 1969 and after a few years in Brisbane moved to Townsville for twenty years. Has now lived back in Brisbane about twenty years. Worked in Banking, Libraries, and Government. Even managed to own a record store in Townsville and become a Councillor on the Townsville City Council (Ray Dickson lived in his ward!), recently retired after working as an Adviser in Ministerial Offices and currently enjoying spending time with family including two grandsons (and a granddaughter on the way).
<b>Steve Cooke</b> 1964-1968	After leaving Slade, joined the National Bank in his hometown, Bollon and worked in various banking roles throughout Southern Queensland Branches. Married his wife, Ann, in Charleville 1972. Recently retired after a working life spent in Banking and Finance - twenty years with NAB, eight years with Metway before opening and operating his own Finance Broking business, Connect Finance, for 20 years. Sold the business in 2018, but continued acting in an Introductory and Consultancy role for the last two years. Has lived in Brisbane since 1984 and feels lucky to have a son, daughter and two grandsons living within 30 mins travel. Now thoroughly enjoying the third phase of life with regular catch ups with family and friends old and new, travel/golf and gardening all seem to fill the days. Steve says he is not sure HOW he ever fitted in work! Where have those 52 years gone since this photo?
<b>Homu Kavora</b> 1963-1968:	Homu came to Slade from Port Moresby. We believe him to be deceased
<b>Michael McDade</b> 1962-1968	Lived in Madang New Guinea when he went to Slade. Moved back to New Guinea after school and joined Ansett Airlines in Madang. Moved to Australia with Ansett in 1973 through 1980 working in Sydney, Brisbane, Cairns and Melbourne. Resigned from Ansett in 1980 and moved to Kansas City Missouri where he joined a Pharmaceutical Company, Organon Inc, as a Sales Representative then Sales Manager. Moved to San Diego CA in 1985 then back to Australia (Brisbane) at the end of 1996. Now lives in Melbourne having retired at the end of 2016 after 33 years with Organon/MSD (takeover in 2010). Mike and his partner Mary have just completed 14 months travelling around Australia with their two dogs Jesse and Jack. They have four lovely grandchildren in Mackay and San Diego.



Vietnam Veterans Day was originally known as Long Tan Day, and chosen to commemorate the men of D Company, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6RAR), who fought in the battle of Long Tan on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 1966. 105 Australians, some being National Servicemen, most not battle hardened and, 3 artillery forward controllers from New Zealand, fought a desperate battle against overwhelming odds of an estimated 2,000 plus North Vietnamese of the 275<sup>th</sup> Regiment and, Viet Cong of the D445 Battalion. The battle took place in a rubber plantation near the village of Long Tan, some four kilometres from the 1 Australian Task Force (1ATF) base at Nui Dat. The Australians prevailed, but only after four hours of fighting, sometimes in torrential rain. They were nearly overrun being only lightly armed, but were saved by an ammunition resupply via two helicopters from 9 Squadron RAAF, accurate artillery support from New Zealand, Australian and United States batteries of almost 3,500 rounds from the nearby 1ATF base, and the arrival of A Company 6RAR reinforcements in armoured personnel carriers from 3 Troop, 1 APC Squadron. B Company 6RAR arriving on foot also reinforced D Company's position. The battle was now over with the enemy retreating. Eighteen Australians lost their lives and twenty four were wounded, the largest number of casualties in a single operation since the Australian Task Force had arrived in Vietnam in March 1966. After the battle the bodies of 245 enemy soldiers were reportedly found, but there was evidence that many more bodies had been carried or dragged away. Long Tan has joined Gallipoli, the Western Front, Beersheba, Tobruk, the Kokoda Trail and Kapyong in Australian military history.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 1969, on the third anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, a cross was raised on the site of the battle by the men of 6RAR. Veterans from the battle gathered at the cross to commemorate the fallen, and the day was commemorated as Long Tan Day from then on. Over time, Vietnam veterans adopted the day as one to commemorate all those who served and died during the entire Vietnam War.



18<sup>th</sup> August 1969, members of 6 RAR erected the Long Tan Cross at the battle site

Unfortunately Vietnam veterans in their entirety were not provided with a welcome home parade until 1987, with the successful "Welcome Home" parade for Vietnam veterans in Sydney, attended by a crowd of some 110,000 with 22,000 veterans from Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, the United States and South Korea involved in the march. The Prime Minister of the day, Bob Hawke announced that Long Tan Day would in future be known as Vietnam Veterans Day. Since then, it has been commemorated every year as the day on which all the men and women who served in Vietnam are remembered.

*Information contained herein has been obtained from multiple sources including: The Australian Army, The Australian War Memorial, Wikipedia, The Military Shop and an article by Libby Stewart. Every attempt has been made to ensure the information provided is as accurate as possible.*

Some time ago the question, "Do we know who served in Vietnam?" was asked. Ted Ross, has examined the records he could find and compiled a list including the slimmed down details here at right. His full spreadsheet with complete rank and service details is available on request. We are also keen to identify those among us who have served in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. If you are able to assist with this we would love to hear from you. The 3 Slade boys, listed below beside their years at school, are those we are aware of who served in Korea. As the years pass it becomes harder for us to confirm details so your input is valued. James Raff, below, is deceased but if you know the whereabouts or current status of those on either of these lists we would be pleased to hear from you.

RAFF	James Alexander	1938-42
SAXBY	Richard George	1941-42
SLATTER	Cedric Norman	1943-45

Edwin Wickham sent us the information overleaf re Vietnam Veterans' Day and the following brief bio on himself...

*"At the age of 19, I enlisted in the Australian Regular Army Supplement on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 1970 after parental permission was given. I was assigned to the Royal Australian Engineers which was my first choice. After recruit training, corps training, battle preparedness and a plant operator course, I was sent on pre-embarkation leave. I embarked for South Vietnam on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1970, arriving in Saigon then onto 1 Australian Task Force at Nui Dat. Despite being posted as a plant operator, I was assigned to 3 Troop, 1 Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers, for improvised explosive devices detection and demolitions. I left Vietnam 9<sup>th</sup> December 1971, following a short stint with 21 Support Troop as 1 Field Squadron departing 18<sup>th</sup> November 1971 and was discharged 5<sup>th</sup> January 1973 after serving the balance of my time at 1 Field Regiment, Holsworthy.*

*I was one of four Wickham extended family who attended Slade and served in the armed forces, the others being Hector Reginald Wickham, John Walter Wickham and Charles Robert Wickham, all who served during the Second World War. Regards Edwin (Eddie) Wickham"*



**SLADE BOYS KNOWN TO US WHO SERVED IN THE VIETNAM CONFLICT**

FAMILY NAME	FIRST NAMES	YRS AT SLADE	SERVICE ARM	PERIOD OF MILITARY SERVICE
BAKER	Jeffrey Stephen George	1952-52	RAAF	21/01/1969 16/10/1969
BARR	Anthony Murray	1957-64	RAN	22/04/1966 18/05/1966
BARTHOLOMAI	Derek Kay	1960-63	RAN	31/05/1966 12/11/1970
BELL	Owen William	1955-59	Army	14/09/1965 27/08/1970
BROWNLESS	Michael Anthony	1952-59	RAN	7/03/1967 1/03/1970
CLARRY	Hugh William	1957-57	Army	11/12/1967 10/12/1968
COLLAS	Jolijon Cyril Anthony	1953-53	RAN	27/05/1965 13/06/1968
CROOK	Keith Treloar	1957-62	Army	29/07/1969 9/07/1970
DART	Geoffrey Kingston	1961-62	Army	12/12/1967 5/12/1968
DAVIES	Robert James	1961-65	RAN	22/12/1967 13/06/1968
DICKMAN	Lynn Thomas	1958-58	Army	1/05/1971 12/08/1971
DONALDSON	Eric	1950-53	RAAMC	1969 1996
EKELUND	Bruce Neville Morris	1952-52	Army	27/05/1965 7/06/1966
ELKINGTON	Roderick Michael	1962-63	Army	9/11/1968 16/07/1969
ERHARDT	Colin Frederick	1955-56	Army	31/05/1966 11/03/1967
FILL	Graham Boyden	1957-61	Army	19/12/1966 14/08/1967
GILES	David Peter	1955-56	Army	19/05/1967 13/06/1968
GILES	William Frederick	1952-56	RAN	31/05/1965 22/06/1965
GORDON	Brian Donald	1955-61	Army	19/05/1967 26/03/1968
GORDON	Geoffrey Walter	1945-46	RAAF	1/04/1970 2/04/1971
GRALL	Trent	1958-59	Army	2/04/1967 26/04/1968
GREENWAY	James Noel	1958-59	Army	29/04/1967 10/10/1967
GUY	Anthony Francis	1960-62	Army	13/05/1971 12/08/1971
HUNGERFORD	John William Boyle	1958-59	Army	19/05/1967 9/01/1968
JOHNSON	Reginald Moreton Henry	1955-55	Army	5/11/1968 25/02/1969
KELLY	David Roy	1960-60	Army	28/05/1968 28/05/1969
KEYS	Terence Carson	1958-60	Army	4/06/1966 14/09/1966
LEE	Ian Laurence	1962-67	Army	24/09/1970 16/09/1971
LEIS	Keith Harold	1959-64	Army	2/04/1969 2/04/1970
MACE	Keith William	1954-59	RAN	31/05/1965 1/06/1971
MCLACHLAN	Phillip Robson	1959-60	Army	4/05/1971 15/12/1971
MCLACHLAN	James John	1962-62	RAN	7/03/1967 27/09/1967
MEARNS	Robin Louis Niels	1962-65	Army	14/01/1971 14/10/1971
MEIKLEJOHN	Alan George	1955-59	Army	22/09/1966 27/09/1967
MEIKLEJOHN	Robert Hugh	1949-50	Army	26/05/1971 9/06/1971
MEIKLEJOHN	Stewart Sinclair	1953-54	Army	24/03/1969 25/03/1970
MILLS	Noel Reginald John	1938-44	Army	8/05/1969 16/05/1970
MOSS	Thomas William Elias	1958-59	Army	25/03/1971 27/02/1972
MURRAY	Arthur Nicholas	1960-62	Army	8/04/1967 26/04/1968
NAGEL	John Gordon	1961-62	RAAF	4/06/1968 5/06/1969
NANTES	Garth Hutton	1953-56	RAN	25/04/1965 9/06/1966
NUGENT	Barry Edward	1959-59	Army	3/01/1967 12/12/1967
PERKINS	Daryl Henry	1956-58	Army	26/12/1967 28/12/1968
PIPER	Gary Douglas	1951-54	Army	10/12/1965 4/06/1970
RIGBY	John Francis	1961-62	Army	19/08/1970 19/08/1971
ROBERTS	William John	1967-68	Army	17/10/1971 18/12/1972
RUTHERFORD	Ian Donald	1951-54	RAN	11/05/1965 22/06/1965
RUTT	Hayden Russell	1960-62	RAN	25/04/1966 9/06/1966
RYAN	Michael	1957-59	RAAF	22/04/1966 25/04/1966
SALLWAY	Ralph Hilton	1952-54	RAAF	14/01/1968 1/01/1969
SEATON	Daniel Clive	1960-61	Army	21/05/1968 30/05/1969
SHAW	Peter Scott	1960-61	RAAF	23/03/1968 12/02/1969
SINCLAIR	Clinton Erle	1959-62	Army	28/03/1970 19/11/1970
SMITH	Kenneth Raymond	1967-67	RAN	21/10/1970 12/11/1970
SMITH	Maxwell Douglas	1950-50	Army	4/05/1966 28/05/1967
SULLIVAN	Kevin Raymond	1961-64	Army	17/11/1969 4/06/1970
TILMOUTH	Richard	1959-59	Army	13/11/1968 5/12/1969
TYRRELL	David Norman	1960-63	Army	2/05/1966 12/05/1967
VANSLEVE	Neal Whitney	1963-63	Army	2/07/1968 21/01/1969
WALKER	Terence Francis Harvey	1945-50	Army	22/07/1970 18/11/1971
WICKHAM	Edwin Charles	1964-65	Army	10/12/1970 9/12/1971
WOOD	William Thomas	1954-59	Army	14/05/1969 14/05/1970
ZELLER	Herbert George	1958-58	Army	19/09/1966 27/08/1970

The two Slade boys' names below appear to match official service records but positive confirmation is required.

RAYMOND	Ronald George	1945-46	RAAF	30/09/1964	15/03/1965
SMITH	William Thomas	1946-46	Army	24/02/1967	9/01/1968

The above data is as complete as our existing records can make it. If you know of anyone else who needs to be added to this list please send details to our archivist **Ted Ross: cros56704@bigpond.net.au**

ON OUR CONTACT LIST	INDICATES DECEASED	INDICATES WOUNDED IN ACTION IN VIETNAM
---------------------	--------------------	--



**ROLL OF HONOUR - THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN**

AGE	RANK	NAME	UNIT	ARA/NS	Date of Death	Born
21	2 Lt	G.C. Sharp	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	Tamworth, NSW
21	L/Cpl	J.Jewry	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	St Mary's, NSW
21	Pte	A.F.McCormack	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	Launceston, TAS
21	Pte	D.J.McCormack	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	Adelaide, SA
21	Pte	C.J.Whiston	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	Sydney, NSW
21	Pte	D.J.Salveron	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	Brisbane, QLD
21	Pte	D.J.Thomas	6RAR	ARA	18 August 1966	Bendigo, VIC
20	Pte	E.F.Grant	6RAR	ARA	18 August 1966	Thurgoona, NSW
19	Pte	F.B.Topp	6RAR	ARA	18 August 1966	Toowoomba, QLD
21	Pte	G.A.Drabble	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	Brisbane, QLD
22	Pte	J.M.Houston	6RAR	ARA	18 August 1966	Wallsend, NSW
21	Pte	K.H.Gant	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	Brisbane, QLD
22	Pte	M.R.Wales	6RAR	ARA	18 August 1966	Goondiwindi, QLD
21	Pte	P.A.Large	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	Wellington, NSW
21	Pte	R.A.Aldersea	6RAR	ARA	18 August 1966	Perth, WA
21	Pte	V.R.Grice	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	Ballarat, VIC
21	Pte	W.D.Mitchell	6RAR	NS	18 August 1966	Dalby, QLD
21	T/Cpl	P.E.Clements*	1 APC Sqn	ARA	27 August 1966	Cunderlin, WA

# Valé

**“How can the dead be truly dead when they still live in the souls of those who are left behind?”**

## Paul Bailey



BAILEY, Paul Charles, late of Toowoomba, passed away at home 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2014. Paul attended Slade 1949-55.

He sat for Junior in 1954 and was awarded Half Colours for Swimming.

Paul's sister, Leith Patricia Bailey attended St Catharine's in 1954.

## Jennifer Gardiner

GARDINER, Jennifer Jean, nee Smith, late of Yeppoon passed away in April 2008 aged 75 years. Jennifer was a day girl at St Catharine's 1944-1948. She sat for Junior in 1948 and was a Patrol Leader in St Catharine's 1948 2<sup>nd</sup> Warwick Guide Company while the late Fay Hesp was Acting Captain. Her marriage to John Ronald Gardiner was most memorably conducted in St Catharine's school chapel in 1954 (see page 5). John Ronald Gardiner died in 2015 aged 84.

## Dorothy Marsden

MARSDEN, Dorothy Margaret Newman, late of Graceville, passed away peacefully 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 aged 101 years. Miss Marsden taught at St Catharine's after her graduation from university in 1941. She was a Neal House mistress. The history of our schools is peppered with the impact that two World Wars had on them. Many of us grew up as baby boomers in the immediate shadow of WWII while others were students at the time and vividly remember everything the war brought to their immediate families and school days.

A notation in the 1942 St Catharine's Chronicle reads:

We were among the minority to whom the war has been kind—our numbers almost trebled themselves this year, and for a time we had over 100 boarders. This sudden influx meant hard work for those in charge, increased accommodation and a large staff. We were pleased to welcome Miss Marsden from St Margaret's, Miss Scougall and Miss Thorne from St Anne's, Miss Keane from St Michael's, Miss Baranovsky from St John's, Mrs Olsen from Newcastle and Miss Harry from the Melanesian Mission. Mother Elizabeth visited us early in the year during the weekend when many voluntary workers were digging our slit trenches in front of our school house. Dr Oakeley and Mr Lefranche, Superintendent of the Ambulance, gave us weekly lectures on First Aid, but unfortunately all the doctors were too busy to come and examine such a large class. Throughout the year we have worked for the Prisoners of War Fund and proudly handed in a cheque for £52 for the first six months. The amount was raised as follows: -

	£	s.	d.
Primary Concert	2	6	6
Sale of Ice Cream	1	13	0
House Evenings	4	13	0
School Concert	30	8	3
Boarders Weekly Subscriptions	17	3	0
Day Girls Weekly Subscriptions	1	4	9
Staff	3	0	0
Donations		13	0
Total	61	1	6
Cheque	52	0	0
Balance	£9	1	6

The whole school hopes to hold a Drill Display, immediately after Michaelmas, for the fund. St Catharine's Day was happily spent with school in the morning and organised sport for all in the afternoon. Ascension Day was a day of work—the Seniors mended many books in the library and checked all. Our dance with Slade was very enjoyable.

## MEMORY LANE

With Daily News history buff Col Furness

**Golden memories:** Those school students who attended St Catherine's School - The White House - in Locke Street, served many years in educating community members of Warwick and district. Unfortunately this grand old school house was destroyed by fire in 1983. Students who attended the school may have photographs of fond activities hosted at St Catherine's School they could share with our *Daily News* readers by contacting Col Furness on 46611355.

Page 6: Daily News, Thursday, May 26, 2005.

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

*As always, we are deeply appreciative of information that you are able to contribute about any of our number we have lost. Please be sure to pass on anything that should be included in our Valé or Obituary notices.*

*worthy of their forebears*



Members of the Slade Campus Past Students' Association are committed custodians of the history of Slade School and St Catharine's Church of England Girls School, and of the two schools which preceded the formation of St Catharine's Warwick, St Catharine's Church of England Girls High School, Stanthorpe and CEGS Warwick and the Warwick Christian College. Members of the Association may include past students and members of staff of Slade School or of St Catharine's Church of England School, or of the St Catharine's Church of England Girls High School Stanthorpe, or the Church of England Girls School, Warwick or Warwick Christian College and their descendants, past students of any other school, who have attended the campus and members of staff of any other school, who have attended the campus.



*1982 Slade Seniors posted by Ken Gordon (1981-82)*

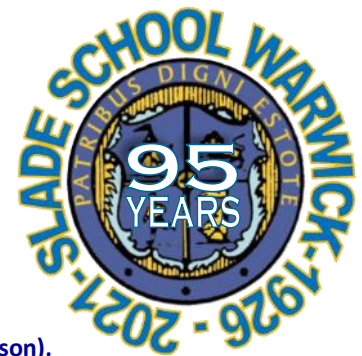


**Left to Right**

**Back Row:** Sammy Tamu, Alan Martin, Samuel Bann, Ken Gordon, Edward Fewings, George Wharton, Peter Cause

**Second Row:** Robyn Finlay, Megan Kerindun, Rose Marie Hamlyn, Miriam Cavanagh, Ester Wolmby, Lynette Pender, Lisa Davis

**Front Row:** Michelle Garrett, Christine Steadman, Carolyn Frazer, Kerri Heagney, Sara Parsons, Leanne Owens, Carol Steadman



**NAMES FOR THOSE IN REUNION PHOTOS ON PAGE 7**

**TOP 1940S** Left to Right: Joan Waldon (Taylor), Beth Calcino (Harding), Betty McKenzie (Thompson), Joan Campbell (Hinton), Madeline Blyth (Eagar), Joan Austin (Beckinsale) and Gloria Coombe (Donovan).

**2ND ROW** Left to Right: Holly Clifford (WCC 2012-2015); 1970s Susan Jackson, Barbara Henning, Vicki Schroder (Lyons), Diana Yung (Inman), Marie Janzekovich (Brutnall)

**3RD ROW** 1960s Left to Right: Kathy Grout (Beech), Mea Mallard (Solomon); 1970s Deb Rigney, Lesley Knezevic (Noon), Kathy Fabila (Inman)

**4TH ROW** 1960s Left to Right: Dawn Tam (Wormwell), Erue Stevens (Lawrence), Jocelyn Martin (Wright), Gloria Mogridge (Cooper), Margaret Tiller (Fraser), Beverley Nelson (Telford), Lois Speed (Goodwin), Legu Bate Lee, Margaret Stewart (Ree), Judith Gillam,

# Brigalow, Billy Cans and Bottle Trees

Joan Clothier White published 2010

## *Chapter 6: All in the Name*

DAD'S NEW SELECTION had not, so far, been given a name. Names sometimes had a habit of being a thorny issue in our family. Take Mum's given name for instance.

Mum had been called Dolores by her parents and, from the time she was old enough to be aware of it, loathed the name with a passion.

At one time, when she was a child returning home from an episode of prolonged hospitalisation, she had all of her hair shorn off and had been playing with the boys next door. Because the new neighbours had not known her before she went to hospital, they thought she too was a boy.

Here, with her new found playmates, she had been going by the name, Bill or "Billy". You may be certain she was not willing to own up to her female status or, even worse, ownership of the hated name, Dolores. So it was that later on when she was back in her own family's terrace-house kitchen and was addressed as Dolores by her parents, she turned to them and announced in a superior tone "My name is *not* Dolores. *My name is Billie!*"

The name Billie stuck fast and so forever afterwards she called herself this, taking pains to make sure everyone understood it should have the feminine "ie" ending rather than the masculine "y" if it needed to be spelled. We can only surmise that her parents, Charles and Alice, who must have been pleased to bestow on their oldest surviving daughter a name that they considered to be an elegant and cultured one, were less than impressed by her disregard of their choice.

Then along came Dad. But when he met Mum he could not reconcile his mental image of a billy with that of his intended. For him a billy was and always would be a sooty blackened metal utensil for boiling water in or cooking with over a fire.

We almost never heard him address Mum as Billie. He would either call her by her official given name, Dolores or else, if he really wanted to get on her goat, that time honoured, less than refined moniker, Missus. Of course, both terms of address served to irritate her equally and she did her best to ignore them whenever they were used. When he did call her Billie it was generally only when we had visitors and we all wondered who on earth he was talking about.

Dad, himself, did not use his own given first name. He had been christened John Chadwick Maxwell. It is believed that he was given the Chadwick because it was a family name some time back in his father's lineage.

Apparently the Chadwicks had been a relatively well-to-do, English family who did not approve of the marriage that one their daughters, Alice, had made. Apparently Dad's parents reasoned that including Chadwick among the names of one of her descendants might bring about some form of reconciliation and, who knows, perhaps acknowledgement should there be any dispersal of a family fortune to consider.

Of course, this never happened. Dad was never addressed as John or Chadwick except on official documents including his mail and he was always known as Max.

An amusing anecdote involves his being called Max. One day he appeared back at the hut in considerable haste from some chore or other over on the other side of the creek. It was a long time before he was expected home and somewhat breathlessly and tersely, he wanted to know what Mum wanted. Mum, who was outside up to her elbows in soap suds doing the washing, looked more than a little perplexed at his curt inquiry.

The mystery was solved, though not to the satisfaction of everyone, when Dad realised it must have been a black cockatoo he had heard in the distance and mistaken it for Mum calling out *M-a-a-a-x!* Judging by the urgency of the "summons" he had heard, he thought we must have been in dire peril of some kind and rushed back to camp to see what was wrong.

Distance, it was pointed out, may well have been a mitigating factor. Dad was working a good half mile away or more when he heard the call on the breeze. He was, I think, just relieved that nothing life threatening had happened. If help was in fact urgently needed, a lot could have happened before much might have been able to be done about it.

For all the isolation that we lived in we never dwelt on the possibility of serious disaster befalling us but I am certain that our relatives, far away from us in Sydney and Newcastle, did enough worrying on this score for all of us!

For her part, Mum was far from flattered to realise that Dad had likened her voice to the screech of a cockatoo.

Still, there was not much that could not be put right by a calming sit down and a good, restorative cup of hot tea and this was one of the many things that we all found to laugh about later when enumerating some of our most notable “Remember whens”.

When it had come to bestowing my name, Joan, on me, there was very little deliberating to be done. I was promptly named after Dad’s sister-in-law for whom Mum also had a warm regard.

When baby number two was born, both Mum and Dad felt certain they were having a boy this time and he was going to be called Christopher. Apparently there was no family tradition to be upheld here and they simply liked the name. Imagine their surprise when Christopher turned out to be girl. Undeterred, they modified the name slightly to Kristine spelt with a “K” so she would not be exactly the same as every other Christine.

Mum and Dad finally had their son when Leon was born. Dad had recently read “The Four Just Men” and plucked the name from there. As the oldest boy, Leon got to carry on the Maxwell as his second name.

The bestowing of names on property became another case worthy of mention: Dad’s Yuleba property had been listed for sale as “Lochinbar”. I have no recollection of its being known as Lochinbar while we lived there. If this name had any particular significance it was never discussed at length with the rest of us.

I am almost certain that this is a name that was hastily given to it at the suggestion of the agent when Dad needed to sell out before taking up his selection. The reason for this was for the property—which would never have been called prime grazing land even on its best day—to sound more established and therefore more marketable with its own given name.

Now, however, the important task of finding just the right name for the new selection needed to be addressed and there was no hasty decision about to be made this time. The new block had once been part of the neighbouring property, Warraka Downs. Since the subdivision, it enjoyed its own legal title and it was agreed it should be given a name to reflect its new separate status. We were searching for something that had not already been done to death as a property name and that we could all visualise having a certain cachet to it.

Lots of other places in the district had been named after the children of the owners or maybe a creek, hill or gully or some other topographical feature worthy of note. Various possibilities were tossed around so that Dad’s dream acquisition might eventually be recognised by its own suitably apt title.

Both Mum and Dad were keen to choose something with an aboriginal flavour and eventually decided on “Numeralla” which we found meant “Valley of Plenty”.

In later years, Numeralla was—and still is—at about the mid point of the regular mail service run, number 851, from Wandoan. Therefore, whenever the mail was unable to be delivered due to creeks being flooded, this run was always referred to as the service to Numeralla in ABC (Australian Broadcasting Commission) regional network news bulletins. So it was that the name, Numeralla, enjoyed a little more of an airing than most property names usually do even though it is often misspelt as *Numerella*—although not by any of us.

Grand visions of some bountiful cornucopia were conjured up by this name when put together with its translation but eventually made way for the firm conviction in our minds that the “plenty”, in truth, stood for plenty of work ...

To get the place ready for cattle, the wire from derelict old rusting fences needed to be taken up and new fences erected to create paddocks for the stock that would soon be grazing in them.

First of all the fence line had to be cleared to allow vehicular access. Post holes were dug and posts selected from trees growing on Numeralla. These posts were trimmed and sunk in the ground, holes bored in them at just the right height and the wire, two strands of barbed and two of plain, number ten gauge, strung between them. Brace and bit, pliers and wire strainers were always carried in the truck along with crow-bar and post-hole shovel and many a day was occupied in this essential task.

New boundary fences needed to be put in first. This represented a fair bit of work as Numeralla was roughly four miles long and a little less than two miles wide. Further subdividing into smaller paddocks would take place after the brigalow had been dealt with.

Once all of this was accomplished there were endless other chores such as clearing debris from floodgates, mending fences, stick-picking, stone-picking, sucker-bashing and clearing tracks to allow us to drive more easily around the property without fear of puncturing a tyre. All of these things, which did not even include the many details involved in husbanding the cattle, needed doing and took plenty of time and effort.

Without the luxury of electricity, storing fresh food and feeding the family presented something of a challenge. Dad decided he would be able to feed us all a little more economically if he kept a few sheep for slaughter and used

them as needed.

Another more compelling reason to pursue this course of action was that with Dad's problematic digestion any and all seasonings that butchers used in sausages and other prepared lines violently disagreed with him. He reasoned that by killing our own meat and not using any preservatives, herbs or spices, he might be troubled a lot less. It was certainly worth a try.

We already had one kerosene-powered Charles Hope, Cold Flame fridge. Mum and Dad had gone on a waiting list to obtain it in Yuleba when they were first married. This was because in the post-war years, building materials and most other household items were chronically scarce even if people had the ready cash to pay for them on the spot.

This fridge had been brought over with us to Numeralla and now Dad found another one exactly like it at a clearing sale. The second fridge was to be used as a meat fridge only and, on pain of death, was to be opened no more than once or twice a day to maintain maximum freshness of the meat stored in it.

The two fridges sat side by side, under a lean-to arrangement with a dirt floor in the "L" formed by the three rooms of the hut. The kerosene for both the fridges and the Tilley lamps was stored there too with the funnel for decanting the kerosene beside Dad's gumboots at the main entrance. At night, from my top bunk, I could see out through the doorway into this lean-to, right past the fridges to the darkness outside.

At that time it seemed that a whole host of house fires in country areas were being caused by kerosene fridges and I used to wonder what we would do if this happened to us. I had it all worked out that, as I would most likely see any such occurrence first from the vantage point of my bunk, it was my job to be on the alert and sound the alarm if it did.

I clearly remember there was a paler, vertical board in the wall just behind the flue of the fridge farthest from me. During the many hours I lay awake at night on the alert, I had plenty of occasion to take note of this! Perhaps loss of sleep was the thing that got the better of me because one night I woke up and thought the worst was about to happen when I caught sight of the pale board behind the fridge in the dark and mistook it for smoke.

As we say, where there's smoke there's almost always fire. Not even properly awake, I yelled out that I could see a column of smoke coming from the fridge and this brought a prompt response from Dad who immediately leapt out of bed to investigate. I felt pretty sheepish when my mistake was revealed but continued to lie awake and worry about how safe the fridges were.

Fortunately the dreaded conflagration never happened. I have subsequently learned that some things in life that we worry most about rarely happen and the ones that really throw a spanner in the works are generally those we never even stopped to consider. Just look at the anxiety I might have been spared!

Both fridges continued to work perfectly satisfactorily until Mum and Dad finally achieved the impossible dream of having electricity connected in 1973. To give Mum her due, she was always absolutely scrupulous about keeping the flue clear of soot and kept both Tilley lamps and the Shellite-fuelled Handy iron in tip-top working order. From Mum we learned how to light the lamps, change the mantles, never to overfill the tanks and to make sure the insect shields were always firmly in place.

It will be seen that the *plenty* in the meaning of Numeralla was loaded with substance for every single one of us. Mum was plenty busy coming to grips with teaching us correspondence lessons and looking after hut and hearth. All three children had plenty to learn and work at whether inside or outside of the schoolroom and Dad certainly had plenty to keep him fully occupied.

We didn't always know whereabouts "up the paddock" he might have gone but we could be absolutely certain he was gainfully occupied in seeing the progressive realisation of his plans. None of the improvements he was busy seeing to—and that were an obligation upon taking up his selection—happened without plenty of effort and there was plenty still to do.

There was plenty of scope for all kinds of other interesting things to take place and develop too and plenty more still to come.

*Next Chapter: Mates, Neighbours and Allies*