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Having a positive mental attitude is asking how something CAN be done rather than saying it CAN'T be done.
 Bo Bennett

Memories are made of this #2

1966 MOMENTS

AFTER TWENTY-ONE YEARS AT SLADE, KEITH DAN reflected in his final Headmaster's Report in 1966 on some of the grass roots ethos of Slade that had shaped him. He spoke of policy set during challenging past years "to keep fees as low as is consistent with providing a good education", noting that our school was never meant to be the "preserve of a wealthy class". And so it came about that many of us received an education not otherwise possible.

Keith Dan taught at Slade from the start of 1946 following his discharge from the RAAF at the close of WWII. His first year on staff as a teacher, he also served as house master in charge of the Junior boarders at Highfields and during his time at Slade, he coached numerous sporting teams, gaining the respect of staff, students and the wider local community. His parting words at the end of 1966, summed up his own core principles and give us some insight into the heart and mind of the man.

"This is how I see the school as I look back on my 21 years' association with Slade. That is half my life and more than half the life of this place. And what is uppermost in my memories is the self sacrifice of those who went without so that those who followed might be better off. I think of the difficulties which lack of classrooms presented in my early days, of the overcrowding in the dining room, of the most primitive staff accommodation and of inadequate Science facilities." The departing Headmaster also paid tribute to staff and school leadership who "handled all of this with courage, resource, and good humour".

Keith Dan did not detail other challenges met by Slade in the 40 years prior to 1966. These included, but were not limited to, a polio epidemic, the Great Depression, a World War, the tragic loss in different battlegrounds of so many of our brightest and best recently graduated students who fought for King and Country, the effect that war and post-war shortages/rationing had on providing the essentials and Headmasters who lived with their charges in school dormitories rather than with their own families to reduce some of Slade's staffing outlay.

At Slade, in 1966, a New Buildings Appeal had allowed the first new, (and much more modern) dormitory in 38 years to be begun. Plus, a \$30,000 bequest from the late John William Fletcher, via the Anglican diocese, meant a new swimming pool was expected to be in use on campus the following year.

11th November, the contract was signed for the building of the new Dormitory Block—Remembrance Day (a significant date since on that same day in 1950, the Archbishop of Canterbury, visiting from the UK, set the foundation stone of the Science Block as a lasting memorial to our war casualties). The tender for the new build included moving Atkinson House to accommodate stage one of Roberts House, the total amount, a little less than \$60,000.

The integration of Slade/St Catharine's Primary Schools also came about in 1966. Slade's 1961 school captain, Ronald Watson, after teaching for a time with the QLD Department of Education returned to Slade in order to head up the new look Primary School.

■ **Jan. 26** Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies resigns after 16 years as PM.

■ **Feb. 14** The Australian dollar replaces the pound at the rate of 2 dollars per pound, and/or 10 shillings per dollar.

■ **Also in Feb.** Jørn Utzon resigns as architect of the Sydney Opera House after a bitter struggle with Davis Hughes over fees, costs and design changes.

• Jack Brabham is named Australian of the Year.

• The first National Service conscripts fly out from RAAF Base Richmond in Sydney en route to the Vietnam war.

■ **Apr. 3** Luna 10, the first man made object to do so, enters lunar orbit.

■ **Jun.** Japan replaces Great Britain as Australia's largest trading partner.

• Holden becomes the first local car manufacturer to install seat belts as standard equipment.

• A minimum weekly wage for adult male employees under federal awards is introduced.

• Australia negotiates an agreement for a USA spy satellite base to be established at Pine Gap.

• Australian forces engage in the Battle of Long Tan.

■ **Sep. 8** Star Trek, the classic science fiction television series, debuts with its first episode, titled "The Man Trap."

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Editor's Notes...



UPDATING OUR DATA BASE to record those of us noted in our vale lists is quite a reality check. On the one hand, there is that inevitable sense of loss and sadness that is part of final farewells while on the other hand, the sadness is mostly tempered with pride, thankfulness and admiration for what so many of our fellows have achieved, often in spite of significant challenges encountered along the way.

With so many of the above entries of late and obituaries very much on our minds, a straightforward guide for the preparation of a eulogy, P12, provides some practical suggestions to assist with this.

News of the passing of Roy Toohey prompted reminders from several people that Roy's father, Jack, a foundation student of Slade in 1926, was one of the Rats of Tobruk. This called for an article, on this slice of WWII which means a lot more when weighted with the knowledge that one of our own was right in the thick of it. See Pg.

The "Rats" story, noted above, is the first of a series of Kinawah articles pencilled in between now and the 2026 Slade Centenary event planned to give an overview of the history of the school and to help us give due recognition to the significance of those 100 years and what they have come to mean to us collectively and individually.

Our P1 story, covers some of the legacy of the service given to Slade by Keith Dan. With his university degrees—Maths, Arts (Hons), Theology (Hons) and classical Greek—plus framing of several seminal mathematics text books, he was well qualified to do this and highly respected among his academic peers.

David Herbert sent us some of his own pictures of Rabaul and a Dawn Service he was part of in 2006 plus an intriguing account, P8, which involves some of the noteworthy local people well known to his family at the time he was growing up there.

As you will see, I am sticking with the "optimism" theme and also introducing the first part of a recently published article, P13, which explores the topic of 10 life lessons most of us learn too late. The author, Ethan Sterling, is writing for men from a man's perspective but clearly, the lessons are worthwhile for all of us. I have left Ethan's U.S. English exactly as written since, in 2024, we need to be much more accommodating than propriety once demanded of us!

And, don't miss the oh-so-timely "Last Word" from John Bayliss, P16. It's great advice!

"I believe Success is achieved by ordinary people with Extraordinary Determination." Zig Ziglar

Until next time, enjoy the read - Joan White



“Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, you are unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so.”

Noam Chomsky

2023/2024 Committee

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Johnno's CORNER

IT WAS SAD TO HEAR OF JOHN COLLINS PASSING in February this year. John was a couple of years ahead of me and in Barnes House. Although I did not have much to do with him at school I knew him to be a decent bloke who got on well with his peers. From memory John left Slade to join the Army...Artillery I think.

■ **THIS YEAR** I had the privilege of attending the WCC ANZAC Day memorial service. In my address I took the opportunity to speak a little about the Past Students Association, as one day it will be theirs, and how we are the custodians of memories and school traditions etc. I told the students of one tradition regards getting the cane. I explained that after the cane was administered, the recipient then proceeded to the old classroom block to drop their daks so the marks could be admired by all !!! – not much response. I then went on to say that it is nearly 100 years that young people have been getting an education on "the hill" and that some of those young people had to go to war and unfortunately some did not return. We reflected on how you could live your life if the person sitting beside you gave their life so the you could be free. I then moved on and read out the names of fallen past students.

■ **IT IS ALWAYS A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE** to visit the "old school" and to see how well it is being maintained. The Headmaster and his staff are positive and there is a general "good vibe" about the place.

■ **02-05-26 (LABOUR DAY WEEKEND)** is the Slade centenary weekend so now is the time to book a room or find a good excuse to buy that caravan! A function room has been booked at Club RSL Warwick. This has great facilities with a stage, projector screens and dance floor (did I just hear Suzie Quatro doing Devil Gate Drive !!!). Re program for the weekend, put your thinking caps on and email any suggestions to Martin Taylor and/or myself.

■ And as usual, on a final note, remember to get in touch with your old school mates, don't wait for them to pick up the phone, you do it, it may just make their day.

Until next time, take care. Johnno

SCPSA official website:
www.scpsawarwick.com

COMING UP IN 2024

- June 21 Winter Solstice
- July 18-28 20th Jumpers and Jazz
- August 16-23 Cobb & Co Festival
- August 18 Vietnam Veterans' Day
- September 12 RUOK Day
- September 22 Spring Equinox
- September 28 Proposed AGM date
- October 11 Warwick Rose Festival
- October 7 King's Birthday
- October 21-27 Warwick Rodeo
- November 2 Brekky Creek Lunch
- November 11 Remembrance Day



2026 BE PART OF THE CELEBRATION!

Proposed Date: Saturday, 2 May 2026

Never regret a day in your life: good days give happiness, bad days give experience, worst days give lessons, and best days give memories. Prof. Feynman



**Saturday, November 2
11.00 AM FOR LUNCH**



2024 Brekky Creek Lunch
16th ANNUAL GATHERING FOR
Slade/St Catharine's/WCC Past Students
2 Kingsford Smith Drive - Breakfast Creek. 4020

- Get together in an area set aside for us at the front
- Purchase your own drinks and meals
- Partners etc. are more than welcome
- No speeches or formal proceedings
- Catch up with old classmates in a relaxed atmosphere

WANT TO KNOW MORE? CONTACT
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Happening at 70 Horsman Road...

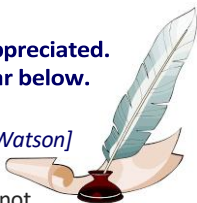



What you said: hearing back from our readers

Your contributions, as always, are greatly appreciated. Selected and edited reader responses appear below.


 **Fred Alley 1960-63** [Re the passing of Ron Watson]

That is really sad news ... I was wondering why he didn't turn up at the [2023] reunion and I was not able to contact him after that. Ronny was Number 1 in my book. 01/04/2024



 **Barry Gordon 1956-61** Thank you for the news about Ronny.


I am quite devastated. I was talking with Ron and Jennie in February. I knew he was struggling. My PNG wife of fifty years will also be shocked. She adored Ronny and his wonderful voice. May his soul live on somewhere in this universe GS. 02/04/2024


 **Greg Tweedie 1966-66** Many thanks for a great newsletter and the news of Ron Watson.

I particularly enjoyed the Peter Cover story as it was close to my old beat. Then, I had a laugh about the St Cath's girls losing the "privilege" of their annual dance in 1966 with Slade boys due to some over-friendliness! 01/04/2024


 **Jenny Schonfisch (Croft 1959-60)** Congratulations on a very enjoyable Kinawah.


I rang Leon Billing yesterday afternoon and had a long chat to him. We spoke about Ron Watson's passing and he said that his son ... is driving him to Brisbane on Saturday [from Goondiwindi] to attend the memorial service. Ron certainly achieved a lot of wonderful things in his lifetime. 02/04/2024


 **Nancy Galvin (Wilkinson 1957-58)** So sad to see another ex-pupil has died. Life seems so short the older you get. 03/04/2024


 **Jennifer Watson (Ron's wife)** [Ron's memorial service] was very special. With so many people from so many parts of Ron's life. Our little church was packed and we had to bring in extra seating. Everything I could have asked for was done and wonderfully well. We are only a small congregation but large in support and love ... Ron was loved by many from many varying walks of life. It was a moving, funny and joyous at times tribute to Ron. He had a great send off. 06/04/2024


The following responses flowed in following notification of Roy Toohey's passing.

 **Kerry Purvis (Humbley 1967-68)** Vale Roy [Toohey] and RIP .. I remember him .. very active in sports and things. 06/04/2024

 **Paul Holland (1962-67)** ...very sad news. Both Jack and Roy were very accomplished horsemen. Jack was one of the last surviving Rats of Tobruk and Roy won many a championship in riding events. His knowledge of horses was legendary. At school, he was a very talented rugby player, but his sporting days were cut short by a heart condition that no doubt contributed to his final passing. He was very loyal to his friends ... I had a lot of admiration for both he and his father who loved him deeply. Megs no doubt can add to my comments as they were very close friends ever since they were at Slade together. 06/04/2024


 **Stephen Hull (1969-72)** So sad to read this. Only today in my FB memories there were photos of my time at Slade and Roy is one of them. Regards Steve 07/04/2024


 **David Brown (1967-73)** I fondly remember him as a student 4yrs ahead of me. 07/04/2024


 **Lois Speed (Goodwin 1959-65)** Your recent Kinawah had me thinking about the year 1965 ...my senior year at St Catharine's:


- As a day girl it was my last year of riding to school, rain hail, frost and shine with my good friend Judy Deighton. Sister Lois's appointment brought about some changes that by today's standards would be judged draconian. I can't imagine my grandchildren, let alone their parents accepting her decrees without consultation.
- I remember the first social of that year. Sister Lois had definite ideas about what was a suitable social dress. I was most embarrassed when singled out and paraded on the stage at assembly in what was deemed suitable! Never wore it again! It was also the occasion when one of the Slade boys missed the bus back to school and slept in the tree outside the assembly hall till morning when he managed to get himself back to school. I wonder if he remembers? I think it may have escaped the notice of Sister Lois.
- ANZAC Day has always been an important event in Warwick. It was made special for me when I joined Judy, and the 2 Margarets (Ree and Fraser) to lay the wreath.
- As Crothers' House captain I remember marching our House members round and around the basketball courts in an attempt to win the marching trophy!
- One of the more practical additions to the school uniform during this year was the chocolate brown tracksuit introduced for winter days. Perhaps Sister Lois, having come from St Anne's in Townsville, felt the cold of the her charges. Unfortunately the day girls were not permitted to ride to school in it.
- My mother and Judy's mother established the school tuckshop baking chocolate slice, lamingtons, and tempting treats. Proved to be very popular with hungry boarders. I guess the classroom featured but I hardly remember the school work!
- Yes, Joan, some of us do read Kinawah. It brings much pleasure and connectivity to a time when we were young. You do a wonderful job bringing it to print. Well done! 08/04/2024


Below are the responses to news of the recent passing of John Noon and Roger Frizzell.

 **Richard Cleal (1964-68)** It is getting worrying when the ones passing away are younger than you. 24/04/2024

 **David Herbert (1965-67)** Knew them both, a reality check on mortality. 24/04/2024

 **Lynne Johnson (1959-62)** I don't remember either of these two boys, but I do remember when you told us about Ronnie Watson's recent death ... I wanted to say to you what an important gift you give us when you let us know. 24/04/2024

 **David Mason (1962-65)** Sorry to hear about the passing of Jack Noon. 24/04/2024

 **Richard Busser (1957-64)** Jack Noon and I had fairly parallel attendance periods at Slade. Nothing springs to mind in particular, but no doubt he was a constant part of my "school scenery". I knew they were a grazing family, which was reinforced by the arrival of younger brother Richard while I was still at "Highfields" ... (the younger kids dorm). The Noons were definitely country boys with an independent and adventurous outlook (plus an underlying, mischievous sense of humour); but, above all, good natured. It's like playing "Battleships and Cruisers" with the Grim Reaper - not all squares are blanks ... and one day he'll drop a depth charge where I am lurking. (This time it'll be a "dud" of course); but one day .. Kaboom! 26/04/2024

"The most beautiful discovery true friends make is that they can grow separately without growing apart." — Elisabeth Foley

Editor's Note: It is great to receive so much feedback even when some of it is sparked by sad news. Kinawah aims to keep us all in touch and your input is valued and welcome. Recollections of our long ago school days like Lois's above revive a ton of "lost" memories and more besides!

Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference between success and failure. Felicity Luckey

IN 2024 ONE COULD BE FORGIVEN for believing that the term "woke" cited freely, fast and often with many of its present day connotations was a new-fangled word in the endlessly evolving English language. One of our recent local election hopefuls even ran with the slogan "Say no to woke". When quizzed about what he meant, he had some difficulty in advancing a convincing definition.

The definition of "woke" fluctuates depending on who you ask. It is used of late by some conservatives as an umbrella term for [progressive values](#), most often with negative connotations implied. However, the term was originally coined by progressive Black Americans and used in racial justice movements in the early to mid-1900s. To be "woke" politically in the Black community means that someone is informed, educated and conscious of social injustice and racial inequality, so the Merriam-Webster Dictionary states.

Woke is an [adjective](#) derived from [African-American Vernacular English](#) (AAVE) meaning "alert to [racial prejudice](#) and [discrimination](#)".^[1] Beginning in the 2010s, it came to encompass a broader awareness of [social inequalities](#) such as [racial injustice](#), [sexism](#), and denial of [LGBT rights](#). The term woke has also been used as shorthand for some ideas of the [American Left](#) such as [identity politics](#), [social justice](#), i.e. [white privilege](#) and [reparations for slavery in the United States](#)^{[3][4][5]} to mention just a few "for instances".

A historical recording of the protest song "Scottsboro Boys" by black singer, Lead Belly in the 1930s -- as captured by Smithsonian Folkways, the non-profit record label of the National Museum -- [is often cited](#) as one of the earliest uses of the term. The Scottsboro Boys were nine Black teenagers falsely accused of raping two white women aboard a Southern Railroad freight train in northern Alabama in 1931 in a case that lasted decades, according to the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

In the recording of the Lead Belly song several years after the incident, "stay woke" urged Black Americans to be aware of the potential for racist violence in the South.

The term recently began to gain popularity at the start of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2014, according to the [Merriam-Webster Dictionary](#) following the fatal police shooting of Michael Brown.

In Australia, the term "woke" has also been associated with vegan food, taking action on climate change, use of the term "white privilege" and the movement for Australia to become a republic. The line some commentators and politicians take of accusing everyone they don't like of being "woke" may be cancel culture finally gone too far. Research shows most Australians are either unfamiliar with the term or else prefer a more positive definition of the word to a negative one, as stated by [The Australia Institute](#) in August 2022.

Glass 1/2 full or 1/2 empty ?

HOW'S YOUR OPTIMISM METER TRACKING NOW ?

As promised, this is part three of the article concerning the merits of staying positive featured in the last two Kinawahs. Information has been sourced from [kidshealth.org](#) and may be of help in enabling us to help ourselves and those we most care about. Now read the rest...

IS THERE A PLACE FOR PESSIMISM?

■ Pessimism can drag us down — so it's good to know we can change a negative mindset. But that doesn't mean erasing all negative thinking. A healthy "what's wrong?" mindset lets us zoom in on a problem. Thinking about what could go wrong helps us avoid too much risk.

Imagine your brother is texting while he drives you to rehearsal. Your negative thinking alerts you: "Hey, this isn't good!" So you tell your brother to stop, if not for his own safety, for yours. In this case you're combining pessimistic thinking ("Texting leads to car crashes!") with optimism ("I know I can do something about this.").

Just about all of us go through a rough patch now and then where it can seem like nothing's working. It's healthy to identify feelings when we're discouraged, and it's OK to talk about what's wrong. Confiding in someone can lift your mood and remind you of the optimistic possibilities. Negative thinking can help you move forward, as long as you don't get stuck focusing on what's wrong.

HOW TO BE MORE OPTIMISTIC

■ If you tend toward mostly pessimistic thinking, you can get better at seeing what's good. Here are some things to try:

Notice good things as they happen. At the end of the day, take 10 minutes to run through your day and come up with things that you're grateful for. Write them down in a journal or keep track using a motivational app on your phone or tablet.

Train your mind to believe you can make good things

happen in your life. Get in a habit of telling yourself specific things you can do to succeed. For example: "If I study, I can get a better grade." "If I practice, I'll perform well at the audition." "If I go on that volunteer trip, I'll meet new friends."

Don't blame yourself when things go wrong. What does your inner voice say when things don't go as planned? Instead of thinking, "I failed that math test because I'm terrible at math," tell yourself: "I failed that test because I didn't study enough. I won't let that happen next time!" Instead of saying, "Grace broke up with me because I'm such a loser," think: "Now I know why people say breakups are so painful, but hanging out with my friends will help me feel better again."

When something good happens, give yourself credit. Think of what you did to make a good outcome possible. Did you prepare for the test? Practice with dedication? Think of the strengths you used and how they helped you succeed.

Remind yourself that setbacks are temporary. As soon as something goes wrong, remind yourself that it will pass — and come up with a plan for making that happen. For example: "My SAT results aren't what I hoped, but I can study more and take the test again."

Notice how other people talk about themselves. Are friends and family members optimistic or pessimistic? For example, does your dad say, "I burned the hot dogs, I'm just a terrible cook!"? Or does he say: "I burned the hot dogs because I got distracted watching the dog chase a squirrel around the backyard!"?

Optimism is a thinking style that can be learned, which means that pessimism can be unlearned! It can take a little while, so don't feel discouraged. Becoming more aware of the two styles can gradually help you start noticing more ways to be optimistic. Just keep telling yourself, "I can be more optimistic and I'm going to keep practicing!"

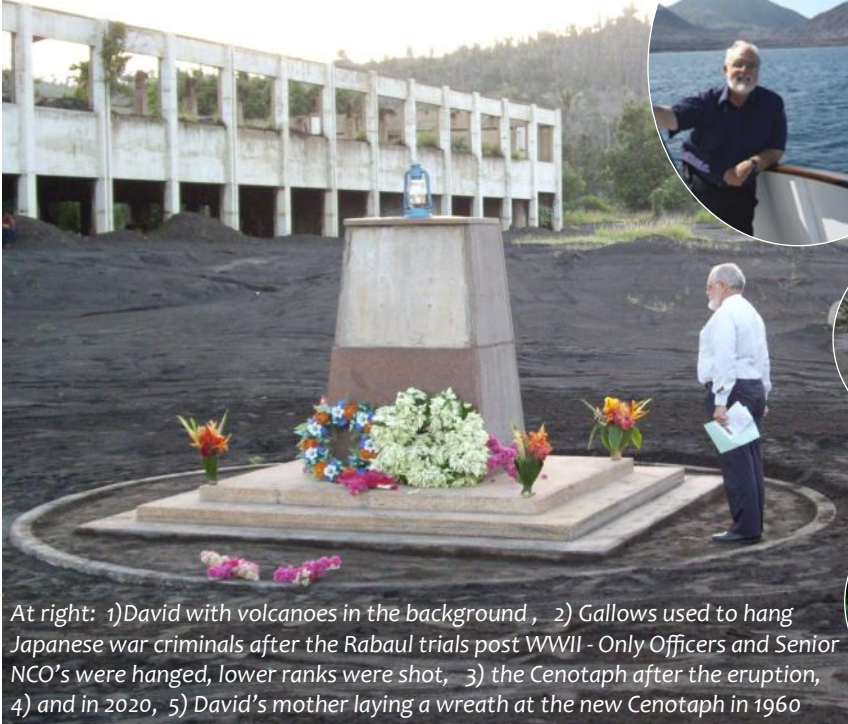
This article has been medically reviewed by Mary L. Gavin MD...

Rabaul, WW2 ghosts shrouded in volcanic ash

As has been mentioned in previous Kinawahs, Rabaul, often described as one of the most beautiful places in the tropics, sits on a volcanically dynamic/geologically volatile part of the Pacific near the juncture of shifting tectonic plates that make up the thin outer layer which covers our earth's molten core. The history of the Rabaul caldera and other parts of PNG, such as Mt Lamington is inextricably linked with the Anglican schools in Warwick. Scores of our past students came from this area to be educated while others, along with teaching staff from both schools, have lived and worked there, some during and after hugely destructive and deadly eruptions. These date back for millennia through to present times. David Herbert, Stephen Hull, Geoff Tyson and Leigh Nisbet, to name just four that we are currently in contact with, all came to us from Rabaul. Following Stephen Hull's Anzac reflection last time, David Herbert has sent us the following.





Below: Dawn Service held at the Rabaul Cenotaph in 2006. The extent of volcanic ash from the 1994 eruption is plain to see. Because the Cenotaph had, at that time, been stripped by vandals, a kerosene lantern was used for the eternal flame, and was found to be quite effective in the dawn light. David gave the eulogy as his father had given the inaugural one when the newly built Cenotaph was unveiled back in 1960. This would normally be delivered by a couple of surviving Coast Watchers but on this occasion they graciously allowed David to do so because of the significant anniversary. The remaining bare bones of war time accommodation provides a haunting backdrop to this photo, reminding us of a chapter of history that is now approaching 80 years on from the close of WWII.



At right: 1) David with volcanoes in the background, 2) Gallows used to hang Japanese war criminals after the Rabaul trials post WWII - Only Officers and Senior NCO's were hanged, lower ranks were shot, 3) the Cenotaph after the eruption, 4) and in 2020, 5) David's mother laying a wreath at the new Cenotaph in 1960

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Exploring some of Rabaul's more arcane past

'MATTIE' AND THE INIAT CULT BY MAXWELL R. HAYES

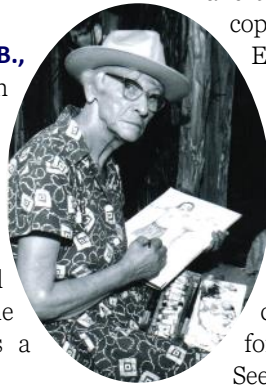
Dr Marion Aroha Radcliffe-Taylor, M.B. Ch. B., was a much loved general practitioner in Rabaul for some years in the 1950s and 60s, although then in her Seniors years. She was born in Dunedin, New Zealand on 16.8.1898, graduated from New Zealand University in 1922, specialized in orthopaedic surgery and was an Honorary Orthopaedic Surgeon at Fremantle General Hospital between 1932 and 1947, during which time she held a commission in the Australian Army as a Captain (Medical Officer) for three years.

Affectionately known as "Mattie", she was also an amateur anthropologist and a painter of some repute winning prizes in local exhibitions.

The iniat cult (also variously spelt iniad/ingiet) flourished in the Gazelle Peninsula pre and during the German era (which ended with the capture by the A.N.& M.E. Force on 14.9.1914) and had been observed and reported on by late 19th century arrivals such as Richard Parkinson, Jean Baptiste Octave Mouton and the Reverends George Brown and Wallis Danks.

It was a male only society, sworn to secrecy by various rituals. It was, in essence, an influential powerful law enforcement and extortion cult with obscure origins steeped in sorcery. The Tolais believed that no one died of natural causes; the only two causes of death being killed in war or through sorcery, both of which demanded some form of retribution, later commonly known as 'pay back'. The iniat leader, known as the "*tena kikiuwana*", had extraordinary powers enabling himself to become a bird, a pig or other animals or a shark, etc., and, when so transformed could, for a fee paid in *tambu/tabu* native shell currency, cause the death of a person aggrieved by another. The usual method was to place an animal shaped anthropomorphic carving with some droppings of the victim in the belief that he would cease to have the will to live, in much the same manner and belief of the former Aboriginal custom of "pointing the bone". Payment changing hands could remove the spell. The cult was later believed, by the Imperial German Government, to be a threat after the discovery that murders of German officials, settlers and missionaries were planned, and the cult was supposedly suppressed.

Enter "Mattie". She had been told that there was the possibility of finding some iniat carvings in a cave near Kabaira about 15 miles from Rabaul. In August 1963, she triumphantly presented herself at the Rabaul Police Station with a hessian sugar bag of carvings, and asked me to photograph them for her. This request, no doubt, came about as my late wife, Betty, was a nursing sister at her surgery. She had located about 15 pieces in various shapes, mostly broken, but some clearly discernable. The pieces appeared to have been crudely carved from either lime stone or compacted coral (coronus). All were grubby, covered in moss and suffering the ravages of time. One was of a headless human male shape about 14 inches in length, another seemed to be a pig, and there were several unidentified shapes and fragments. After cleaning these objects, I took a number of photographs for her, though I was not really interested in their background. Those photographs have been lost over the intervening years, but I submitted one to Pacific Islands Monthly



Dr 'Mattie' Radcliffe-Taylor 1963
Photo: M.R. Hayes

and that remains my only source of those photographs, this copy coming from my scrap book.

Enter Lance Corporal Torikian. A long serving policeman from Raluana then aged in his 50's he had joined the pre-war police force and served during the war. By this time he was of the genre of the old faithful police more or less kept on as "grace and favour" for their loyalty and local knowledge. Sadly, these marvellously loyal old police were pensioned off in the mid 1960s in favour of the more literate type coming into the constabulary. He was the winner of the Cresswell Shield for the most efficient policeman in 1961.

Seeking to learn more about these, to me, mysterious carvings, I called Torikian into an office and suddenly pulled back the cloth covering these shapes. As Torikian advanced he suddenly stopped, became rigid on the spot, his face blanched, his toes turned up and he was not able to utter a single word. He slowly backed out of the room and then ran away and was not seen for several days. He never spoke to me again about these carvings. What power did they have over him? Was the iniat cult really suppressed by the Germans, or was he so indoctrinated by the sorcery aspect of the cult that he lived in fear of being willed to die? We shall never know. Some sources say that the iniat cult still exists in the Duke of York island group a few miles from Rabaul. Younger Tolai police picked up these carvings, held them without any imagined threats of sorcery and asked what they were.

The iniat cult is believed to be unrelated to the "*duk duk*" society though some early sources suggest there were links. A few "*duk duk*" society members were evident in my time in Rabaul in the 1960's, though it had its origins in the pre and German era also. Based on similar beliefs, though far less secret, the leader of this male only society was a "*tubuan*" who had control of the clan's monetary assets namely the *tambu/tabu* shell money then commonly in usage. Women were forbidden to walk on the sacred places of the "*duk duk*" on pain of death and were also forbidden to look directly at, or speak to, one.

The primitive costume of the "*duk duk*" was a multi layered ball shaped cape of red and green leaves extending from the neck line around the upper body to the thighs and surmounted by a tall conical headdress made of wicker and decorated tapa cloth with a crowning bunch of white feathers. These sights would be familiar to some who lived in the Gazelle Peninsula. On a humorous note, because of the connotations of secrecy, freemasons of the Masonic lodges were known as "*duk duks*" and the lodge as "*haus duk duk*".

Little is known of "Mattie" after she sold her practice to Dr Maitland Hood. She is believed to have died at Hall's Creek, Northern Territory.

This report does not purport to be an authoritative source of information on either the iniat cult or the "*duk duk*" society.

Editor's Note: When David Herbert knew him, Maxwell R Hayes was the Police Forensic Officer in Rabaul in the late 1950's-1960's. Maxwell R Hayes is also the author of "The Royal Papua New Guinea constabulary: a brief outline of its history". This work was published in 1977 and is part of the catalogue of the National Library of Australia.

Nostalgia is a file that removes the rough edges from the good old days

Tobruk: Our Rats, tenacious in a lengthy siege

As has been noted already, one of our own, and the father of Roy Toohey, who we farewelled April 12 at Albany Creek Memorial Park Garden Chapel, was Thomas James Toohey AKA "Jack". Jack, a foundation student of Slade in 1926, was one of the Rats of Tobruk. If you are fortunate enough to have been exposed to history by a teacher who understood and loved it, you will already be aware of most of the backstory associated with this World War II battleground in northern Africa. You, like me, may even have a father or grandfather who was part of the conflict in Northern Africa. Sadly, many people's first experience with history comes by way of someone who did not have the skill to bring the story to life and the subject was found to be a dull litany of dates, people, wars and places—to be avoided as a subject choice or simply not part of the study stream chosen. For those unfamiliar with it, what follows is an outline of the Tobruk struggle. Information is sourced from the Australian War Memorial website.

TOBROUK IS A COASTAL PORT IN LIBYA, NORTH AFRICA, which was a colony of Fascist Italy until 1943. The town was the scene for one of Australia's earliest actions in the Second World War.

Troops of the 6th Australian Division were part of the Allied Western Desert Force that captured Tobruk from the Italians in January 1941. When the 6th Division was sent to serve in the Greek Campaign in early March, the 9th Australian Division took over at Tobruk. Unfortunately, German and Italian forces besieged (surrounded) the Allies at Tobruk for 8 months, from April to December 1941.

Before taking Tobruk, the Allies had been fighting Italian forces in North Africa. The Italians suffered setbacks and lost ground to the Australians. The situation compelled Germany to send forces to help the Italians. The German forces, known as the Afrika Korps, were led by General Erwin Rommel, an excellent military strategist. Rommel's troops and the Italian forces were known as the Axis.

Tobruk was vital to Axis operations because it was the only deep-water harbour in Eastern Libya. Without the port, the Axis armies would be forced to bring most of their troops and supplies overland. The long, hot desert crossings would harm their front-line operations.

Between April and August 1941 around 14,000 Australian

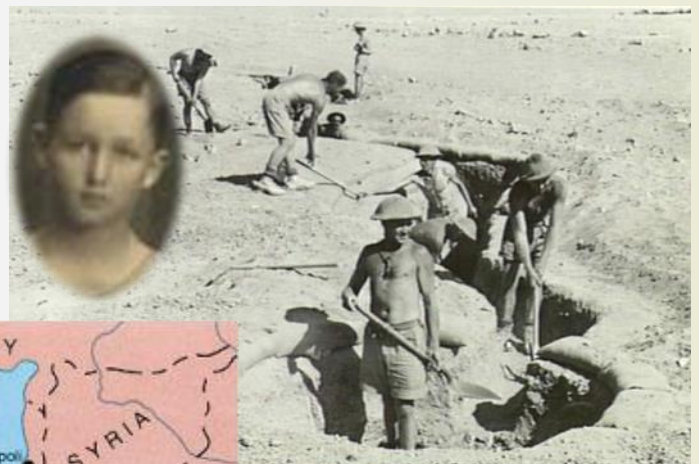
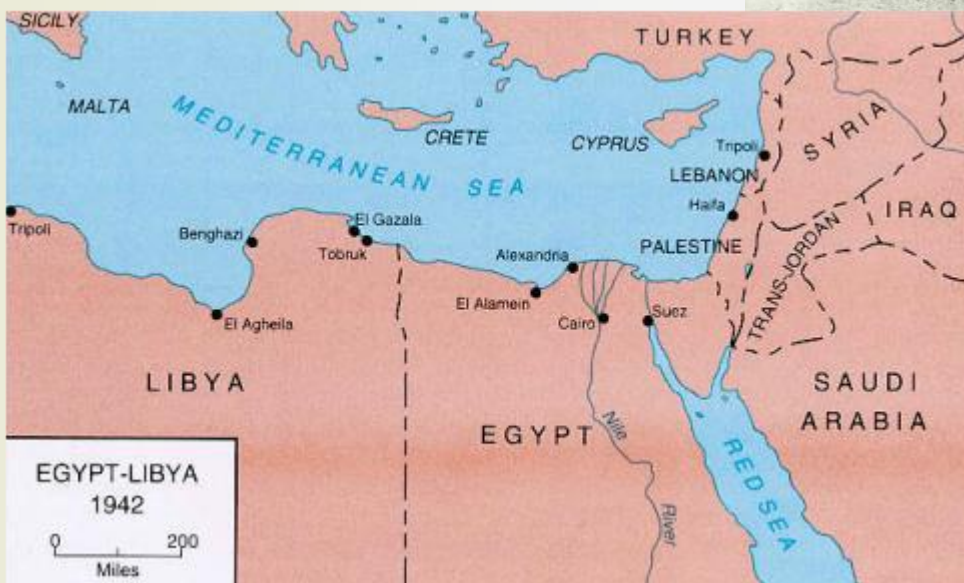
soldiers were besieged in Tobruk by a German-Italian army commanded by Rommel. The garrison, commanded by Lieutenant General Leslie Morshead, consisted of the 9th Division (20th, 24th, and 26th Brigades), the 18th Brigade of the 7th Division, along with four regiments of British artillery and some Indian troops.

It was vital for the Allies' defence of Egypt and the Suez Canal to hold the town with its harbour, as this forced the enemy to bring most of their supplies overland from the port of Tripoli, across 1500 km of desert, as well as diverting troops from their advance. Tobruk was subject to repeated ground assaults and almost constant shelling and bombing. The Nazi propagandist Lord Haw Haw (William Joyce) derided the tenacious defenders as "rats", a term that the Australian soldiers embraced as an ironic compliment.

The Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy provided the garrison's link to the outside world, the so-called "Tobruk ferry". These ships included the Australian destroyers Napier, Nizam, Stuart, Vendetta and Voyager. Losses comprised two destroyers, including HMAS Waterhen, three sloops, including HMAS Parramatta, and 21 smaller vessels.

Half the Australian garrison was relieved in August, the rest in September-October. However, 2/13 Battalion could not be evacuated and was still there when the siege was lifted on 10 December, the only unit present for the entire siege. (Jack Toohey: 2/10 BTTN 2 AIF, enlisted at Broken Hill)

Australian casualties from the 9th Division from 8th April to 25th October numbered 749 killed, 1,996 wounded and 604 prisoners. The total losses in the 9th Division and attached troops from 1st March to 15th December amounted to 832 killed, 2,177 wounded and 941 prisoners.



Australian War Memorial photo 020761 Men of the 2/13th Australian Infantry Battalion "digging in", Inset: Jack Toohey pictured as a member of the 1928 Slade athletics team, another day in Tobruk - photo by Martin Cherrett.



"I determined we should make no man's land our land," LT GEN Leslie Morshead, describing his aggressive and ceaseless patrolling program outside of Tobruk. Morshead had a reputation as a strict and demanding officer who insisted on discipline and hard work – his nickname was "Ming the merciless", or just "Ming". He could be blunt with senior officers. On arriving at Tobruk he inspected his perimeter defences closely and told his principal staff officers, *"There will be no Dunkirk here,"* also *"There is to be no surrender and no retreat"*. He instructed troops to not engage German tanks, but to wait till they passed and then destroy the infantry following on. The artillery was then able to deal with the tanks.

HERE THERE AND EVERYWHERE

☺ **Warwick and the Darling Downs is in our sights and we look more closely at escalating power costs**

TERTIARY EDUCATION HUB COMING SOON TO WARWICK STUDENTS WISHING TO PURSUE TERTIARY EDUCATION in the Southern Downs won't have to leave the region following confirmation of funding for a university hub project. At Warwick, local students will be able to pursue further education following Commonwealth funding being secured to finance a new satellite facility in the region.

The "uni hub" as it is being dubbed by locals, will join a roster of more than 30 regional study hubs across the country. It was revealed April 4 that the university study hub will be established in the SDIEA (Southern Downs Industry Education Association) building at 163 Palmerin Street, Warwick and will have significant outreach activities across the region. It is expected that the new centre will be open during 2024.

The university hub has been described as providing quality learning spaces, meeting rooms, technology and an engaging learning environment with pastoral care for students making the transition from school to tertiary education.

INLAND RAIL LINK UNDER WAY, COMPLETION UNKNOWN

INLAND Rail Pty Ltd confirmed 21 Feb 2024 there is no estimated end date for construction of the 1900km rail project, but the company is hoping to complete all works south of Parkes by the end of 2027.

As residents in the affected areas are well aware, the precise route of the rail link across the Condamine flood plain has been a highly contentious issue with planning seemingly at an impasse and no sign of a resolution in sight. It was at first proposed to massively upgrade the current line with all its tunnels down the Toowoomba Range for the line to terminate at Brisbane, and linking with the Wellcamp facility.

Other proposals have mooted extending the route to Mackay but this seems to have gone silent. Currently there is a hue and cry because the line may now be planned to terminate at Toowoomba with goods to then be trucked by road to Brisbane. Time will tell what transpires (if we are even still here when this happens). I fear there is more than a little politicking delaying decisions and of course, the longer it is put on hold, the more expensive the final outcome. The largest of the contracts currently stalled is the one to deliver the challenging Gowrie-to-Kagura section, near Toowoomba. This 128km alignment is set to include a 6.2km tunnel through the Toowoomba Range, which would be the largest-diameter diesel-freight tunnel in the Southern Hemisphere. The Range has presented its share of geological challenges but if the long awaited bypass became a reality, this may too.



BOEING MQ-28 GHOSTBAT TO BE BUILT AT WELLCAMP CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN AT WELLCAMP

on facilities equipped to produce state-of-the-art unmanned combat aircraft, the MQ-28 Ghost Bat, also known as the Loyal Wingman. The aircraft, in addition to being able to carry weapons and missiles, also acts as support and protection for pilots and can travel more than 3700km, more than the distance between Brisbane to Perth (3,600km). The 11 metre long aircraft will be produced by Boeing at Wagner Corporation's \$550m Wellcamp Aerospace and Defence Precinct at Toowoomba Airport, 20km west of the CBD.

The 9000 square metre facility is expected to be finished three years from now. This would also be the first combat aircraft designed, engineered and manufactured in Australia in more than 50 years to be produced in QLD we are told.

SOUTHERN DOWNS ATHLETE THROWS PB IN ADELAIDE MATT DENNY FROM ALLORA

showed the world what he's really made of in April at the recent National Championships. He produced a personal-best Discus throw of 69.35 metres to claim another national title, smashing his

KINAWAH

own Australian record in the process. Incredibly, he overcame a bout of COVID-19 to produce his winning performance. "I've made claims that my focus is to win at the Olympics and I think a lot of people haven't really taken that too seriously," Denny said. "Which is fair enough considering I'm 4th in the order right now, 4th on rankings and haven't broken the 70-metre mark.

Editor's Note: As has been indicated previously, Matt Denny's career is of personal interest to me. Officiating at local events for his results to be ratified as qualifying standards is a highlight for my husband and me. Well done Matt and well done too, to his long time coach, Grahame Pitt. Matt was also awarded the Betty Cuthbert medal for Most Outstanding Single Performance at the April championships. Matt's relative by marriage, Marion Pitkin, now Denny, was briefly part of my class at St Catharine's before beginning her nursing training.

NATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY DISCUSSION

YOU KNOW THAT THING IN MOVIES where you can see a plot twist coming a mile off, and it's agonising to sit through the exposition phase until you reach it? That's how David Mills, the author of the following opinion piece, feels about Australia's nuclear power debate. He opines that twenty years from now, Australia will be taking delivery of the first of its nuclear-powered submarines under the AUKUS pact saying that inevitably, the PM of the day will get up and point out the obvious oddity that Australia is getting nuclear subs, but doesn't have a nuclear power industry behind it, and that's a sovereign capability issue, and we should rectify that tout suite.

That day is coming, as a result of signing up to AUKUS (although all bets are off for the future of this agreement if a certain notoriously unpredictable US Presidential hopeful who will remain nameless is elected later this year).

However, what we're sitting through now is that exposition phase alluded to earlier. We have a government seemingly determined not to budge an inch on nuclear, insisting that it's the most expensive form of electricity there is, when research shows there are overseas jurisdictions that have both nuclear power and cheap bills.

Meanwhile we have an opposition suddenly screaming for nuclear, despite doing nothing to advance the cause for the entire decade they were in power, so its credibility is questionable.

The partisan divide is itself a huge hurdle for the prospect of any future nuclear power industry in this country. If Australia is ever to go nuclear, the reality is it will need bipartisan support. The massive private investment required for such a project will not flow without that baseline certainty.

Perhaps the seeds of that bipartisan support will come from the Australian public, which does seem to be warming to the idea of nuclear power. While Newspoll found that 55% of voters were now in favour of small module reactors, the first signs came in 2022, when a Lowy Institute tracking poll found support for nuclear had a majority for the first time.

There are still plenty of questions about the prospect of nuclear energy in this country—including sites for reactors, hazardous waste disposal, and the overall risk—but those poll results suggest Australians are ready to have those discussions now.

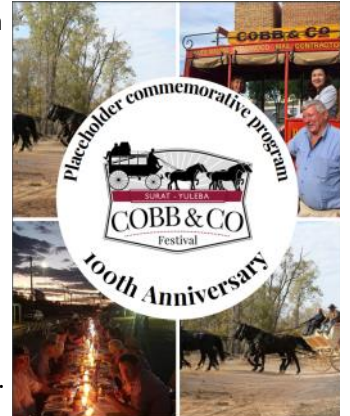
It is also a fair observation that the disasters notoriously associated with nuclear reactors overseas, namely at Chernobyl and Fukushima, involved ageing plants using technology that has since advanced from when they were built, in 1977 and early 1970s respectively. It is also worth noting that the Fukushima reactor was built to an early 1960s design.

Editor's Note: If you have firm views about this and other related concerns, now is the time to lobby the relevant decision makers. We have the privilege of being able to voice our opinions and in a democratic country we are thankfully still free to express them. It is, however, much more effective to voice them in the quarters where it will do the most good, rather than simply grumbling about them to those who are not in a position to lawfully affect change.

Maranoa right on track with Cobb & Co Festival


100th Anniversary of last horse-drawn mail coach service in Australia August 16-23, 2024: Last Call


- This fast-moving, rattling and clattering event showcases the history and heritage of the Australian bush and combines horses, outback, country characters and bushrangers enabling visitors to participate in the history and development of the outback.
- Delivering coach travel from a century ago, this unique bush adventure happens in the small country towns of Surat and Yuleba and along the 76 kilometre dusty bush track in between.
- Commencing with the Cobb & Co Long Table Dinner in Yuleba (tickets need to be pre-purchased) it involves bullock wagons, a 70-seater Leviathan Coach, a horse-art exhibition, markets, beards, coach rides, an open-air concert and more.
- Beginning its re-enactment journey as the coach collects the Royal Mail from the Surat Post Office, escaping a hold-up at the local markets, and crossing the bridge to pick up speed on the open road Saturday 17th, horse hooves drum all along the Cobb & Co Way.
- Grand finale: midday Sunday 18th the coach leads the riders into Yuleba with the Royal Mail delivered to the Yuleba Post Office with a celebration in Yuleba's main street to complete the official program. Keep visiting <https://www.cobbandcofestival.com.au> for more information as it becomes available.




Time to stop and smile a while...




 **A POINT OF PROPRIETY:** An American is waiting for the lift. An Englishman arrives and asks: Are you waiting for the lift? American: No, I am waiting for the elevator. Englishman: It is called a lift. American: No. We invented it. It is called an elevator. Englishman: No. We invented the language. It is called a lift.

 **THIS NEXT ONE COMES UNDER THE HEADING OF "DON'T MESS WITH OLD PEOPLE":**
An elderly gentleman who we will call Jim...Had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed Jim to hear 100%. Jim went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, "Your hearing is perfect.. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again." Jim replied, "Oh, I haven't told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!"

 **THE CHEF AT A FAMILY-RUN RESTAURANT** had broken her leg and came into our insurance office to file a disability claim. As I scanned the claim form, I did a double take. Under "Reason unable to work," she wrote: "Can't stand to cook."

 **THE LOCAL BAR** was so sure its bartender was the strongest man around that they offered a standing \$1000 bet. The bartender would squeeze a lemon until all the juice ran into a glass, and hand the lemon to a patron. Anyone who could squeeze one more drop of juice out would win the money. Many people had tried over time, including the professional wrestlers and bodybuilders, but nobody could do it.

One day a scrawny little man came in, wearing a tie and a pair of pants hiked up past his belly button. He said in a squeaky annoying voice, "I'd like to try the bet." Even the hillbilly chicks burst into laughter. After the laughter had died down, the bartender said, "Ok," grabbed a lemon, and squeezed away. He then handed the wrinkled remains of the rind to the little man. But the crowd's laughter turned to total silence as the man clenched his fist around the lemon and six drops fell into the glass. As the crowd cheered, the bartender paid the \$1000, and asked the little man, "What do you do for a living? Are you a lumberjack, weight lifter, or what?" The man replied, "I work for the Tax Office."

 **DURING REHEARSAL**, the high school Music Director was beside himself. The cymbal player in the band was constantly coming in at the wrong time with his cymbal clash. The young man maintained that his entry point gave a much better effect and that he wouldn't play it as written. When the Music Director was asked by the Principal why he kicked the young musician out of the band, he replied, "It was a simple case of cymbal disobedience."

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CAFÉ OPEN EVERY DAY

Crafting a Eulogy: some practical guidelines

We have been privileged to read some inspiring eulogies and tributes in these pages over the years. If you, like me, have found yourself to be author, and/or editor of several eulogies, you will be fully aware of the weight of responsibility that belongs with this charge. To date, I have relied on my own innate writing skills to do this but having had a big part in arranging a couple of recent funeral services, I found myself, after the fact, consulting Burstows website at their invitation (regularly listed in The Chronicle) to read their hints and tips about "How to write a eulogy". Since few of us are likely to escape this task, especially as we grow older and hopefully wiser, it would seem that all of us would likely benefit from the experience and excellent advice found there. I also suggest that it is valuable to leave our children with the clear information they will need to do this for us when the time comes. Hopefully you will find these guidelines, listed below, to be of use. It is also my sincere hope you will have no need to use this information in the immediate future! Nonetheless, forearmed is forewarned...

The Eulogy IS AN ADDRESS IN CELEBRATION OF YOUR LOVED ONE. It is a very personal account of the way they have touched your life and others. Writing and delivering the eulogy is a special task, for the eulogy helps survivors say goodbye and can begin the healing process for all. Anyone can deliver a eulogy—a family member, friend or clergy person—and it is best delivered by one who has known and loved the deceased. The eulogy may even be shared, with a number of people contributing words of remembrance and poetry. Here are some hints that will help you create a eulogy worthy of your loved one.

At this time, when your loved one is of paramount importance, the eulogy brings memories to the surface to be re-lived. In preserving and sharing these memories, you create a gift for others and yourself. Embrace this task you've been given. It means the world to those who share your grief.

PREPARING TO WRITE: Before you begin to write, here is a simple strategy that will help you prepare. Know that you are not alone in your task; you have the support of family and friends.

1. Begin with the person's history Note significant events of the person's life in chronological order: childhood, education, jobs, marriage, children, places lived and so on.

2. Gather your stories Jot down the stories that you remember—the ones that capture your loved one's character. Ask family and friends for their stories as well. These questions may help get you started:

- How did you first meet and become close?
- What did you love and admire about the person?
- What did they do that made you smile?
- What will you miss most?

Even the simplest stories are worthwhile. Remembering someone's laugh or their love of sweets, for example, can be as moving as recalling their kindness and generosity. Be sure to include stories that at least some of your listeners will remember

3. Look at photos Going through photo albums may remind you of important qualities and memories of the person who died.

4. Find a theme By now you may see certain themes emerging. For example, your collection of stories may reveal the person's deep love of animals, the strays she brought home as a child, her dreams of becoming a vet and the joy she experienced at opening her own practice. Writing your eulogy to a theme will help it flow and is ideal for illustrating the character of your loved one.

5. Arrange your notes Now you have a chronology, stories and a theme, you can put your notes in point form. We suggest arranging your material on cards, with a different story or idea on each card. Once you have placed the cards in order, you can begin to write your speech.

WRITING THE EULOGY In writing the eulogy, it helps to break it down into three parts: introduction, body and conclusion. With your opening words, introduce your listeners to the ideas you intend to elaborate on. For example, "Today, we unite to honour and remember our loved one, who touched us all with her kindness and generosity". The body of the eulogy is where you share the stories that demonstrate the qualities named in your introduction. Be sure to keep your theme in mind as you write and use linking sentences between each story so the eulogy flows. Use the conclusion to summarise the ideas raised in your address and to reiterate what your loved one has meant to you.

HINTS FOR WRITING

- Write as though you are talking to a friend, for that is what you will be doing—talking to a loving, supportive group.
- Compose your speech on a computer if possible so that you can edit along the way.
- Don't be afraid to use humour where appropriate. Remember, the eulogy is a celebration of the life of your loved one.
- You may want to use a special quote to open or close your speech. Look to poetry, songs and historical speeches for inspiration.

■ Once you have completed your first draft, ask a trusted friend or family member to read it over and suggest any changes.

When you are happy with your speech, type or write it out in large print with space between the lines so it is easy to read.

DELIVERING THE EULOGY

Public speaking can be frightening. You need to be brave. Know that your listeners are supportive and loving. Know that it's okay to make mistakes. No one expects you to be a great speaker and certainly not at this difficult time. It is your words, and the sentiment behind them, that matter the most.

HINTS FOR SPEAKING

- Before the day, practise in front of a mirror, imagining your listeners before you.
- If you fear that you might break down, arrange for a backup speaker to be on hand with a copy of your speech. Simply knowing they are there may get you through.
- When the time comes, be yourself. Imagine you are talking to a good friend.

Speak clearly and project your voice so everyone can hear you.

If you feel yourself becoming choked up with emotion, pause and take a deep breath to collect your thoughts. Your listeners will understand.

As the Darling Downs community is aware, Burstows, a fifth generation funeral care provider, has operated as such for 120 years. With branches in Toowoomba, Dalby, Warwick and Gatton, they also travel much farther afield when the need arises. The above sound advice comes from a well of vast experience in dealing with all stages of death and bereavement.

10 life lessons too many of us learn too late

Life is a journey, and every step we take teaches us something. However, some lessons are learned early on, while others, unfortunately, are learned much too late. It's often bittersweet because the most profound lessons typically come when we've already made the mistakes. We're often so caught up that we overlook the essential life lessons until it's too late. But what if we could learn these lessons earlier? What if we could avoid the heartache and mistakes that come from learning too late? In this article, I'll share some of the wisdom that many men wish they had grasped sooner. And hopefully, it will help you navigate life a little more efficiently. This is part 1.

Ethan Sterling | March 12, 2024 <https://geediting.com/life-lessons-most-men-learn-too-late-in-life/>

Ethan Sterling has a background in entrepreneurship, having started and managed several small businesses. His journey through the ups and downs of entrepreneurship provides him with practical insights into personal resilience, strategic thinking, and the value of persistence. Ethan's articles offer real-world advice for those looking to grow personally and professionally and, as the publication date shows, the information is current.

1) Time is the most valuable asset

As we grow older, many of us start to realize that time is our most precious commodity. It's a non-renewable resource that keeps ticking away, regardless of whether we're spending it wisely or wasting it.

During our youth, we often live under the illusion that we have an infinite amount of time ahead. We squander hours on end pursuing trivial matters, procrastinating, or indulging in things that [don't contribute to our growth](#).

But as we age, the reality hits us – time is fleeting. We can't rewind it, pause it, or save it for later. All those moments we let slip through our fingers are gone forever.

Recognizing the true value of time is a harsh lesson that often comes too late for many men.

It's only when we understand its worth that we start to use it more judiciously, prioritizing activities and people that truly matter over those that don't.

If you're reading this and resonating with these words, perhaps it's time to take stock and reassess how you're spending your time.

2) Failure is often the stepping stone to success

In a world that celebrates victories and hides failures, it's easy to believe that success comes in a straight line. But the reality is far from it.

Life is not a smooth sail, and most successful men will tell you that their journey was anything but linear.

During our formative years, many of us are programmed to fear failure. We're told that it's a sign of weakness or incompetence. But as we grow older, we realize that this couldn't be further from the truth.

[Failure](#), contrary to popular belief, is not the opposite of success. It's often a part of it.

It's through stumbling and falling that we learn the most valuable lessons about perseverance, resilience, and adaptability – lessons that eventually lead us towards our goals.

The realization that failure is a necessary stepping stone to success is a lesson many men learn too late in life. But it's never too late to change your perspective.

If you've been avoiding risks for fear of failure, you might be missing out on opportunities for growth and advancement.

So, remember – it's okay to fail, as long as you're learning and growing from your experiences.

3) Emotional intelligence is just as important as intellectual intelligence

For many men, growing up often means focusing on developing and proving their intellectual prowess. They're expected to be smart, competitive, and driven.

In this race to demonstrate intellectual superiority, the importance of emotional intelligence often gets overlooked.

We're often taught growing up to suppress our emotions, to 'man up', and keep our feelings to ourselves. But this approach can lead to a lack of emotional awareness and understanding.

[Emotional intelligence](#), or EQ, is about recognizing and managing our own emotions and understanding the emotions of others.

It's a crucial skill for fostering strong relationships, resolving conflicts, and navigating life's ups and downs.

Unfortunately, many men only realize the importance of EQ later in life, after a trail of broken relationships and missed opportunities.

But it doesn't have to be this way. By learning about emotional intelligence early on, we can develop healthier relationships and make more informed decisions.

Remember: it's never too late to start learning about your own emotions and those of others. It's a lesson worth learning sooner rather than later.

4) Health is wealth

We have all heard the saying that "health is wealth", but it's surprising how many of us ignore this valuable piece of wisdom until it's too late.

Many men, in their pursuit of material success, often [overlook their health](#), placing career or financial gains above their physical and mental well-being.

The irony here is that without good health, all the money in the world becomes meaningless. A staggering fact is that the majority of health issues today are lifestyle-related.

Conditions like heart disease, diabetes and obesity are often linked to poor diet choices, sedentary living, and excessive stress.

Sadly, many men don't realize the importance of their health until they're faced with a serious issue.

They learn too late that investing time and effort into maintaining their health is not just about preventing illness – it's about creating a foundation for a fulfilling and prosperous life.

If you've been neglecting your health in favor of other pursuits, it may be time to reconsider your priorities. Remember, your body is the vehicle that carries you through life. Treat it with the care and respect it deserves.

5) It's okay to be vulnerable

As men, we're often conditioned to believe that showing vulnerability is a sign of weakness. We're told to be strong, to keep our emotions in check, and to always maintain a stoic exterior.

This societal expectation can lead many of us to bottle up our feelings and hide our struggles, sometimes with devastating consequences.

The truth is, vulnerability is not a sign of weakness. It's a testament to our humanity. It's about being real, about admitting that we don't have all the answers, and about asking for help when we need it.

Many men come to understand this fact later in life. They realize that opening up about their fears, doubts, and insecurities doesn't make them less of a man.

In fact, it does the opposite – it makes them more relatable, more genuine and ultimately stronger.

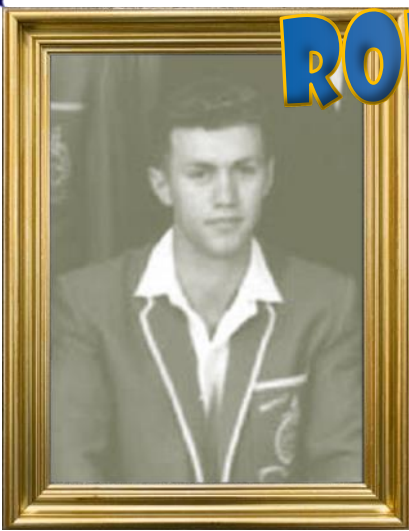
If you've been [holding back on expressing your vulnerability](#), it might be time for a change. Remember, it's okay to let your guard down and show your authentic self.

You may find that it leads to deeper connections and a greater sense of inner peace.

6-10) of "10 Life's lessons" will appear July August.

RONALD WATSON 1943-2024

*Great times were had riding bikes, playing with friends,
listening to Ron play on his guitar and singing together as a family.
There was always music and wonderful memories were made.*



RONALD WATSON WAS BORN 1943 in Charleville to Ivy May Sands/Bachelor. Ivy had two sons, Garry and Donald already before Ron arrived. Ron's wife and children heard so many Charleville stories that a family trip was required later on to see what all the fuss was about!

Before this trip, when the Watson children complained about how far it was to walk to the bus stop along Ashgrove Avenue, Ron told them he used to walk through rivers and scrub trees for miles to get to school. It was soon seen all those miles were just two blocks.

Ron collected newspapers and did deliveries for people and was always active. Aged about 10, he went off to Slade. He excelled at everything including football, cricket, boxing, athletics, debating and was School Captain in 1961.

Ron trained at Kedron Teachers' College from 1962. His first teaching post was Nudgee. He transferred to Gatton in 1965, then Aramac, in Central QLD. Ron found Aramac especially lonely. He lived at the pub, helping out with bartending. If a fight happened to break out in the bar, the guitar playing teacher would be called to come and rescue the situation!

Ron met his lifelong partner, Jennifer, in 1962 through a cousin, John Henning, while at College. They reconnected in Warwick while Jennifer was performing in a ballet tour.

When Ron was ready to leave Aramac, Jennifer flew to Rockhampton to accompany him on the drive home. They married August 1967 at Holy Trinity Church, Fortitude Valley.

Ron's children always knew that Jennifer was the love of his life. He told them marrying her was the best decision he ever made.

In 1966 Ron returned to Warwick as one of the Slade teaching staff. Here he took charge of St Catharine's/Slade newly integrated Primary School. In addition to administrative duties around this, he was resident master at Barnes House, taught Junior French, coached Under 14 Cricket, Under 15 Football Under 16 and Open Sprinting and still found time to assist with Cadets and organise school concerts.

In 1969 Ron and Jennifer moved to New Guinea for a teaching post to Daru. Jennifer returned to Brisbane for Angela's birth in 1970. Son, Matthew was born in October later that year. A transfer to Layangan, in the Western

Highlands in 1972, brought a great change of climate. The family remembers Ron's students loving him and always keen to learn. Ron made extra money driving 11,000 feet up Mt Hagan to villages trucking potatoes. This funded projects like the purchase of a projector to run cartoons and films for the school.

In 1973, a six months post to Goroka was followed by an Education Department move to Bougainville to teach children of Bougainville Copper mine employees.

After six years in PNG the family came back to Australia to Caloundra where Ron taught at Caloundra State School and here Ben was born in May 1975. Here Ron and Jennifer bought land and built a house but due to Matthew's asthma the family relocated to Brighton where Ron taught at Brighton school. Great times at Brighton were had riding bikes, playing with friends, listening to Ron play on his guitar and singing together as a family. Always very close, there was always music and wonderful memories were made.

From Brighton the family moved in with Don Batchelor for a time. Ron taught at Everton Park State School about three years until he had a throat problem which required surgery. Afterwards, unable to talk and unable to teach any more, Ron had to converse for a time using pen and paper – not so easy for such an excellent communicator.

After this, Ron headed out west to work with relatives on a property, which he found lonely, badly missing his family. However, this is where he learnt all about driving trucks.

About six months later Ron returned home and the family moved to Ashgrove. From 1983 to about 1993 Ron's work included different jobs from working for Red Seal potato chips to interstate truck and limousine driving. Ben also worked with Ron in the trucks and for Red Seal.

Ron was quite a character. Ben recalls one time asking for money to go out with some friends. Told to do the lawn, Ben went for a nap instead. When Ron came home and found Ben asleep, he started the mower, pushed it into Ben's bedroom and shut the door. The upshot was a bit of a discussion with Jennifer!

1992 Ron and Jennifer welcomed their first grandchild, Jessica, but then in 1993 the family experienced its greatest loss, the tragic passing of their beloved Matthew.

After this, Ron started back doing transport work and Ben began working with him. Those experiences are remembered very fondly. In 1994 the family welcomed second grandchild,

Matthew Simon.

In 1998 Ron suffered a heart attack and Ben hurt his back around the same time but still ran the business while Ron recovered.

Ron was very intuitive, able to tell when something was wrong or anybody was in pain which happened often around that time. Ron stayed at Freers for some years and then moved into waste management.

Ron, Jennifer and Don Batchelor then went to China to teach in Wuhan in 2004. Back home from China, Ron joined Brisbane City Council as a bus driver. In 2008, Ben married Jasmina and in 2010 a third grandchild, Noah, arrived.

The proud grandparents spent a lot of time during those years looking after Noah, and shared precious times together. In 2013, a fourth grandchild, Maxx arrived and babysitting duties

were embraced with relish. Ron and Jennifer spent lots of quality time with all four grandchildren, and greatly treasured their time with them.

2017, first great granddaughter Sassy arrived, then second granddaughter, Penny, in 2019.

The extended Watson family, have shared a wealth of great moments together, filled with love, laughter and happiness.

Monday the 11th of March, Angela, Jennifer, Ron and Ben had lunch together. Quite unbeknown to Ben, this would be the last time he shared a meal with Ron. 13th March Ron had a massive stroke and took

his last breath on 19th of March to the tune of John Denver's Country Road, surrounded by family and friends.

Angela Watson cited a Nathaniel Hawthorn quote in her tribute to Ron: "Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you. What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the master calls a butterfly. The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough."

Ron's family remember his tenacity, and his "never give up" attitude. He might have been knocked down a time or two but would inevitably find another avenue of getting back up again. He refused to let life defeat him and was always ready to throw himself into the next new venture. Ron taught his children this and Ben, seeks to pass this ability on to his own boys.

Ron has now moved on to the great hereafter to be with his brothers, Don and Garry, and son, Matthew. He will always be sorely missed but his family is supremely grateful for everything Ron did for them and taught them during his eventful and amazingly varied life. Ω Ω Ω Ω Ω

“
**In 1966
Ron was
Resident Barnes
House Master,
taught Junior French,
coached Cricket,
Football, Sprinting,
helped out with
Cadets and School
Concerts.**

”

Valé

“When someone you love becomes a memory, memory becomes a treasure” Author Unknown

John Collins 1957-2024

COLLINS John James, late of Greenbank and formerly of Ballandean, passed away 13th February aged 66 years following a long illness. John was at Slade 1973-74 and his wife, Sandra (Munn) is also a past Slade student.

Roger Frizzell 1951-2024

FRIZZELL Roger Alwyn, late of Jandowae and formerly of Toowoomba and Kin Kin passed away 20th April aged 72 years after suffering a period of ill health.

A funeral service for Roger was held at St David’s Anglican Church in Allora 7th May.

Roger was at Slade from Year 8 until Junior 1966-68 and was photographed here as one of the 1967 Under 15 XI. Roger’s sister, Helen Harris, is also one of our own and was at St Catharine’s (1967-70). Our thoughts and prayers are with Helen, Roger’s partner, Bev Williams, and their extended families.

Shun Hung Lee

LEE Shun Hung. From information recently come to hand, Shun Hung Lee passed away 30th January 2017. Unfortunately, at this time, we have no further details.

Our records show Shun Hung Lee, who was born in Muar, Malaya, was at Slade 1952-54. John Deshon was able to confirm he registered as an architect in 1962. Shun was a member of Slade’s 1953 First XII and was last known to be living at a Holland Park East address.

John Noon 1948-2024

NOON John Charles Colin, also known as Jack, late of Mitchell passed away 15th April after a long illness aged 76 years. John was at Slade 1960-65 and was a prefect in his senior year.

A 1 mile specialist, he was in Slade’s athletics team and the First XV Rugby team. He was a Company Sergeant Major in Slade’s Cadet

Unit. Six siblings of John also attended our two schools: Shirley (dec’d) Yvonne (dec’d) Eric (dec’d) Richard, Charles and Lesley. A Memorial Service for John is scheduled 18th May at his family property, “Mulga Belt” 60km south of Mitchell off the Mitchell St George Road.

John Stehr

STEHR John Brian, late of Goondiwindi, passed away 5th December, 2023 and was buried at a graveside service 12th December. John came to Slade in 1950 and as best we are able to determine, lived around Goondiwindi his whole life. His brother, Kenneth, also attended Slade 1950-52 and still lives in the Goondiwindi area.

John Tomlinson 1941-2024

TOMLINSON John Stuart. The only notification concerning this is a recently-returned Kinawah marked "Return to Sender. Has passed on." No death/funeral announcement is able to be found and, unfortunately, no other corroborating information is available either.

Roy Toohey 1952-2024

TOOHEY Roy Thomas, late of Woollooin, and formerly of Miriam Vale, passed away 27th March, 2024 aged 72 years. Roy attended Slade 1966-70. The photo at left is from the 1968 Slade Rural Youth Group. Roy is the son of Thomas James "Jack" Toohey who attended Slade 1926-28.

Our records show that Jack Toohey was awarded an Order of Australia medal (OAM) in the January 2000 honours list for "Service to veterans and their families, particularly through the Bundaberg Sub-Branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association, and to the community".

As the honour implies, Jack was one of the famous Rats of Tobruk. A funeral service for Roy was held at Albany Creek Memorial Park Garden Chapel 12th April.

Ronald Watson 1943-2024

WATSON Ronald (Ron) late of Ashgrove, and formerly of Charleville, passed away 19th March just a few days shy of his 81st birthday following a stroke. Husband of Jennifer, Father of Angela, Matthew (dec’d 1993) and Benjamin. Ron was cremated after a private family service on 28th March.

His Memorial Service saw St Barnabas’s Anglican Church, Red Hill 6th April filled to capacity. Ron was at Slade 1954-61

and is shown here as a member of the 1961 Slade First XI. He was also in the Debating, Rugby and Tennis teams.

After completing his teacher training and working for a time for QLD’s Department of Education, Ron returned to Slade on staff in 1966 when he took charge of St Catharine’s/Slade newly integrated Primary School.

Ron was the brother of the late Donald Batchelor (Slade 1951-57, dec’d 2014) and Garry Batchelor (also dec’d). Ron and his wife, Jennifer, married in 1967 and taught in PNG 1969-74 and Wuhan, China, 2004.

This pic, was at a 1990 Slade Reunion held at the Johnsonian Club in Brisbane.



At left: Don Gilmour, John Bayliss, Richard Cleal, Doug Clark, and Roy Toohey’s sisters, Julie Maekye and Elizabeth Hughes, at Roy’s funeral 12/04/2024



“Be the things you loved most about the people who are gone.”

Rosemary

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.



Last Word...

from John Bayliss
21/04/2024

MAKE CONTACT TODAY BECAUSE TOMORROW MIGHT BE TOO LATE!

I doubt there is a single one of us who has never had the thought, "I would really like to catch up with [insert name/names] It's been such a long time".

There are those people in our lives that we keep in constant contact with like family and close friends. But, then there are those who have touched our lives at some stage that we have lost all contact with and would very much like to catch up with again.

I started work in Charleville in 1969 and met a guy the same age while there. Although I was only in Charleville for one year we became the best of mates. I had always wondered what happened to him and in 2019, through a friend of Steve Cooke's wife, I was able to contact him and caught up with him at his property south of Charleville in 2019. We have continued to visit and keep in touch a few times a year since then. It was 50 years between when we first became friends and when we caught up in 2019. It is never to late but...it can be if you don't make the effort today.

This was brought home to me in this last week. John "Jack" Noon was my house prefect when I was in Edwards House in 1964-65. He was a couple years older than me but we became close friends and used to race our bikes back and forth from the main school.

Years later while chasing people up to get together at the Brekky Creek lunch I was able to track down Jack's contact details. I made the phone call and his words when he answered the phone were "Bloody hell it's got to be 50 years since I last spoke to you" and it was. He said he'd love to catch up but being an old bushy he rarely ventured off to the big smoke. However, in 2020 he made it to the catch up in Roma (from the Mitchell area) and then made the mighty effort to join us for the Brekky Creek lunch in 2022.

The irony of Jack's catch up was brought home this week with word that he had passed away. So very, very glad that we were able to make contact.

In the past weeks there have been four people pass away that were at school whilst I was there and it brings acute and uncomfortable awareness that time does not wait for any one of us. With so many different means of communication so readily available to us in this day and age, the only thing keeping us from keeping in touch is the lack of willingness to do it. So, if there is anyone you would like to catch up with from years ago, then do it today because tomorrow might be too late.

