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KINAWAH

VOLUME 2026

SEPTEMBER OCTOBER EDITION



Also closing in on a century in 2026

SOME TIME AGO I made an enquiry via Facebook Messenger after noticing a post about Valmae Sweeney, (St Catharine's 1946-1950)! I have now heard back from Valmae's daughter, Michele: "Mum is now 93. She is amazing, in very good health and lives on her own after being widowed at 40. She can use a mobile phone to text and emails are no trouble at all. I'm sure she would love to receive the newsletter. Mum talks about St Catharine's often and her Grandchildren know all about it as well."

So, armed with Valmae's email address and no further ado, the last Kinawah was dispatched to her with a note, since I thought it might be too hard to read on her phone. I needn't have worried as this was her prompt reply: "Thank you. I could read Kinawah clearly on my I pad. Thanks again. Val Seeney née Donovan." I plan to include an article about Val in a future Kinawah soon.

Ted Ross has also located another past student who we feared might have been lost to us. David McCarthy, 90 in January this year and son of Matron McCarthy, is living in Fairfield, Victoria.

So now we have two more nonagenarians to acknowledge!

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED, ROB VICKERS



THE SLADE COMPONENT of the large crowd of people who came together to pay their respects at the memorial for Robert and Margaret Vickers in Toowoomba on August 22 was very much outnumbered by the Toowoomba medical fraternity which came together en masse to honour a man who was equally admired and skilled as a true gentleman, friend, doctor, surgeon and champion of breast care in women.

But, Robert Vickers M.B.,B.S. (QLD), F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., the man, was much more than his professional qualifications suggested. He passed away July 6, aged 89, after caring for his wife, Margaret, until her death due to dementia related causes earlier this year. As one of their children recalled, he was able to find the silver lining in the bittersweet moments, such as when Margaret told him her husband "is a very nice man". He was honoured as brave and composed at the end of his own life even though he knew that time was running out and made a supreme effort to enjoy life right to the end. As a greatly loved member of his family and his community, specialists and members of every branch of medicine you might care to name in Toowoomba, all gathered together to confirm this.

Ron and Peter Ladner, who share Robert's Charleville roots, Eddie Billing, Eric Donaldson and myself represented the Slade quota of the many who arrived to attend this memorial gathering where reminiscences were shared. Eric, who was slightly older than Robert at Slade and subsequently became a lifelong friend, spoke of the time they spent there. For more, see Robert's obituary, Page 14.

It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live. Marcus Aurelius

2000 MOMENTS

Jan. 1: Gisbourne, NZ, first to see in the new millennium.

Feb. 5: Russian forces conclude capture of Grozny in Chechnya.

Feb. 29: 2000, the first century to have a Feb. 29 since 1600, the second time since the Gregorian Calendar was adopted in the late 16th century.

Mar. 20: Pope John Paul II visits the Holy Land, Jordan, Palestine and Israel.

Apr. 2: Adam Gilchrist takes his 10th catch in the 3rd Test against NZ, an Australian record for dismissals by a wicketkeeper.

May 2: President Bill Clinton announces the United States military will no longer restrict accurate GPS access.

May 3: The sport of geocaching begins, first cache placed with coordinates from a GPS posted.

Jun 1: The Patent Law Treaty (PLT) is signed.

Jun. 5: Armed conflict Uganda vs Rwanda erupts.

Jun. 16: Israel officially complies with UN Sec. Council Resolution to withdraw from Lebanon.

Jul. 1: Oresund Bridge opens connects Sweden and Denmark.

Aug. 4: 100th birthday celebrated by the Queen Mother.

Aug. 12: The Kursk explodes, in the Barents Sea. All 118 lives lost.

Aug. 26: Australia clinches 1st Tri Nations Rugby series in Durban with a 19-18 win.

Sep. 15: 27th Olympic Games opens in Sydney.

Oct. 1: 2000 Olympics declared the "best Olympic Games ever".

Nov. 2: 1st crew reaches the International Space Station.

Nov. 12: Australia beats NZ 40-12 in 12th Rugby League Cup.

Nov. 17: President Bill Clinton becomes first President to visit Vietnam since the Vietnam War.

Dec. 3: The Common Worship series of service books introduced by the Church of England.

Dec. 15: At the Chernobyl Power Plant, the third and final reactor is shut down.

Dec. 31: According to plan, the Millennium Dome closes one year after opening.

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

Editor
Joan (Clothier) White
28 Teesdale Avenue
Toowoomba QLD 4350
0428 344 853
kinawah.editor@scpsa.com.au

John Farquhar President
15 Quambone Street
Worongary QLD 4213
0401 917 811
Johnfarquhar6009@gmail.com

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contact details
current or soon
to change?
DON'T FORGET to
notify us of your
NEW RESIDENTIAL
& EMAIL ADDRESS &
MOBILE PHONE NO.**

**If we
don't have this
last vital detail,
we are unable to
to follow up failed
emails when
this happens.**

**ADDITIONALLY:
IS YOUR CLASS
MARKING ITS
OWN MILESTONE
in 2026 or 2027?**

**CAST YOUR NET
WIDER FOR LOST
CONTACTS AND
ADVERTISE HERE
OR POST ON OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE
AND PLEASE,
BE SURE TO LET
US KNOW ABOUT
IT IF THIS IS
HAPPENING!**

Editor's Notes...



BRIGHT SPRING BLOOMS AND BIRDSONG remind me we are nearing the final term of the school year. Not so long ago we were planning Slade's centenary celebrations and now it's just a bare pair of months before our Brekky Creek 'do'.

P8: Those who attended the dinner in May enjoyed the entertainment provided by **Marco Gliori** and sponsored by **Leigh Hartog**. Ted found us a snippet about Marco in a 2001 leaflet celebrating 'Oracles of the Bush' in Tenterfield where a distant relative of his, Harry Pavel, was also honoured as a '2001 Oracles Legend'.

For those reading their Kinawah electronically, also on **p8** there is a direct link to a full length pilot episode for a proposed series of **Antiques Roadshow Australia**. Something novel for Kinawah!

With no separate Kinawah article re this next point, I stress that a large part of the effort that made the Slade celebration the outstanding success it turned out to be was the application for a **Southern Downs Regional Council Grant** (SDRC) through the **Gaming Commission**. Our application to cover hire of the venue was ultimately successful and entailed a massive effort on the part of Leigh Nisbet. And so, to satisfy all the exacting requirements, loads of paper work needed to be submitted before and after the fact and we have now been officially advised (a) of Council's receipt of the fully completed Acquittal Form, (b) SDRC is satisfied the funding has been fully acquitted and (c) the Grant file may now be closed. **A shout out, our sincere thanks and A HUGE WELL DONE Leigh Nisbet!**

As I revisit the meditations of Marcus Aurelius, so many centuries on, I say again, his words remain relevant and far too good not to share.

We have news from **Gary Wallace p6** and an item of historical interest, via Ted, re the fathers of Slade boys, Eric Donaldson and Robert and David Vickers. Medical/aviation pioneers, **Allan Vickers and Eric Donaldson Senior** are two men we can justly feel pride in even if both are a generation removed from three of our own!

Part 2 of our **'Getting metricated in Australia'** feature that we started in the July August issue is on **p10** and, on **p11**, we begin **'Keeping safe online at home in 2026'**.

Until next time, enjoy the read.

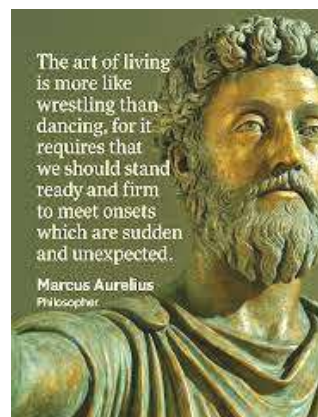
*Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it,
if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which
today arm you against the present.*

Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

"You always
own the option
of having no opinion.
There is never any
need to get worked up
or to trouble your soul
about things you
can't control.
These things are not
asking to be judged
by you. Leave them
alone."

Marcus Aurelius, Meditations

Marcus Aurelius' work, *Meditations*, written in Greek while on campaign between 170 and 180, is still revered as a literary monument to a government of service and duty and has been praised for its "exquisite accent and its infinite tenderness."
<https://www.goodreads.com>



2025/2026 Committee

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Patron/Assistant Archivist	Ted Ross	0407 852 227
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Slade CEGS Student Liaison	Lizzie Adams	0427 004 673
Kinawah /Contacts	Joan White	0428 344 853
Pastoral Coordinator	Rob Nolan	0439 784 457
Museum/Website	Leigh Nisbet	0418 156 296
Archivist	Helen Moloney	07 4635 0573
Area Reps	Ray Dickson	0419 702 657
	Paul Masson	07 4623 5307
	Peter Ramsay	07 3245 4706
	Irene Woods	07 4655 3078

johnfarquhar6009@gmail.com
nigel.faulkner@hotmail.com
mmbtaylor@hotmail.com
crisroy1@gmail.com

cro56704@outlook.com
thien.an.graceq@gmail.com
lizzie0adams@gmail.com
kinawah.editor@scpsa.com.au
rw.nolan@outlook.com
leenis@bigpond.com
hmloloney@aapt.net.au
dicksonsare@gmail.com
pbmasson@bigpond.com
peterramsay47@gmail.com
iczzjc@gmail.com



Johnno's Corner

BARRY RIDDIFORD'S 'OUTBACK ADVENTURE' to the Betoota Races was a great trip. **Jim Wiseman** and his wife Bronwyn, along with a couple of others who are involved with the returned services group that Barry works with also joined us. The meeting point was a disused woolshed on Hammond Downs Station, about 40 km east of Windora on the Cooper Creek basin. What astounded me the most was the flood residue on the floor of the woolshed that is 1.5m off the ground. Equally frightening and amazing is the volume of water that goes through that area when in flood. No luck with the fishing although only a minimal effort was put in.

■ After two nights at **Hammond Downs** and a beer at the **Windora** pub, we headed west to **Cluny Station**, SE of Bedourie (Aboriginal for 'strong wind') in the heart of the **Diamantina Channel Country**. Barry's father was a fencing contractor on Cluny for a couple of years in the 60's so we were able to camp near a waterhole, close to the stockman's hut that Barry and his family lived in. Listening to Barry's stories of his youth paints a picture of hard work with plenty of fun with a loving family environment and a strong work ethic.

■ With a few showers about, we left Cluny for Bedourie to avoid the risk of being bogged in. Along the way we were shown a couple of places where young Aboriginal boys started their journey of initiation from boy to man. These sites are invisible to the untrained eye however once spotted the placement of stones is quite recognizable.

■ For someone who grew up on the land, it was incredible to see the vast amount of good cattle feed about, waist high for as far as the eye could see in places. I am told it is what's known as '**Diamantina lucerne**' and can fatten a 'crow bar' !!

■ **Bedourie**, lunch at the **Birdsville Pub** and then on to Betoota where we set up camp on a small clay pan out behind the pub. Robbo, the owner, has done a great job renovating the mud brick pub and provides basic facilities and cold beer for travelers and campers. He also has a great collection of restored trucks and cars.

■ **Betoota Rodeo** on the Friday night was a fun event, especially for the young ones starting out. The race day was a good 5 race event with at least eight horses in each race which is pretty good for a country meet. Betoota is the start of the Simpson Desert Racing Carnival, followed by Birdsville, Bedourie and Boulia.

■ Met up with **Max Gorringe '74-'75** who is currently overseeing the construction of a Red Claw breeding facility at Betoota. When up and running the young Red Claw will be used to populate existing waterways.

■ Also met up with **Tony Lander '78-'81**. Tony has done well for himself and is currently running a cattle station down near Tibooburra.

■ **AGM – save Saturday 19th September** for a Brisbane AGM (details above right in 'Coming up in 2026'). Formal details have been sent out. This is a great opportunity for the 80's & 90's to start getting involved, I can guarantee you will enjoy the camaraderie of some great people.

And as always, remember to ring your old mates and check in on them, it may just make their day.

Until next time, take care of yourselves.

Johnno

SCPSA official website:
www.scpsawarwick.com

COMING UP IN 2026

Sep. 19 SCPSA AGM OES Hall,
2 Bohland St, Kedron
1.00pm – 3.00pm

October. 20-25 Warwick Rodeo

Nov. 7 Brekky Creek Lunch

Nov. 11 Remembrance Day

Betoota Races 2026:
Jim Wiseman, Barry Riddiford, Tony Lander,
Max Gorringe, John Farquhar



Cattle south of Bedourie



PAYMENT DETAILS TO REGISTER AS A SCPSA MEMBER OR RENEW EXISTING MEMBERSHIP:

BSB: 124001

ACCOUNT NO: 90641027

ACCOUNT NAME: SLADE CAMPUS PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

REFERENCE: YOUR INITIALS AND SURNAME

FORMS FOR NEW MEMBERS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Saturday, November 7
11.00 AM FOR LUNCH

2026
DATE

2026 Brekky Creek Lunch

18th ANNUAL GATHERING FOR

Slade/St Catharine's/WCC Past Students

2 Kingsford Smith Drive - Breakfast Creek

- ☐ 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
Richard Cleal: 0447 447 236
richard@cleal.au



WARWICK
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
Living with Purpose

Term 3 highlights at 70 Horsman Rd

BOOK WEEK 2026 - A SYMPHONY OF STORIES



Spring has sprung at WCC !



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY - AUG 18



NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2026

- Year 6 and several senior students had the opportunity to visit the Awards Day and Ag Science Expo, celebrating the 2026 'Fungal Forensics' themed DPI Hermitage Schools Science Competition as part of National Science Week.
- With interactive displays and presentations covering topics from plant pathology to soil science, there was plenty to see, explore and discover. There was the opportunity to learn more about agriculture and STEM careers, with representatives from UniSQ, UQ and QUT sharing their knowledge and experiences.
- A highlight was meeting Costa Georgiadis who shared his passion for gardening, sustainability and the natural world, providing plenty of inspiration for our students.
- This day of hands-on learning, exploration and inspiration, connected our students with the incredible opportunities that exist across science, agriculture and STEM.

What you said: hearing back from our readers

Your contributions, as always, are greatly appreciated. Selected/edited reader responses appear below. It is always a delight to hear back from our far flung readership after notifications are sent out. Here is some of your feedback...



 **Richard Busser 1957-64** Sorry to hear of the passing of Lexie Noble. He was a year or two ahead of me and part of my 'mob' at Chapel House.

 **David Hodgson 1955-58** ... as I attended Slade from 1955 to 1958 during Peter Mayhew's headmastership, there may not be many of my cohort around. However the funeral notice of Robert Vickers caught my attention, as he removed my appendix in 1977 & operated on my father during my time living in Toowoomba.

I wondered if your CEGS archives contained reference to my mother, Clarice Mary Hodgson (nee Thompson) who in the 1920s almost single-handedly won the Montrose Cup. I will attach a collection of what I presume to be cuttings from the Warwick Daily News at the time outlining her achievements. She was born in 1908 so would have been fourteen in 1922, but I don't know how many years she spent at CEGS. Perhaps it was for her secondary four years, or perhaps not. She died in Toowoomba where she lived all her married life in 1977 aged 89 years.

I also noticed from the website that there is no photo of the 1958 School & House Prefects & hope that you can use the one attached. Back row - Keith Nagel, John Davies (lost in 'Voyager' disaster), E.Graham Front Row - John Deshon, Ian (Tut) Bryant (School Captain), Peter Mayhew (who I visited in Oxford as often as possible in the early 1980s when I lived in the UK), Graham (Paddy) Littleton (Vice-Captain), & myself David Hodgson. If you need any other photos of that period at Slade, I will try to plunder my archives for you. Once again thankyou to yourself & the others who do such a fine job.

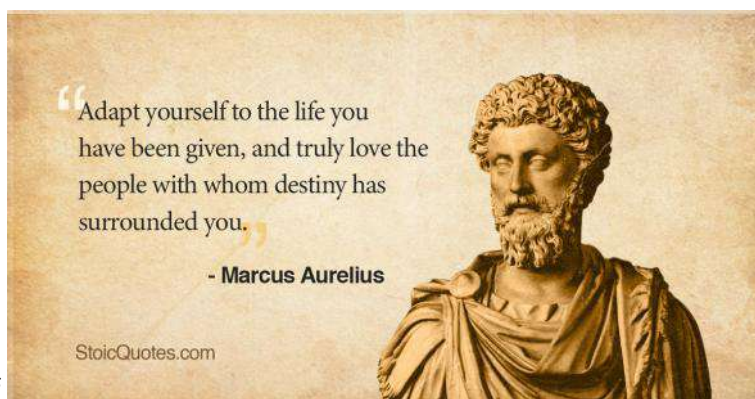
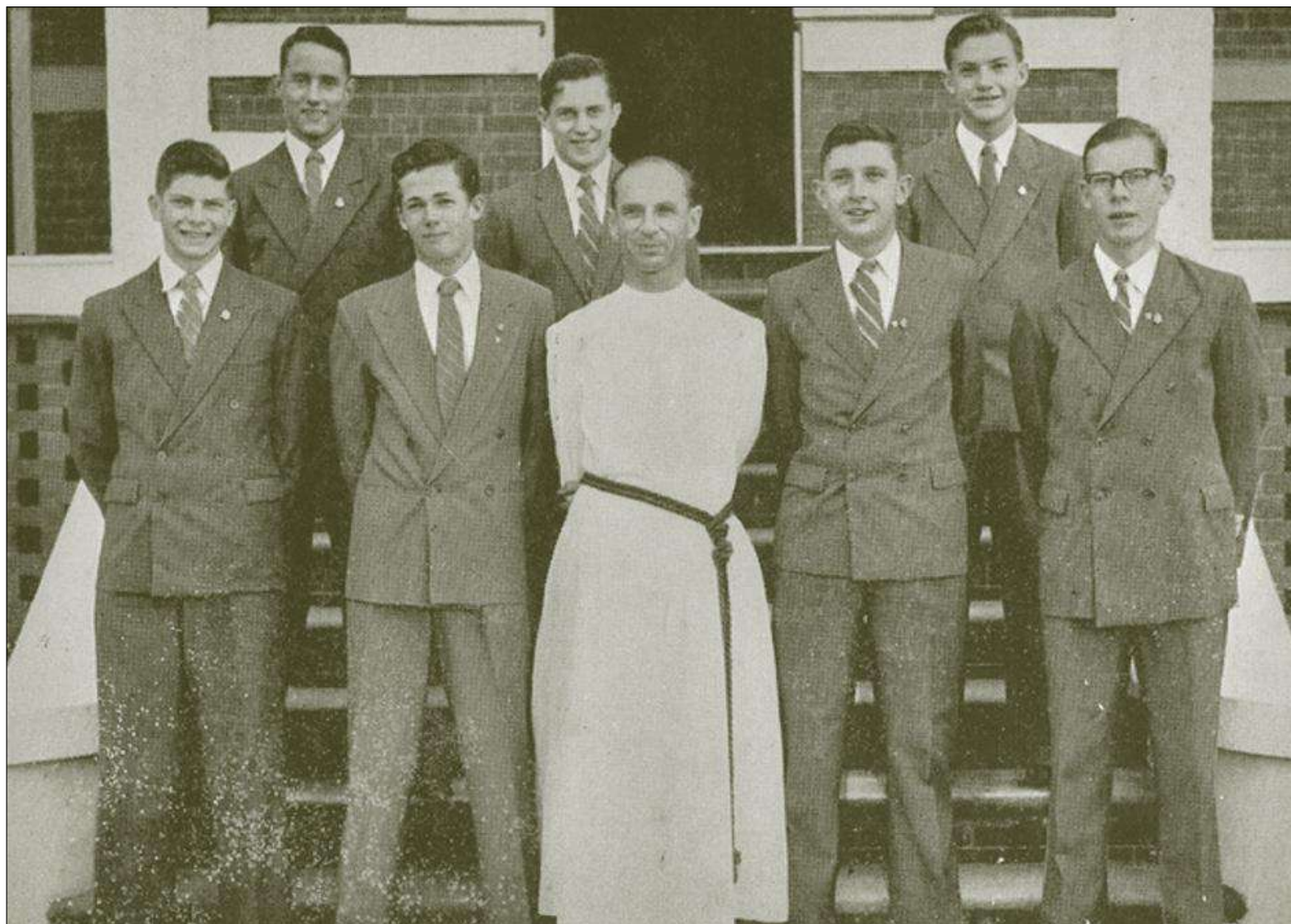
 **Marlene Maher (Young) 1951-56** Sorry to hear of Anne's passing. She was a delightful girl.

 **Judy Kirk (Charles) 1954-54** I was saddened to hear of Anne Armbruster's passing. Spent many years with Anne at St Catharine's. She was one year ahead of me and such a lovely person.

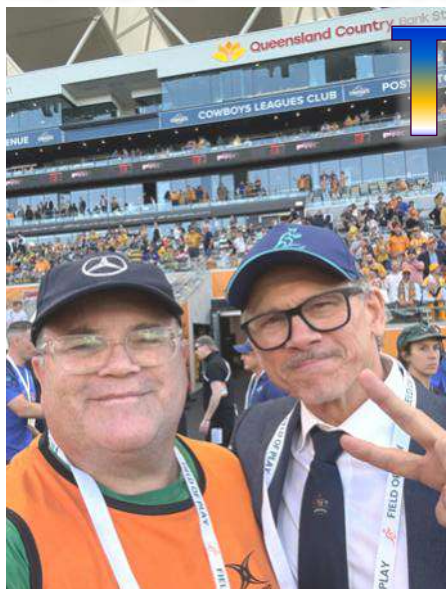
 **Joy Schultz (Knowles) 1953-60** Anne was school captain when I first went to St Catharine's. Also a very good sportsperson. I liked her very much.

 **Julie Hornibrook (1966-6)** Thanks for your email re another Brekky Creek get together. I've put the date in my diary but I don't know yet if I will be able to get up to Brisbane that weekend. I'll see how it goes closer to the time. In the meantime I am well and enjoying life

 **Julie Farrell (Stower 1966-70)** I am just looking at flights to Brisbane [from Hawaii] in November. If only the date for the Brekky Creek gathering was a week later...



Rugby milestones for Gary Wallace et al.



THE WALLABIES' RECENT 56-17 VICTORY OVER JAPAN at Queensland Country Bank Stadium in Townsville on August 15, resulted in a 2-0 series sweep for the home team. Massimo De Lutiis came off the bench in the 50th minute to become the 1,000th player to represent the Wallabies. He then went out and topped off the occasion with a try.

This was Australia's third consecutive victory under coach, Les Kiss, but also marked yet another milestone and quiet achievement for one of our own.

On this occasion, Gary Wallace became the first former national coach in world rugby to return in the role of a sideline doctor, and just eight weeks post open-heart surgery! While Gary referenced this as 'something little', his CV represents another remarkable achievement by a Slade School past student. As we have

reported in Kinawah previously, Gary, who attended Slade 1984-86, is a Doctor of Medicine - MD, LLB, Grad Dip Legal Practice & Ethics, B.Ed. (Sec) Professor at UQ Medical & Sport Science Depts. He is also studying psychiatry. As an aboriginal doctor, his stated focus is on improving health outcomes for 'his mob'. Well done Gary and we wish you well!



SCPSA connections to Gold in Glasgow 2026

FOR THOSE OF US WHO MIGHT HAVE ENJOYED A LITTLE (or even a lot) of success at school sports and who like to stay current with such things, the recent Commonwealth Games, originally assigned to Victoria and hosted instead by Glasgow, netted an swag of success for our Australian athletes. There may well be other individuals we don't yet know about, but two of our Australian



Gold medal winners hail from the southern downs and have family names with direct connections to us as you will soon see.

17 year old Stanthorpe swimmer, Ben Armbruster, shared a joint victory with teammate Kyle Chalmers in the men's 50m butterfly, winning Commonwealth Games gold and a Games record for that event. I don't have to tell you that with the accuracy of modern electronic timing systems and recording, this is exceptionally rare. Ben also brought home a bronze medal in the Men's 100m butterfly.

The Armbruster name is one that is well known to us. John (dec'd 2018) was at Slade 1948-1953 and his sisters, Anne (dec'd 2026) and Susan attended St Catharine's 1948-1957 and 1947-1963 respectively. Their father,

Louis Victor Armbruster, is honoured on the Warwick Cowboys Wall of Legends as an Australian Rugby League footballer for New South Wales, Queensland and Australia and is considered one of the nation's finest footballers of the 20th century. Standing 1.85 cm tall and weighing 86 kg, Armbruster primarily played in the Second Row but he could also play Lock. Vic, who died in 1984 was the licensee of the Royal Hotel, later the Mayfair, in Warwick for many years which possibly explains why his children attended our schools as boarders.



He won gold – but this was Denny's 'dream' moment

Different Olympic and Commonwealth Games sport, but commensurately outstanding results were achieved by Allora Track and Field athlete, Matt Denny, who won Gold in the Men's Discus in Glasgow, becoming the first man in 68 years to successfully defend his Games Discus title with a throw of 67.73 m. Matt celebrated by doing a lap of honour with his young son, Roman. Matt's athletic career is one of special interest to my husband, Peter, and myself as we have followed his progress through the ranks as a talented Junior and, as National Technical Officials, have officiated for him in local and State competitions. Matt had a horror outing at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo with the men's Discus final contested in torrential rain. After coming through the qualifying rounds the finalists voted to proceed with the event knowing full well the circle was treacherously slippery. Putting his disappointment behind him, Matt focussed on improving his performance and fitness, still

aiming to produce a future 70m plus result. A genuine local legend, Matt's image takes pride of place on a mural in Allora, having grown up practicing at home with a throwing circle cemented in the yard at the family farm.

Marion Pitkin, now Denny, was in my 1967 Junior class and married into the Denny family after her time at St Catharine's and training as a nurse.

You have power over your mind - not outside events. Realise this, and you will find strength. Marcus Aurelius



The 2026 Glasgow Commonwealth Games gold, silver, and bronze medals feature a distinctive Reuleaux triangle shape, incorporating Braille and tactile elements, showcasing industrial motifs inspired by the host city's heritage and Scottish tartan.

Vickers-Donaldson: historic Slade connections

WE HAVE RECENTLY FAREWELLED TWO MEMBERS OF THE VICKERS FAMILY who were at Slade in the early 1950s. As noted, on Page 1, the memorial service for Robert held in Toowoomba 22nd August, reflected an absolute who's who of the medical profession in Toowoomba including our own Eric Donaldson OAM, recently retired Medical Practitioner and ex Army Colonel who was one of the keynote speakers. Eric's son, also Eric Donaldson, and another respected physician, was Master of Ceremonies on this occasion. What you may not know, is the fact that the Donaldson/Vickers family connection is a distinguished, pioneering one which reaches back into the past to reveal a significant and less well known chapter of Queensland history. We thank Ted Ross for the following information which he sourced for us online from the Australian Dictionary of Biography...

ROBERT AND DAVID VICKERS' FATHER WAS A MEDICAL AND AVIATION PIONEER AS WILL BE DEMONSTRATED BELOW

Allan Robert Stanley Vickers (1901–1967)

Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 12, 1990 posted online 2006 Allan Robert Stanley Vickers, flying doctor, was born 3 June 1901 at Caniambo, Euroa, Victoria, son of Robert Vickers, farmer, and his wife Jessie Scott, née Loudon. His Victorian-born parents later ran a store near Albury, New South Wales. Allan was educated at Albury High School and the University of Sydney (M.B., 1926), but his studies were broken by the chronic asthma that persisted for the rest of his life. Following a period as resident medical officer at Albury Hospital and as general practitioner at Queanbeyan, he worked briefly in a tuberculosis sanatorium at Waterfall.

With the prompting of Rev. [John Flynn](#), Vickers joined the Aerial Medical Service of the Presbyterian Australian Inland Mission and in 1931-34 was medical superintendent at Cloncurry, North Queensland. In hazardous flights to outback locations which lacked proper landing facilities, Vickers averaged 25,000 miles (40,233 km) a year in his de Havilland 50 cabin biplane (DH50) which was equipped with a battery-operated portable transmitter. After financial support for the mission had been eroded by the Depression, in 1933 he began a publicity and fund-raising drive that led to the formation of an independent body, the National Aerial Medical Service of Australia. 1 February 1934 he married Liliās Hinah Ella Whitman at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Cloncurry. That month he resigned from the A.I.M.

Resident medical officer (1934-35) at Broome, Western Australia, Vickers next established that State's first flying doctor base at Port Hedland. He saw its role as providing preventive and routine medicine, rather than merely emergency services. In charge of the two hospitals at Port Hedland and another at Marble Bar, he was also quarantine officer, resident magistrate, protector of Aborigines, mining warden and inspector of fisheries. During World War II Lieutenant-Colonel Vickers was commanding officer (1939-43) of the 110th Australian General Hospital, Perth, and a councillor and vice-president of the Western Australian section of the National Aerial Medical Service. He was recalled by the Queensland section of what was, after 1942, the Flying Doctor Service, and established its second base at Charleville in 1943: he was chief medical officer there in 1951-54. As a Nuffield fellow in 1954, he canvassed in England for the development of the flying doctor service on a British Commonwealth basis. Back in Australia he was appointed medical superintendent and supervisor of bases in Queensland.

A Freemason and a commander of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (1946), Vickers was appointed O.B.E. in 1951 and C.M.G. in 1955. He became medical consultant to the federal council of the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia in 1964. Elder statesman of the movement at his retirement in 1966, Vickers had employed all his tenacity, resilience and force of character in its service. His quiet and self-effacing manner was belied by deep-set 'eager and vivacious' eyes. Returning as ship's doctor from a voyage to England, Vickers died of heart disease aboard the *Imperial Star* off Cape Town on 30 October 1967. His ashes were scattered from a R.F.D.S. plane over Cloncurry; his wife, Liliās and two sons, Robert and David survived him.

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- C. Duguid papers (National Library of Australia)
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- Australian Inland Mission papers (National Library of Australia).

Citation details

Michael J. Richards, 'Vickers, Allan Robert Stanley (1901–1967)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/vickers-allan-robert-stanley-8919/text15673>, published first in hardcopy 1990, accessed online 29 July 2026.

This article was published in hardcopy in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 12, (Melbourne University Press), 1990

CAPTAIN DONALDSON NO 1 OUTBACK PILOT

The story below is of the dad of our own Eric Donaldson (Slade 1950-53)
Captain Eric Donaldson, who found the missing Flying Doctor (Dr. G. W. F. Alberry) and Pilot K. C. Berry, in flooded country, is Australia's No. 1 outback pilot.

He has been flying for more than 23 years, having graduated as pilot with the Royal Flying Corps in September, 1916.

He was educated at Geelong Grammar School, Victoria, and after following pastoral pursuits in North-western Queensland, went to England in 1915 to enlist. After obtaining his "wings" in the R.F.C. he went to France on two-seater reconnaissance aircraft. At the end of six months' service he returned to England with the rank of Flight-Commander, and was appointed instructor at Yatesbury, where a number of Australian Flying Corps pilots were undergoing training.

In June, 1918, Captain Donaldson once again went to France on active service. He was wounded twice, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for Gallantry.

He resigned from the Royal Air Force in February, 1920, and immediately set about plans for a flight across the Pacific Ocean from San Francisco to Brisbane. Unable to obtain the necessary backing, he returned to Australia and resumed pastoral work in Queensland.

In July, 1928, he joined Qantas, and took up route flying on the Charleville-Camooweal-Normanton services. On the formation of Qantas Empire Airways in December, 1934, Captain Donaldson was placed in charge of flying operations at the Cloncurry base, which embraced the Flying Doctor service inaugurated in May, 1928.

Until the opening of the flying boat service on the Sydney-Singapore section in July, 1938, he was engaged in flying doctor work and obtained unique knowledge of flying conditions in north-west Queensland and North Australia.

Since that time he has been in charge of flying operations at Brisbane, and was engaged as senior pilot on the DH86, Brisbane-Cloncurry service.

Early last year Donaldson made an amazing one-wheel landing in a DH86 at Charleville. after a tyre had

burst during the take-off at Roma, Donaldson put the 86 down without the slightest damage.

His combination of bushcraft and flying experience makes him the outstanding Australian back-country pilot.

Source Trove The Cairns Post Monday 22 January 1940 Page 3



Side view of Pilot Eric Donaldson, Dr Allan Vickers, patient and wireless in the plane called Victory (DH50A) part of lantern slide lecture collection, 1926 <https://ehive.com>

Antiques Roadshow on its way to Australia?

EARLY IN AUGUST HELEN MOLONEY FORWARDED the following email to me. Helen's involvement in the National Trust explains this and the subject matter speaks for itself. I also apologise in advance because I know that the blue underscored link, [Watch the pilot now](#) will only be accessible to those reading Kinawah electronically. That being said, I found the pilot episode, filmed at the Norman Lindsay* Gallery and Museum in the Blue Mountains at Faulconbridge wonderfully interesting, surprising, fascinating, unique and a rare glimpse into facets of Australia that few people are likely to be aware of. See below:

"We have some wonderful news to share! National Trust NSW has been in conversations with National Trust Queensland and National Trust Victoria about bringing **BBC Antiques Roadshow** to Australia.

"Late last year, a test pilot was filmed at National Trust NSW's beautiful Norman Lindsay House and it's now live on YouTube! This is our chance to show the BBC there's a real appetite for an Australian series, with the potential for future episodes to be filmed right here at National Trust Queensland properties.

"Here's where you come in: the more views, likes, and shares this pilot gets, the stronger our case for a full series. So please take a few minutes to watch, and if you enjoy it, give it a like and share it with friends and family. [Watch the pilot now](#)

"It's been a slow burn getting this off the ground, but the response so far has been fantastic — let's keep the momentum going and help make an Australian Antiques Roadshow a reality!"

Thanks so much for your support, Erin Millar



* Norman Alfred Williams Lindsay was, among many things, the author and illustrator of the classic Australian children's book, *The Magic Pudding*

2001 pen portrait of our fair dinkum "Naked Poet"

FOR TEN YEARS MARCO GLIORI has travelled Australia with his original barnstorming poetry and comedy performances. Whether it is corporate dinners, or as coordinator/comper of the infamous poets breakfasts or comedy shows at national festivals, Marco is in hot demand.

Marco is a record four-time winner of the Tamworth Country Music Poetry Performance, in 2001, winning Bush Poet Laureate and with his troupe, The Naked Poets, Single Recorded Performance of the Year. Marco has completed over 2000 shows for young Australians courtesy of both Queensland and Victoria Arts Councils.

Tenterfield Shire Council commissioned Marco to write a poem to celebrate the 100 years of the Federation of Australia - you're sure to hear this one over the weekend!

His comedy pieces depicting annoying Amway Men, Mr Whippy vans and dogs that piddle on electric fences are in stark contrast to his insightful images of indigenous Australians in "No More Piccaninny" and the soul stirring "Swaggie" that saw Marco win the prestigious Spirit of Mathilda Award.

Marco regularly travels to isolated communities writing poetry with children and performing adult comedy shows at night - how's that for diversity?

A former Queensland [police] detective, Marco left that job in 1991 to tour Australia as one of our few full time poets. He lives on a picturesque 25 hectare mountain retreat near Warwick with his wife, Julie and their three young daughters

Editor's Note: Marco, you delighted your audience at our Slade Centenary dinner in May, both with your original presentation and your obvious close Slade and St Catharine's connections. 25 years on from when the above was written, you haven't lost your touch and your daughters are not so young any more but your contribution to our celebrations were very much enjoyed and appreciated.



A cursory look at acronyms, backronyms and more

Since the common theme tying us together is our education, and regarding clever use of language:

COMMON TRUE ACRONYMS

NASA: National Aeronautics and Space Administration
SCUBA: Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
RADAR: Radio Detection And Ranging
LASER: Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization
ZIP: Zone Improvement Plan (as in ZIP code)

FUN OR SURPRISING ACRONYMS

TASER: Thomas A. Swift's Electric Rifle
PIN: Personal Identification Number
GIF: Graphics Interchange Format []

ACRONYMS ARE PRONOUNCED AS NEW WORDS, WHILE INITIALISMS ARE SPELLED OUT LETTER BY LETTER

FAKE ACRONYMS AKA (an initialism) BACKRONYMS: Famous fake acronyms (backronyms) people commonly believe are real:

A **backronym** is an existing word or name that is intentionally turned into an acronym by inventing a new phrase to fit its

letters. Instead of making a word from a phrase like normal, a backronym goes backward to make a phrase fit an existing word. [1, 2, 3]

WHY PEOPLE MAKE BACKRONYMS

Jokes and Fun: People create funny phrases out of everyday words for entertainment.

Memory Helpers: Teachers or scientists make up words to help people remember lists or steps (such as medical scoring systems).

Official Names: Governments and groups use them to make laws or programs sound more meaningful or catchy.

False History: People also invent a fake origin story for a word because they think it is an abbreviation. [1, 2, 3]

Some Common Examples of this:

AMBER Alert: Originally named after 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, officials

later constructed the backronym *America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response*. []

APGAR Score: Named after Dr. Virginia Apgar, it became a memory helper for newborns: *Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity, Respiration*. []

PATRIOT Act: The US anti-terrorism law stands for *Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism*. [1]

SOS: Originally chosen as a simple Morse code signal (three dots, three dashes, three dots), people later said it meant *Save Our Souls* or *Save Our Ship*.

POSH: A popular false urban legend claims it means *Port Out, Starboard Home* for wealthy ship travelers, but this is a folk etymology.

Information courtesy of Wikipedia

HERE THERE AND EVERYWHERE

Our next eclectic mix of news items also leans on experiences, characters and destinations!

RED ROCKET RETRO DINER NOW OPEN IN CAMBOOYA

WITH ITS FOCUS ON FAMILY-FRIENDLY EATING OUT, fresh local produce and hiring local staff, the Red Rocket Diner opened in August. Serving simple, hearty café fare like hot dogs, burgers, pizzas and loaded fries Monday to Saturday, the diner's retro theme has been embraced by the local community. So if you are looking for a drive in the country and to eat at an establishment with echoes of yesteryear, this might be a place to check out. Check them out on Facebook for more info.



WE ADD OUR RECOGNITION OF A QLD WINE PIONEER



96 YEARS AGO ANGELO PUGLISI'S FAMILY arrived in Ballandean from Italy as fruit farmers. In 1930 the Granite Belt was not the wine growing hub as we know it as today. Young Angelo, now 83 years old, grew up tending tomato and vegetable crops with his family and when he found grape vines growing in the family garden plot, his heritage naturally led him in the direction of wine making since Italians,

wherever they go, are known for turning grapes into wine.

Back then known winemakers ignored QLD because of its heat and humidity believing quality wine could not be grown in a tropical state. As those familiar with winters in Warwick and Stanthorpe know, the elevation, dryer air and freezing temperatures lend an added special ingredient. In 1968, while some of us were sitting at our school desks, Angelo planted shiraz vines to launch what was to become Ballandean Estate Wines.

In doing this this, he inspired others to invest in the area and then gave back, providing Opera in the Vineyard. This came into existence out of imagining performing classical music looking out over the vineyard. A 27 year charitable partnership between Ballandean Estate Wines and the Rotary Club of Stanthorpe followed raising \$1.3m for QLD medical charities and health-related causes.

Who knew back 1968 that there might one day be a wine tourism industry and other boutique hospitality outlets near where we all went to school?

"FLANNO FOR A FARMER" BACKED BY SELECTED PUBS

FARM ANGELS, FORMERLY DROUGHT ANGELS, recently partnered with premier beef provider, JBS Australia to support farming families via the national Flanno for a Farmer campaign. From August 14, every JBS steak sold in QLD pubs supporting the program brings a \$2 donation to the charity to lend assistance to farming families. This may take the form of emergency financial support, essential supplies or mental health support and referrals. Businesses, schools and communities across Australia are also encouraged to pull on a flanno, merchandise available at the Flanno for a Farmer website to raise funds to show farmers they are not alone.

Participating pubs in the Darling Downs and Southwest QLD include The Australian Hotel in St George, Cattle Camp Hotel in Charleville, Club Hotel in Chinchilla, Criterion Hotels in Dalby and Warwick and the Mill Inn Tavern in Millmerran.



VAX AGAINST KILLER KOALA DISEASE

A SPECIAL VACCINE has been administered to beleaguered wild koalas for the first time on QLD's Gold Coast.

Chlamydia, which causes serious health problems including bladder inflammation, blindness and infertility, is responsible for 50% of all koala deaths and has been threatening the koala population on mainland Australia for years. In what is being hailed as a major breakthrough, the two-shot chlamydia vaccine developed by QUT scientists follows an extensive vaccine trial backed by the World Wide Fund for Nature and furniture brand, Koala.

This has been hailed as turning point for the species already significantly threatened by man made habitat loss. Chlamydia also affects humans but



has been rapidly reducing wild koala populations. A solution to rescue this national icon from extinction was urgently needed.

CRISIS FLAGGED RE DV HELP FOR MEN

WITH THE RECENT HEAVILY PUBLICISED DV DEATHS in the eastern and western downs region it may seem odd to raise another related but critical aspect of this issue which is less talked about: a young Toowoomba man, realising he has a problem with aggression in the home, has found meagre options available in seeking help.

The only dedicated, government-funded men's behavioural change program coordinated by the Domestic Violence Action Centre runs for 27 weeks, has a wait time of several months and is limited to about 30 places. This falls far short of demand, leading those working at the coal face pleading for increased funding from state and federal governments.

Department of Justice statistics reveal that in 2025 alone, Toowoomba's Courthouse processed 760 Domestic Violence Order applications, 1619 breaches of DVOs and 455 assault offences flagged as domestic violence. This amounts to more than 60% of QLD Police work. Top priority on more effective crime prevention before serious injury and death occurs is a pressing concern. Clearly, solutions are urgently needed.

LEARNING CRISIS IN REGIONAL/RURAL SCHOOLS

WITH MORE THAN 500 TEACHERS URGENTLY NEEDED for core subjects like mathematics, English and science, children in regional and more remote schools are missing out on vital education. For those of us who came away to school from places far from the bigger centres, this will probably be no surprise. Added to this, we grew up with additional farm responsibilities while being schooled by correspondence or perhaps in one teacher schools where the teacher's wife was expected, as a matter of course, to supervise the girls for needlework etc.

New figures from the department of education Smart Jobs website reveal 504 teacher roles are currently vacant in regional schools - almost 50% more since January this year compared with 70 roles advertised in Brisbane. Central QLD has experienced chronic shortages across its primary, high and special schools with meaningful intervention long overdue according to QUT Hon. Vice President, Josh Cleary.

SUPER POWERS, PERSONALITIES & PERSEVERANCE

WILL POWER is a name well known to motor racing fans. The son of open-wheel racing legend of yesteryear, Bob Power, he began his own racing career in a [Datsun 1200](#) at Morgan Park Raceway, Warwick and Carnel Raceway, Stanthorpe. Will's racing resumé takes in 19 years in the U.S. IndyCar series, winner of the Indianapolis 500 and IndyCar Champion twice.

In April this year, 79 year old Bob Power was the victim of a carjacking in broad daylight in a Toowoomba car park near the end of a three-day rampage across the Darling Downs by the offender who was arrested shortly afterwards.

Weeks later, Bob suffered a cardiac arrest while swimming laps in a public pool which left him in a coma for weeks.

His family was urged to talk to him even though he was unresponsive. So the most mentioned topics were the Indy 500 and the State of Origin (SoO). Will's brother, Damien, a comedian and short film maker, says Bob woke just in time for the first SoO game, quipping that neither carjacking nor cardiac arrest could keep him down. Damien's short film, "Return of the Champ", recently headlined the program of a short film festival, *Flickerfest*. This film, categorised as an intimate docudrama, follows Damien and Will as they face a long buried trauma and a traumatic crash.

More about "Getting Metricated" in Australia: Part 2

THE FIRST METRIC MELBOURNE CUP was raced in November 1972. An early change was the metrication of **horse racing**. This was facilitated because the **furlong** (one-eighth of a mile or 201.2 metres) is close to 200 metres (660 ft). Therefore, the **Melbourne Cup** was changed from 2 miles (3,218.7 m) to 3,200 metres (10,500 ft), a reduction of about 19 metres (62 ft) or about 0.6%.

METRICATION OF WEATHER REPORTING/FORECASTS: When the Australian **Bureau of Meteorology** was enlisted to introduce the metric system for weather reporting and forecasts, its public relations officer, Godfrey Wiseman, coined a series of **jingles** to educate the public, using the terms *frosty fives*, *tingling tens*, *temperate twenties*, *thirsty thirties* and *fiery forties* to describe human sensation to temperatures in degrees Celsius. This was very successful as the public soon became aware of the significance of the descriptions.

At the culmination of this campaign, weather reports and forecasts in both Fahrenheit and Celsius were provided for only one month. After 1 September 1972, only Celsius measurements were given for temperature.

Similarly, **wind speed** was reported only in kilometres per hour (km/h) from 1 April 1973, and rainfall in **millimetres** – with river depths, snow depths and waves reported in metres – from 1 January 1974.

METRICATION OF THE ROAD SIGNS: Speed limits signs in km/h had the number indicating the speed limit inside a red circle. An important and intentionally visible sign of metric conversion in Australia was the change in **road signs** and the accompanying traffic regulations; "M-day" for this change was 1 July 1974. Because of careful planning, almost every road sign in Australia was converted within a month. This was achieved by installing covered metric signs alongside the imperial signs before the change, and then removing the imperial signs and uncovering the metric signs during the month of conversion.

While road signs could not all be changed at the same time, there was little chance of confusion as to what any **speed limit** sign meant during this short change-over period. This was because the previous mph signs had black-on-white rectangular signage, in the same style as current US speed limit signs, whilst the km/h signs that replaced them had the speed limit number inside a red circle, as is done in Europe.

Road distance signs were also converted during this period. To avoid confusion as to whether the distance indicated was in miles or kilometres, new major distance signs had a temporary yellow plate affixed to them displaying the symbol *km*. On the many new kilometre signs on minor roads, a yellow plate which showed the corresponding number of miles was affixed under the now permanent kilometre distance indication. These temporary plates were removed after about one year.

Except for bridge clearance and flood-depth signs, dual marking was avoided. Though people opposed to metrication expressed concern that ignorance of the meaning of metric speeds would lead to accidents on the roads, this did not happen, as most drivers under the age of 25 had been taught metric units at school, and through them, their parents were familiar with metric speeds, if not metric

units as a whole.

It was believed public education would be the most effective way of ensuring public safety. A Panel for Publicity on Road Travel, comprising various motoring organisations, regulatory authorities, and the media, planned a campaign to publicise the change. The resulting publicity campaign cost A\$200,000 which the Australian Government Department of Transport paid for. The Board also produced 2.5 million copies of a pamphlet, "Motoring Goes Metric". This was distributed through post offices, police stations, and motor registry offices.

For about a year before the change, motor car manufacturers fitted dual speedometers to their vehicles but, after 1974, all new cars were fitted with metric-only **speedometers**.

Several kinds of speedometer conversion kits were available. Due to all these changes, conversion on the roads occurred without incident.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION A measuring tape showing millimetres: The building industry was the first major industry group in Australia to complete its transition to the metric system. This was achieved within two years by January 1976 for all new buildings other than those for which design had commenced well before metrication began. The resulting savings for builders and their sub-contractors have been estimated at 10% of gross turnover.

In this, the industry was grateful to Standards Australia for the early publication of the standard AS 1155-1974, "Metric Units for Use in the Construction Industry". This specified the use of millimetres as the small unit for the metrication upgrade. In adopting the millimetre as the "small" unit of length for metrication (instead of the centimetre), the Metric Conversion Board relied heavily on experience in the United Kingdom and the International Organisation for Standardisation, where this decision had already been made. This was formally stated as follows: "The metric units for linear measurement in building and construction will be the metre (m) and the millimetre (mm), with the kilometre (km) being used where required. This will apply to all sectors of the industry, and the **centimetre** (cm) shall not be used. [...] The centimetre should not be used in any calculation and it should never be written down [...]."

The logic of using the millimetre in this context was that the metric system was designed so that there would be a multiple or submultiple for every use. Decimal fractions would not have to be used. Since the tolerances on building components and building practice would rarely be less than one millimetre (0.039 inch), the millimetre became the sub-unit most appropriate to this industry. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metrication_in_Au

The first rule is to keep an untroubled spirit. The second is to look things in the face and know them for what they are.

Marcus Aurelius 120AD - 180 AD

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Keeping safe online at home in 2026 - Part 1

CYBERSECURITY IN 2026 is no longer a concern just for large corporations. It affects everyday activities as simple as checking emails, using your phone, and connecting devices to Wi-Fi.

A few years ago, most common cyberattacks targeted big companies or government bodies whereas in 2026, ordinary people such as you and me are the main targets. If you use a laptop, tablet, smart TV, or connected home device, you are likely to experience security attacks and while this might be worrying, it doesn't need to be overwhelming.

Most security risks in 2026 stem from small, common gaps in basic security habits, i.e. advanced hacking techniques do not always cause them. The good news is that you do not need deep technical knowledge or expensive tools to stay safe. Simple but consistent actions can greatly reduce your risk and help protect your devices.

In this guide, we break down the top seven emerging cybersecurity risks affecting real consumers and explain how to protect your devices from hackers using practical steps.

<https://www.hp.com/au-en/tech-takes/security/buyers-guide/top-security-risks-protection-guide.html>

WHY CYBERSECURITY THREATS IN 2026 ARE DIFFERENT and why we need to get serious about cybersecurity. These threats are different now mainly because attacks are faster, more automated and more personalised. Emerging cyber threats are harder to spot, but are also easier to stop when you understand how they work.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) driven attacks are more Common: Scammers use AI tools creating emails, texts, and alerts that look real, sound natural and much harder to detect than traditional scams.

AI also plays a role in defence: Modern security tools use AI to detect unusual activities. They can block suspicious links, stop harmful files, and catch new threats before they cause damage.

Individuals are the main target: Cybercriminals no longer focus on big companies because personal laptops, phones, and home Wi-Fi networks are easier to breach since they are usually less protected.

More connected devices increase risk: Many homes now have multiple devices connected to the same Wi-Fi network, so if one device is not secured, it can put the rest of your devices at risk.

Most threats are preventable: Many cybersecurity threats in 2026 succeed because of simple issues such as weak passwords, missed updates, or unsafe browsing. Basic security habits can stop most of these attacks.

Understanding these shifts puts you one step ahead of potential threats. Next, we'll look at the top 7 most common security threats in 2026 and show you exactly how to protect your devices.

1. AI-POWERED PHISHING ATTACKS

There's a difference between Phishing vs. Smishing vs. Vishing. Phishing attacks happen when scammers pretend to be a trusted company, service, or person to trick you into clicking a link, opening a file, or sharing personal details. In 2026, AI phishing attacks have become more dangerous because they:

- Sound natural and well-written
- Use real company names and logos
- Look like normal emails, texts, or app alerts
- Create urgency by warning about account issues, payments, or security alerts

Real-World Example: 2024 attackers impersonated popular software companies with fake copyright and account suspension emails sent to U.S. consumers. Victims who clicked on links gave attackers access to accounts.

Why is it worse in 2026? AI has made phishing more effective because attackers can:

- Write messages that sound human, not robotic
 - Personalise emails using leaked data
 - Send thousands of messages in a short time
- At the same time, people receive more messages than ever, which makes it easier to miss warning signals.

How to protect yourself Some of the things you need to do to protect yourself from phishing attacks include:

- Use built-in spam and phishing filters in email apps such as Gmail and Outlook
- Avoid clicking links in unexpected messages; open the website directly in a new browser tab



- Enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for email and financial accounts
- Use [HP Wolf Security on HP laptops](#) to isolate risky links and attachments

2. DEEPFAKE SCAMS

Deepfake scams use artificial intelligence to copy how real people look or sound. You might get:

- A phone call that sounds like your boss
- A voice note that sounds like a family member
- A video clip that looks real at first glance

The goal is to make you act quickly, usually by sending money or sharing sensitive details.

Real-World Example: 2024 - Arizona, U.S.A. families reported calls from someone sounding exactly like a relative: attackers asked for emergency funds. Law enforcement confirmed AI-generated voice cloning from short online clips.

Why It Is Worse in 2026

Deepfake scams are growing fast because:

- Voice and video cloning tools are easy to access
- Only a few seconds of audio are all that is needed to create a realistic fake
- People naturally trust familiar voices and faces
- AI-generated media is becoming harder to differentiate from real content

As this technology improves, deepfakes are becoming harder to spot. However, you can protect yourself by doing the following:

How to Protect Yourself

The best defence against deepfakes is verification:

- Pause when a request feels urgent or emotional
- Ask questions only a real person would know
- Confirm the request using a second trusted method
- Set a code word or phrase for family or work emergencies
- Limit the sharing of voice and video content publicly

Deepfake scams rely on panic. Taking a moment to verify can stop them completely.

3. IOT (INTERNET OF THINGS) DEVICE VULNERABILITIES

Modern smart home devices use the internet to function and communicate. These devices add convenience to our daily lives, but if they are not properly secured, they can also create new entry points for cybercriminals. Some of these devices include:

- Smart TVs and streaming devices
- Smart speakers and home assistants
- Wi-Fi printers
- Security cameras and doorbells
- Smart plugs, lights, thermostats, etc.

Real-World Example: 2025 Europe, vulnerabilities in multiple consumer smart devices meant hackers were able to access home Wi-Fi and connected devices through outdated firmware.

Manufacturers quickly fixed the issue.

Why is it worse in 2026? IoT security risks are growing for a few simple reasons, which include:

- Homes with more connected devices than ever
- Default usernames and passwords are rarely changed
- Many devices run outdated software
- Most devices sharing the same home Wi-Fi network (If just one device is poorly secured, it can put others at risk).

How to protect yourself

You do not need advanced skills to secure smart home devices. Some effective steps you should take include:

- Change default usernames and passwords as soon as a device is installed
 - Update devices using official apps from the manufacturer
 - Remove devices you no longer use from your network
 - Use guest networks to improve home network security in 2026
- Prioritise laptops and phones to strengthen personal device security

Smart devices should make your home safer and more convenient, not more exposed. You can read our detailed guide* on what IoT entails. **TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE**

**This data was sourced from the Hewlett Packard website as its explanations seemed more straightforward than some others.*

Lost corners of Warwick: the Victoria Hotel plus more

STANDING ON THE CORNER OF DRAGON AND FITZROY STREETS, the Victoria Hotel was a familiar Warwick landmark for more than 70 years. Originally known as the Victoria Royal Hotel, it adopted the simpler name "Victoria Hotel" in 1873 when Robert Saunders became licensee.

During its life the hotel was run by many licensees, each leaving a mark on history including Thomas Pender and his wife Elizabeth, who owned it in the 1890s. After Thomas's death in 1898, Elizabeth ran the hotel alone before marrying Thomas Devaney and becoming one of Warwick's prominent hotel proprietors.

In 1908 the hotel underwent major renovations, only months before new licensee Alexander "Dick" Sievers died at the age of 29. His widow, Rosalind, took over the business, continuing a tradition of strong women playing a role in the hotel's history.

The Victoria saw triumphs, tragedies, business successes, financial struggles, surviving changed ownerships, court disputes, economic depressions and two world wars but by the 1930s, being located in a residential part of town and drawing little trade, it was seen as becoming unnecessary.

In 1942 the licence was suspended at the request of owner Margaret Hurst, who felt the building could be more profitably used as flats. The hotel briefly returned to operation but its days were numbered. The Victoria Hotel's licence was officially cancelled 30 September 1947 ending more than seven decades of service to Warwick.

The building served as flats and a general store but was eventually demolished. Nevertheless, its story lives on via newspaper reports, photographs, and memories of local families. For generations the Victoria Hotel was part of the social fabric of the town and a witness to the changing fortunes of the community it served.

Note: Much of this information is drawn from painstaking research by the late Paul Munson whose documentation of Warwick's history has left a lasting legacy for future historians.

BOTTLE-O BROWN'S – THE END OF A WARWICK LANDMARK

One of Warwick's most recognisable old buildings disappeared forever 27 July 2016. Known as "Bottle-o Brown's," the house at 31 Albion Street saw Warwick grow and change around it for generations, before being declared beyond saving and reduced to rubble.

Its distinctive shape, rusting roof and faded brickwork behind its weathered corrugated iron fence gave it the look of another era. Because of its size and style, many believed it had once been a hotel but it never was. The building served several purposes throughout its long life. The lower front section was a shop at various times - possibly a general store and even a post office at one time - while the upper floor and rear rooms served as the family residence. For more than a century, it is believed the property remained in the hands of the Brown family, becoming woven into the story of Albion Street itself.

Older Warwick residents remember the Browns as bottle merchants,

known around town for collecting bottles and buying old car batteries. The nickname "Bottle-o Brown's" eventually overshadowed the building's actual address.

By the early 21st century, the place had fallen into decline. Vandals and local kids had been breaking into the

property for years. Broken windows, unstable floors and the failing structure made it increasingly dangerous and there were fears it was only a matter of time before someone was seriously injured - or before fire destroyed it completely.

The old house had already survived the 1976 flood, with more than a metre of water reportedly surging through it in the middle of the night, forcing the Brown family to flee their home. It is

believed the family ceased living there in the early 1980s.

Although one of Warwick's oldest surviving buildings, it was considered unsalvageable and it was demolished in 2016.

The Brown name remains tied to Warwick's sporting history through Wilf Brown, one of the district's cricket legends and a former Queensland representative player. Sadly, Wilf lost his life in a tragic house fire in Gore Street on 25 April 2015 at the age of 85 - just over a year before the old Albion Street building met its own end.



Victoria Hotel
Cnr Fitzroy & Dragon Streets
Warwick



Accept the things to which fate binds you, and love the people with whom fate brings you together, but do so with all your heart. — Marcus Aurelius

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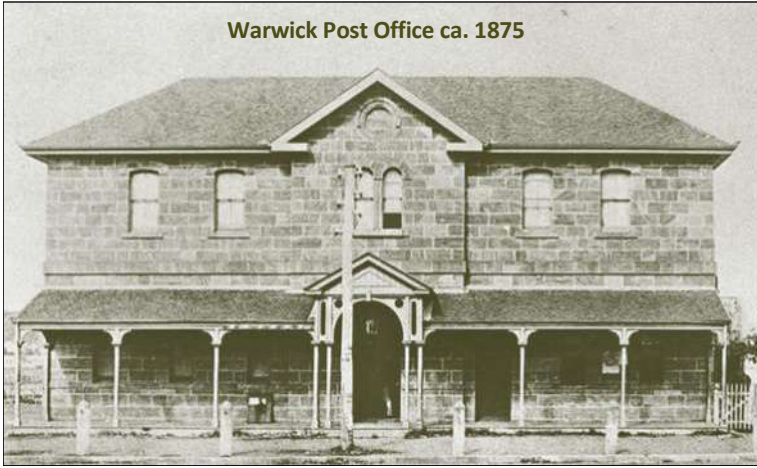
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Looking at Warwick through a very old lens

Warwick Post Office ca. 1875

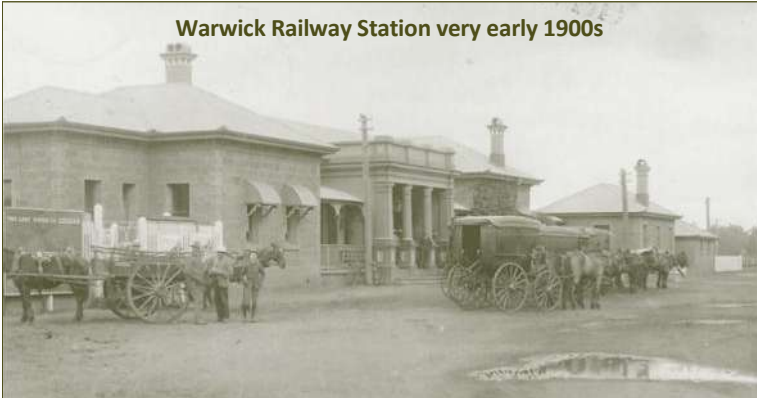


This new stone building, erected in 1870 in Albion Street, combined the formerly separate post and telegraph services. The first receiving post office was opened in 1848 in the Horse and Jockey Inn, at the corner of Palmerin and Victoria Streets. The first Post Office operated from W. H. Brown's store at the corner of Albion and Albert Streets. The first telegraph office opened in 1861 at Albion Street.

Stanthorpe Railway line opening 1881



Warwick Railway Station very early 1900s



Palmerin and Grafton Street Corner ca. 1918



300 acre wheatfield Canning Downs 1894



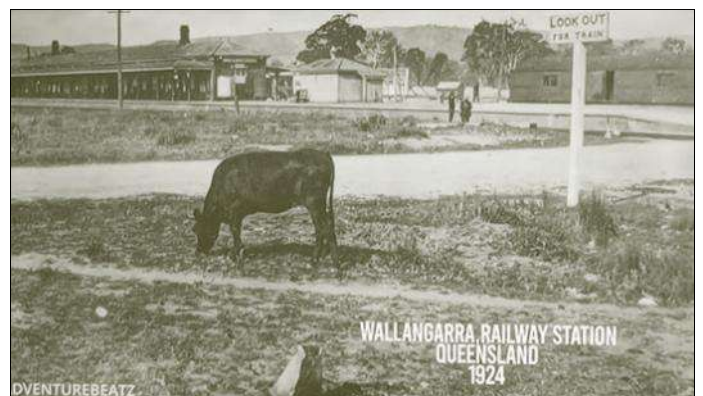
Wool Teams at Stanthorpe Railway Station:
part of the 1919 Clip Glenlyon/Pike Creek Stations



Warwick Ambulance Service ca. 1920

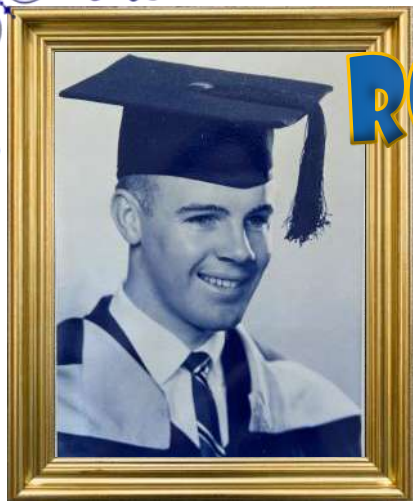


Brett's Garage 1920s



WALLANGARRA RAILWAY STATION
QUEENSLAND
1924

ROBERT VICKERS 1936-2026



Robert is warmly remembered as a caring physician who treated every one of his colleagues from eminent surgeons to the nurses, wardsmen and other hospital staff with the greatest respect.

ROBERT ALLAN LITTON VICKERS was born in Port Hedland, Western Australia 1st November 1936, the first born son of flying doctor, Allan Vickers who had moved there with his wife, Liliias to open a new flying doctor base.

After war broke out in 1939, when Robert had just turned three, Allan resigned from the Flying Doctor Service to serve as Commanding Officer of the Perth Military Hospital. In 1940, Robert's brother, David was born.

In 1943 the family moved to Charleville where Allan established yet another new flying doctor base. Robert attended Charleville State School and had very happy memories of growing up there. Like his father, he held a deep respect for the people of western Queensland.

In 1951, Robert went to Slade as a boarder. As a senior in 1954, he was Dux of School and Vice-Captain. He was awarded Colours in Football and was a member of the Shooting Team and a Cadet U/O. He was mentored by Eric Donaldson who became a lifelong friend and ultimately, a professional colleague.

Neither Robert nor Eric rated themselves as accomplished cricketers. Eric thought himself a third string player at best. One occasion, however, he recalled to the amusement of his listeners. As he tells it, Eric was put in charge of a lower level school team and felt he'd better show some leadership and bowl an over. The batsman dispatched Eric's wide delivery with contempt towards Robert, in the outfield where he was eating a pie. To everyone's surprise, he stuck his hand up when the name, "Vickers" was invoked and somehow, the ball stuck recording a catch for Robert and Eric's one and only wicket ever!

Robert studied Medicine at the University of Queensland 1955-1960 and completed his Residency at Royal Brisbane Hospital before travelling to the UK for further training in General Surgery. After studying in Edinburgh and working in Wolverhampton he started as a Surgical Registrar at Cheltenham General Hospital where he met Margaret Kathleen Mosson. They married 3rd June 1967 in St Giles Church in Bredon, Margaret's home village, honeymooned in Scotland and their first child, Katherine, was born in April 1968. By this time Robert had passed his Fellowship

exams at the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh and London and both were ready to depart the UK for Australia.

Newly qualified and without a lot of money to spare, Robert travelled as a ship's surgeon embarking from London July 1968. Margaret and Katherine, just three months old, followed him flying Qantas in August.

Initially, Robert took a job in Muswellbrook, but wanting to move back to Queensland, started at Toowoomba Base Hospital as acting Medical Superintendent in January 1969. Twins, Anne and Allan, arrived in September, 1969.

From 1970 to 1974 Robert was employed as General Surgeon in Dr Frank Haddan's practice. A fourth child, Elizabeth, was born in April 1972. The Vickers family was now complete and made Toowoomba their home.

Robert successfully passed his Australian Fellowship exam in 1973 and in 1974 started his own Private Practice with Del Kahler as his practice nurse and receptionist. Del worked with him for the rest of his career.

With new diagnostic options becoming available to medical practitioners, Robert set about pioneering improved breast cancer treatment. Many women surviving today, are testament to his work in this specialised area.

Margaret and Robert's children attended a state primary school and then went on to private schools for their secondary education - their parents' way of raising them to be well rounded individuals.

The Vickers family enjoyed holidays at the beach in Yeppoon, Snowy Mountains trout fishing and camping trips together in south-east Queensland, beach holidays in Caloundra, sailing Pumicetone Passage and climbing the Glasshouse Mountains.

Robert, a great lover of history, geography and poetry also took the family on road trips to Charleville, Sydney, Cairns and Canberra. In 1983 they embarked on the "trip of a lifetime" to England, to spend time with Margaret's UK family.

This "in person" visit was a special time after years of communicating via the now, almost lost art of letter writing.

Robert served on the Glennie School Board and the Board of St Vincent's hospital while Margaret was convenor of Glennie's Clothing

Pool and was President of St Vincent's Cancer Care Centre.

Robert loved a game of lawn bowls and he and Margaret both played Bridge and enjoyed gardening.

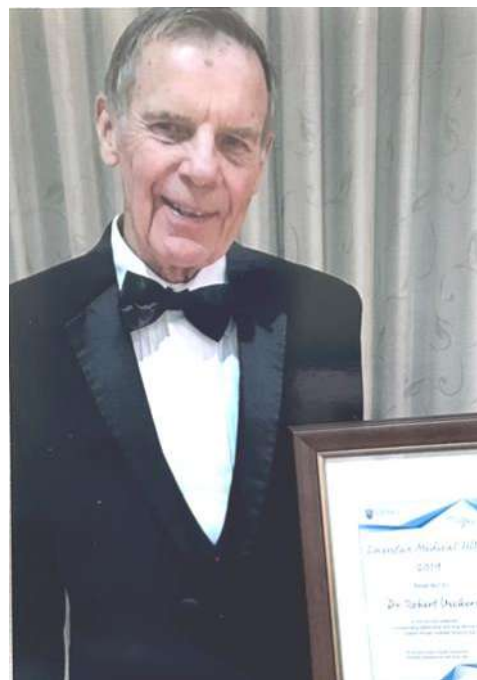
Because Robert worked long hours during the week, weekends were a very special time. Long Sunday lunches with walks in local parks afterwards and visits to Del's farm were highlights as was the music that the family enjoyed together.

Spending time outdoors with picnics featuring billy tea are fond memories for the Vickers children as well as family gatherings with the Donaldson, Ladner and other families.

The children also recall Robert reading to them in the evenings when possible. Here, Robinson Crusoe, Treasure Island and listening to The Snow Goose on the radio are cherished memories. Margaret and Robert enjoyed a well deserved retirement in Caloundra, with Robert regarding his 70s as his happiest decade.

When Margaret required care as her health declined, Robert willingly assumed this duty until her passing in April 2026.

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Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within yourself in your way of thinking. — Marcus Aurelius

Valé

"No matter how long it's been, there are times when it suddenly becomes harder to breathe" Anonymous



Anne Clarke OAM

CLARKE Anne Hilary, nee Armbruster, late of Chelmer and formerly of Warwick, passed away peacefully 1st August, 2026 aged 86 years.

Bereavement Details: Wife of Peter; Mother of Elizabeth, Sally and Philippa; Granny to Leonard, Helen, Matilda and Nicola.

A funeral service for Anne at Centenary Memorial Gardens Chapel, Sumner was held 14th August. A founding member of the Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA) - an Integrated Catchment Management group focused on land care in an urban environment - she served as President from 2000 to 2005, again from 2009 to 2011 and then, as Executive Officer, oversaw the finances, staff and projects, all in a voluntary capacity, as were all her roles. In 2008 Anne was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the environment and education through the monitoring, conservation, planning, rehabilitation and management of urban waterways. Anne was also an inaugural Director of Oxley Creek Transformation Pty Ltd and served on the Board from 2017 to 2022 providing valuable input to key elements of the Transformation including the Master Plan, the Archerfield Wetlands Precinct Plan, the establishment of Warril Parkland and partnerships with key stakeholders Anne also helped develop community initiatives including the Oxley Creek Water Festival, and latterly the Peaks to Point Festival.

Under her watch, OCCA gained international recognition, including the 2009 International Riverprize. Through OCCA Anne dedicated her time to raising community awareness of the issues facing our environment and advocating for actions to restore the health of Oxley Creek and its catchment.

Anne was at St Catharine's CEGS 1948-1957. The photo below was taken upon her graduation from QLD University ca. 1964.

Stephen Roberts

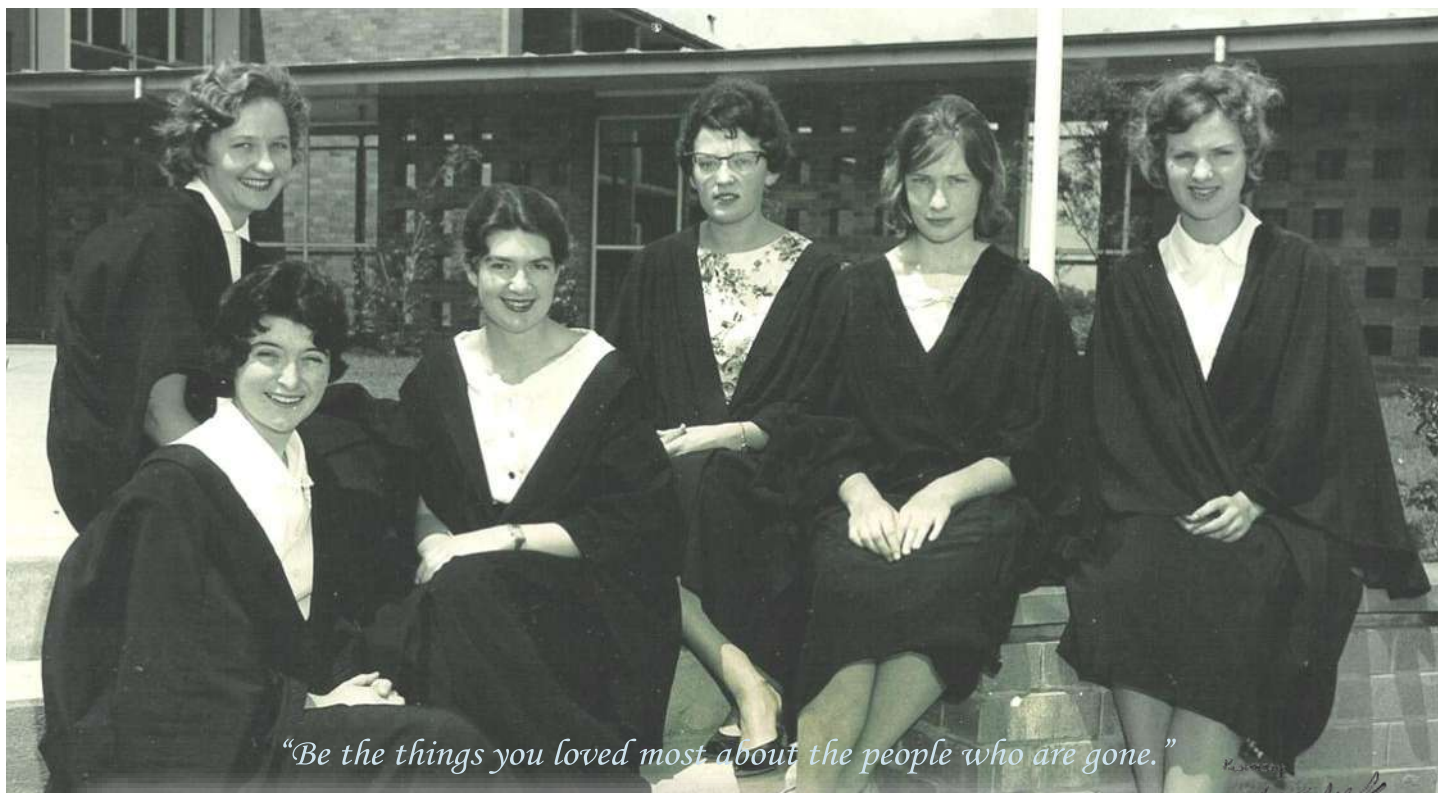
ROBERTS Stephen Lindsay, late of Noosaville and formerly of Manly passed away 21st July, 2026.

Stephen, also known as Steve, attended Slade 1962-1965. His two brothers, Paul (dec'd) and Gareth (current status unknown) were also at Slade 1960-1963 and 1959-1962 respectively.

In 1965 Steve was a member of the cricket, shooting and football teams. This photo of Steve has been cropped from Slade's First XI.

St Cath's 1950s alumni, below photographed at Women's College, St Lucia left to right: Anne Armbruster (Medicine), Marjorie Crooke (Pharmacy) now Leis, Judith Pace (Medicine) now Nave, Joy Knowles (Arts) now Schultz, Rosemary Best (Physiotherapy) now Gaddes, Kathleen Barnard (Science) current status unknown.

"We run from grief because loss scares us, yet our hearts reach toward grief because the broken parts want to mend." Brené Brown



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

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.

**Check us out
on the Web:**
www.scpsawarwick.com

**Find us on
Facebook**



St Catharine's/Slade School Facebook

Our Facebook page has 685 members as of September 5, 2026 and is helping to keep us all better connected.

Last Word...

OF RAGGED MOUNTAIN RANGES, OF DROUGHTS AND FLOODING RAINS

GROWING UP IN THE COUNTRY, droughts, floods, severe heat, frosts and controlled fires that sometimes escaped carefully curated boundaries presented everyday ongoing realities as did proper stewardship of the animals and crops on which we relied for our livelihoods and which also funded the schooling we had to leave home to pursue.

An integral part of the education that living on the land instilled in us was coming to grips with weather events and learning to respect venomous snakes, spiders, cattle ticks and other flora and fauna, both native and introduced, in the modest corner of the world we chose to inhabit.

As far back as I can recall, my father, was a keen student of the weather, phases of the moon and various related trends that he kept records of, not necessarily meticulously, but certainly with consuming interest. These factors were frequent topics of discussion in our home. Interest in them must be an inherited trait because this has followed me into my adult life too and, while I have not kept meticulous records either, the seed was indeed sown and germinated for taking note of trends and patterns that others sometimes may not have seen.

I find it endlessly interesting that for those whose lives are not intimately tied to those aspects listed in the above opening remarks, these things most often relate only to the ways they affect our own personal comfort or discomfort and generally only become part of broader consciousness when disasters on a massive scale occur and can no longer be ignored.

I am, at this moment, recalling that before the drought that led to the "Poowoomba" debate and referendum on use of recycled water, the wettest April on record was followed by seven plus years when restricted water use needed to be rigidly policed. The drought finally broke in 2011 but not before water levels in Toowoomba's dams had reached just 8% of total capacity.

Toowoomba and the southern downs populations have grown considerably since 2001 and alerts re imminent severe dry weather are currently being declared. The issue of water security is intimately understood and close to the hearts of those of us who grew up in dryer parts of the country and clearly needs to be addressed long before the situation reaches crisis point.

Watershed

2011, January 10
began like any other day.
Who knew how it would end?

After all the harsh El Nino years that dried the country out, we hoped for certain end of drought to see the season out and this grey day it happened . . .

A midday storm was in the cards, the heavens dumped and deluged, streets like mighty rivers flooded, sent catastrophe before them, vehicles, buildings, human flotsam, many dead and others missing in a muddy, rushing torrent.

That same night the world looked on with disbelief and horror at graphic scenes on TV screens of pictures beamed all round the globe: this single shocking afternoon wrought deadly devastation.

How could Toowoomba, on the mountain top, and further down, Murphy's Creek and Grantham, be dealt such unforeseen destruction, such loss of friends and neighbours?

The city's dams now spilled right over, but a dreadful price was paid and the truth told in the aftermath? La Nina was to blame.

Joan Clothier White 2012



"Earth loves the rain, the proud sky loves to give it." The whole world loves to create futurity. I say then to the world, "I share your love."

Marcus Aurelius, Meditation

That student of weather and everything affecting it, my father, was frequently heard to say that where we lived, looking at average rainfall records needed be coupled with the recognition that a good year, when it happens, is the exception, not the rule and the way forward is to be responsible users of water and to plan proactively for the inevitable dry years.