



# GOOD Company

ISSUE 1

## “Heart-warming amusement for Seniors”

Compiled by Bob Holland

**ENTERTAINMENT** and enjoyment is found in many forms, and those of us who consider ourselves past being able to engage in a lot of physical activity, well we often rely on newspapers, magazines, books, TV, radio and the like, as well as the company of family and friends to fill that void.

**GOOD COMPANY** is none of those, but it will provide readers with a good measure of amusement, entertainment and enjoyment during times when you don't want to feel alone or isolated.

**GOOD COMPANY** is a bit of everything, and its

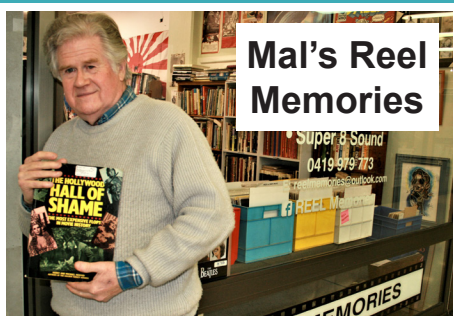
aims are many. Among them are to simply provide you with some old-fashioned enjoyment, to stir your emotions, but in a good way, also to revisit some old memories that occurred during your lifetime, and most importantly, to bring a smile to your face, maybe even make you laugh, and finally, **GOOD COMPANY** will give you things to talk or reminisce about with others.

I sincerely hope you enjoy **GOOD COMPANY**, so settle back now and enjoy what I have for you in this issue.

Go well! – Bob

*Bob Holland is a retired publisher, 76, widowed, but committed to try and make a difference in the lives of older people like him. For more about him, go to [www.seniorshappylife.com.au](http://www.seniorshappylife.com.au)*

### IN THIS ISSUE...



**Mal's Reel Memories**



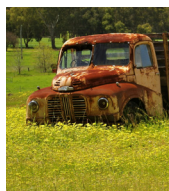
**NOSTALGIA**



**BELIEVE IT!**



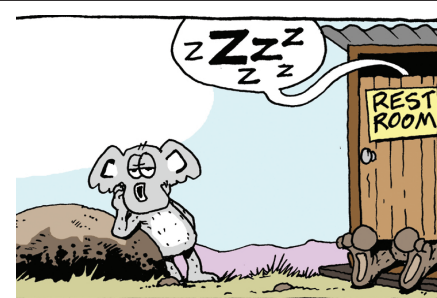
**SPORTS TRIVIA**  
Who won what in 1980?



**SHORT STORY**  
Oh no!



**Remember these...**



**... AND SO MUCH MORE!**



# Mal's Reel passion a movie-buff's dream

*This story by David Dixon*

**STEPPING** out of your shop for a half-day, you never know who you are going to miss!

One of Malcolm MacDonald's first-ever customers was Australia's greatest-ever film buff, the legendary Bill Collins.

But Mal wasn't in the store at the time, so his movie-bibliophile mother talked to TV's "Golden Years of Hollywood" host for three hours herself!

Mal's iconic "Reel Memories" movie, music, and merchandise business has provided its unique service to collectors for nearly five decades.

From movie posters to film reels to old DVDs and classic LP's, books on film and music, to merchandise, from Star Trek to Star Wars to Dr Who, Mal has an eclectic mix of thousands of individual items for sale.

"I started-out at Bondi Beach way-back in 1974 and was there for more than 30 years," he said.

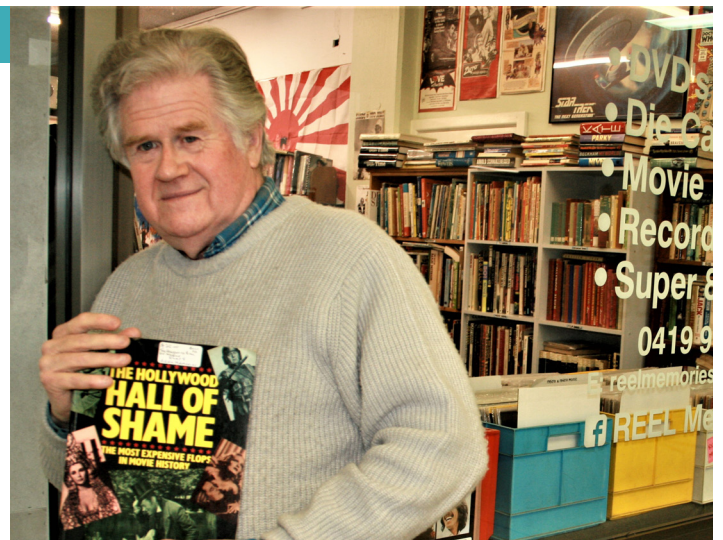
Skyrocketing rent and housing prices saw Mal, however, relocate three years ago to country NSW with the lifelong collector recently opening a storefront.

"A friend of mine decided to move to Orange three years ago, and I came to stay with him.

"He told me to look at some of the prices here, and I found that I could buy a four-bedroom house and storage sheds, for what I couldn't have bought a garage for in Sydney."

Since that time, Mal has been — like a scene from Dr Zhivago with the royal entourage of the Russian Royal family moving to their winter palace — gradually relocating all his stuff from Sydney's inner-west to his store at Orange (NSW).

"I have a storage facility in Alexandria, and I've been gradually bringing it all back here; but probably only 20–25–30 per cent of my stock is in



the store," he said.

Growing up in Double Bay in the 1950s and 1960s, he said his mother would corral he and his father to the cinema in the 'Golden Age of the Silver Screen'.

"I always had a passion for films," said Mal. "She'd drag me along to see all these movies and I just got wrapped up in it."

Mal began his working career in the paint section at Grace Brother's department store, but it didn't take long before the siren call of the movie world proved too powerful to resist.

"I landed a job with a film company repairing the 16mm and Super 8 film; I was there a couple of years and then branched-out and opened my own business in 1974," he explained.

At the time, having access to films was considered either a rare luxury or the provenance of eccentric movie fanatics.

"When we first opened the doors in Bondi, back in those day's... keep in mind there was no Beta, no VHS, none of the technology that we've got now — it was all film.

"People would buy a package film of a movie, an extract from things like Star Wars, Winchester '73, Casablanca, High Noon, King Kong, the great Universal monster movies... people would take these home and put them on their home projector and show them," Mal said.

It was a time when home movies consisted of "Super 8" or 16mm chemical film on spools projected onto white roll-up screens, he also ran a





business providing films for home events.

“I used to do kids’ parties, believe it or not. I’d turn-up with projectors, screens, speakers, set them all up so that they could have a movie at their event... of course video recorders didn’t exist at the time, so it was a bit of a novelty,” Mal said.

Having trouble identifying his favourite piece of movie memorabilia, Mal knows what genre of films he loves the best; old kids classics from the 1950s created by special-effects legend, Ray Harryhausen.

“Films like Jason and the Argonauts, the Seventh Voyage of Sinbad, they were all wonderful films,” he reminisces.

With a genuine interest in the craft of moviemaking, television, and popular music, Mal has fulfilled that old truism, “find something that you love doing, and you’ll never work a day in your life”.

His store, he says, is the perfect marriage between personal obsession and commercial enterprise. “It’s actually cheaper doing it with a store, with the store, we’re dealing with people rather than online.

“A lot of them (movie fans) have come in and they love to chat... and a few have become friends,” he said.

But it was the first visit by “Mr Movies” Bill Collins that he recalls with somewhat rueful regret.

“Bill Collins was one of the first people to come



One of Mal’s first customers, Mr Movies, Bill Collins.



through my door, but I wasn’t in, I had my mum watching the shop and she was a mad movie buff. He met my mum and they talked for two-three hours.”

So, whether it’s die-cast Mad Max cars; Batman figurines from the camp 1960s television show; James Bond annuals; a DVD copy of Charlton Heston classic’ El Cid or the hilarious Medved brothers’ books ,“The 50 Worst Films of All Time” and “Hollywood Hall of Shame”; Mal has something for every nostalgic baby-boomer’s taste.

“I probably have 30,000 separate items all told. It’s a business, plus it’s a passion,” Mal concluded.





# Bruce's Aussie Towns

**WANDERLUST**, they call it, the love of travel — of new sights, sounds, and experiences — the need to know what is over the next hill, around the next bend.

And no-one has it more than “retired” travel writer Bruce Elder, creator of one of the greatest travel sites in Australia.

At a staggering 2.7 million words, it is unlikely that anyone will ever read all of Bruce’s magnum opus, Aussie Towns, an extraordinary, free online travel guide that covers the length and breadth of our amazing country. For anyone travelling the sunburnt country, it should be the first port-of-call to discovering the best history and attractions you’ll find along the way.

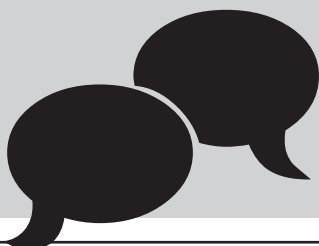
An award-winning journalist and writer, Bruce

Elder, spent more than two decades as a travel writer for the Sydney Morning Herald and Age newspapers. He also has more than 10 travel books about Australia to his name including the Globetrotter Guides to Australia, Sydney and Queensland; 1015 Things to See and Do in Australia; and Explore Queensland and Explore NSW.

What is enjoyable about Bruce’s Aussie Town guides, is that he doesn’t just cover what there is to see at each location, but there is a focus on showing you the reason you should go there to see it.

Find Bruce Elder’s comprehensive travel guide to Australia at: [www.aussietowns.com.au](http://www.aussietowns.com.au) and follow Aussie Towns on Facebook.

## GREAT QUOTES!



*“You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”*

*— Mae West*





# Making news back then...

These items appeared in **The Daily Mirror on June 8, 1971**. Note how different people's attitudes and thinking was back then. Imagine also how social media, had it been around, would have reacted to Mr. Faulkner's views.

## OCEAN'S FLOOR IS ON THE MOVE

LOS ANGELES, Monday (UPI). – The ocean floor beneath the central Pacific creeps slowly northward, pushed along by molten material welling up from inside the earth.

Scientists at Scripps Institution of Oceanography have reported the movement was verified by the Deep Sea drilling project, carried out by the Institution for the National Science Foundation.

During the past 100 million years, a spot on the ocean floor in the affected area would have moved about 1800 miles to the north, the scientists said.

At that rate, the movement is less than an inch a year.

### VERIFIED

Some scientists already believe the movements of the ocean floors – especially the movements east and west from the middle Atlantic – are the source of a continental drift.

This drift causes the continents, floating on the earth's crust, to move farther apart.

Cores taken from the Pacific Ocean bed between Hawaii and the Marshall Islands on the voyage of the ship Glomar Challenger for the Deep Sea project verified the northward movement.

Scientists aboard the ship tracked the past movement of the ocean floor by studying the fossil remains deposited in the sediment over millions of years.

## BURDEN EASED FOR MOTHERS

**MOTHERS** who want to go shopping at **Grace Bros' Chatswood store** can do it in **comfort now**.

A child-minding centre will be opened in the store at 3pm today.

For a nominal fee, mothers will be able to leave their children at the centre while they shop.

The charge is 40c for the first hour and 30c for every hour afterwards.

For an additional charge of 30c, children can have lunch in the centre.

The centre is divided into two sections: a nursery for the babies and a playroom for the toddlers and older children.

The nursery has rows of bassinets and cots with soft, cuddly toys for the babies.

For the more energetic youngsters, there are toys in the playroom with a blackboard wall for budding artists.

Sister Sillar, a fully-qualified nurse is in charge of the centre.

Bookings can be made by telephoning the store at 412-0111 extension 2323.

## LOVE CAN HURT BIG BUSINESS

**LONDON, Monday - A top boss today branded boy friends as a threat to business efficiency.**

Mr. Eric Faulkner, chairman of Lloyds Bank, one of the 'big five' joint stock banks, said that boys who make life hard for their girl friends are a danger to every smooth-running business.

It seems a girl with a broken heart can be terrible at her job.

A scorned female just cannot keep her mind on matters in hand: bank tellers forget how to count money, computer operators press the wrong buttons, shorthand writers can't read one squiggle from another.

Mr. Faulkner clearly wishes men would be sweeter to the girls who work for him.

He told an Industrial Society conference: "Boy friend trouble is the enemy of productivity."

Among the 17,000 women in his 33,000 workforce, he rates it as the biggest problem – even more damaging than flu and the common cold.



Believe  
it!



## Monkey jockeys

**OCCASIONALLY**, urban legends, are true!

Stories of monkeys being used as precariously poised “jockeys” on greyhounds at race meetings, are often viewed as a myth.

However, along with billy-cart racing and dance marathons, monkey jockeys were one of the fads that people took to during the grim years of the Great Depression (1929–1939) to lift their spirits and provide some distraction from their lives.

This somewhat bizarre spectator sport, started at the famous Shepherds Bush Greyhound Track at Mascot in Sydney.

This circuit was run by an American con-man called “Judge” Frederick Swindell, who had introduced modern greyhound racing to Australia in the late 1920s, via the mechanical racing or “tin” hare, as it was known,

Co-promoter of the new sport, Australian Jack Munro, thought up the idea of using monkeys from a local circus and training them to ride greyhounds around the track, like a jockey on a horse.

Placid and ageing racing dogs were used, but the monkeys apparently screamed and fought each other at every stage of their preparation, including when having their racing silks fitted, when they often bit their handlers.

When on the track, however, they turned out to be natural performers and seemingly enjoyed the attention of the adoring public.

The monkeys were attached to the dogs by a chain so as not to fall-off and, to add interest, Munro put the dogs over hurdles as in steeple chases.

It was an instant hit...



Photo by Andre Ouellet on Unsplash

## Seniors Moments – we all have them!

Call them wit, call them wisdom, or just call them funny. They are from a novelty desk sign.

- It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember anything.
- Now that I know all the answers, nobody asks me the questions.
- What if the Hokey-Cokey really is what it's all about?
- I've forgotten more than I ever learned.
- Age brings wisdom... or age shows up alone. You just never know.
- Spoiling the grandchildren? It's my job!
- The more you complain, the longer God makes you live.
- The older I get, the better I was.
- The one who dies with the most toys... still dies.
- Age is a high price to pay for maturity.
- If you think pushing 60 is hard, wait till you start dragging it.
- The reason I'm smiling is because I can't hear a word you're saying.
- Everything I can't find is in a totally secure place.





# NOSTALGIA

## That was then....

# The 1960s

**THE** older we get, the more memories we accumulate - some good, some not so good but on balance, that was life as we lived it and if we were smart, we rejoiced in the good times, learnt from the bad times and tried to gain wisdom from our experiences, especially like not making the same mistakes over and over again. History certainly teaches us things doesn't it.

That said, let's take a trip down memory lane and think about life in the 1960s.

The National Film and Sound Archive of Australia website describes the 1960s this way –

*"The 1960s was one of the most tumultuous and divisive decades in world history, including in Australia. It saw the birth of the civil rights movement, greater moves towards equality for women in the workplace and the beginnings of legal recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

*A US President visited these shores for the first time and an Australian prime minister disappeared. Humankind walked on the moon and Beatlemania swept the nation. We converted to decimal currency and created a TV show about a kangaroo that was seen around the world."*



## TELEVISION

IT wasn't just "Skippy" that made television so popular.

Television in the 60s saw us glued to our black and whites sets watching popular programs like Bandstand with Brian Henderson (before he became a legendary newsreader), Homicide starring Leonard Teale and Co., the hilarious Mavis Brampton Show

with Gordon Chater among others, and In Melbourne Tonight with the King at that time Graham Kennedy.

Bob and Dolly Dyer hosted the extremely popular Pick a Box and on August 19, 1961, Four Corners premiered on the ABC.

One does wonder how the irreverent segments on comedy shows of that era would be received today???

**TV Gold Logie winners** in the 60s included Graham Kennedy (pictured below), Bob Dyer, Brian Henderson and Gordon Chater, along with Tommy Hanlon (It Could be You), Lorraine Desmond (The Lorraine Desmond Show), Bobby Limb (Sound of Music), Jimmy Hannan (Saturday Date).



*In 1963, the ABC launched its first regional station.*





# NOSTALGIA

## That was then....

# The 1960s

## CLOTHES

Popular fashions during the 60s, particularly the late 60s, included Ponchos, moccasins, love beads, peace signs, medallion necklaces, chain belts, polka dot-printed fabrics, and long, puffed "bubble" sleeves.

Both men and women wore frayed bell-bottomed jeans, tie-dyed shirts, Jesus sandals, and headbands.

## IN THE NEWS

The phenomenon known as **BEATLEMANIA** hit Sydney in 1964 with John, Paul George and Ringo causing virtual riots among Beatles fans.

**DECIMAL CURRENCY** commenced in Australia during February 1966. Goodbye to pennies, tuppence, thrupence, ten bob, a quid, a fiver, tenner etc., hello 'centsible' money in dollars and cents.

US President Lyndon B. Johnson was the first **PRESIDENT TO VISIT AUSTRALIA**. His three-day five-city visit to Australia was intended as a show of gratitude to the Australian Nation for its then strong support for the Vietnam War.

In December 1967 former **PRIME MINISTER HAROLD HOLT** disappeared while swimming at Cheviot Beach near Portsea in Victoria.

In July 1969, we were captivated as we watched the **APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING** and some still wonder if it was real?

**MELBOURNE CUP** winners during the 60s were – Hi Jinx (1960), Lord Fury (1961), Even Stevens (1962), Gatum Gatum (1963), Polo Prince (1964), Light Fingers (1965), Galilee (1966), Red Handed (1967), Rain Lover (1968 and 1969).

Light Fingers win in 1965 was the first of 12 Melbourne Cup winners to be trained by the legendary horse trainer **BART CUMMINGS**, who ultimately became known as the "Cups King".

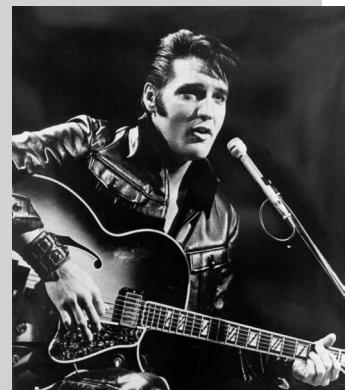


## MUSIC

**THE** 1960s saw a shift from the initial boom period for rock and roll music that dominated the 50s. Jazz, pop and folk music all gathered devoted listeners through the 60s while rock and roll continued to evolve with hard rock, rebellious rock and soft rock all part of the mix.

Here is an example of what we were listening to in 1960, this is a list of the most popular 25 singles in Australia that year –

1. It's now or never - Elvis Presley
2. Boom Boom Baby - Crash Craddock
3. He'll have to go - Jim Reeves
4. Are you lonesome tonight - Elvis Presley
5. Clap your hands - The Beau Marks
6. Just a closer walk with thee - Jimmy Rodgers
7. Save the last dance for me - The Drifters
8. Tie me kangaroo down sport - Rolf Harris
9. What do you want to make those eyes at me for - Emile Ford and the Checkmates
10. My old man's a dustman - Lonnie Donegan
11. North to Alaska - Johnny Horton
12. Everybody's somebody's fool - Connie Francis
13. She's my baby - Johnny O'Keefe
14. Swingin' School - Bobby Rydell
15. Peter Gunn - Duane Eddy
16. Walk don't run - The Ventures
17. Beatnik Fly - Johnny and the Hurricanes
18. I found a new love - Lonnie Lee
19. Running Bear - Johnny Preston
20. Little boy lost - Johnny Ashcroft
21. Come on and take my hand - Johnny O'Keefe
22. Stuck on you - Elvis Presley
23. What in the world's come over you - Jack Scott
24. Please don't tease - Cliff Richard and the Shadows
25. Cathy's Clown - Everly Brothers







# NOSTALGIA

## That was then....

# The 1960s

### How we remember the 60s.....

Here's how a former long haul truck driver candidly described the 60s -

*"Sixties in Australia had the best Top 40 radio shows and Disc Jockeys like John Laws, Ward Pally Austin, Bob Rogers, plus Bandstand and 6 O'clock Rock on tv. Westerns on TV. Great cars like Mustang, Chev Impala, Lotus Cortina, Morris Cooper S 1275, and great racing cars plus the Tasman International series. In those days you could buy new cars from dealerships owned by famous racing drivers, like Bob Jane. Sixties was a Golden Era that has never been repeated and never will be I'm sure".*

#### **This one from a former Air Force Administrator -**

*"I grew up in rural New England with sun, tractors, water skis and horses. Saturday matinees at the flicks with milk shakes at the cafe. What was not to like?"*

*In mid-summer I moved to my aunt's house at Palm Beach. Her house was on Pittwater and my bedroom was off the front verandah. I could wake up in the morning and 20 yards later I was in the water. Then after breakfast we would all hop into the V8 Customline and go to the surf beach. What was not to like?"*

This from a lady with a BA in Queensland –

*"I can only speak for myself and say it was great. Jobs were easy to come by, cost of living was low. There was an air of possibilities and Melbourne was a really diverse city with a tolerance toward gay people that I did not experience elsewhere".*

#### **A former system specialist said this –**

*"Not bad as a teenager here in Sydney (Coogee). The Music was varied, evolving and mostly great.*

*The cost of living was OK and us kids on Sydney's beaches were totally free to do what we wanted (within reason). Most households bought all the latest tech on time payment with someone coming weekly to get your instalment (door to door salesmen were still in vogue).*

*The state government introduced the "Clean Air Act" banning coal fired open fireplaces and incinerators, which put my dad out of work (my dad had a business delivering coal) but he quickly got a job in a factory, and kids plus adults ceased to die from respiratory diseases caused by the smog in winter.*

*Australia in those days was really safe. When I was 13yo, I had a job after school, working as a delivery boy for a pharmacy. One of my regular tasks was riding my bicycle from Randwick to the Drugs Houses of Australia dispensary at Maroubra Junction to pick up the DDs (Dangerous Drugs, eg: LSD, morphine etc.) for delivery to a private hospital in Clovelly. These days they send an armoured car with armed guards."*



# Life, Love, Happiness

## *A few thoughts.....*

Love is like wild flowers. It's often found in the most unlikely places.

To get more out of life, give more of yourself.

Don't be afraid to go out on a limb. That's where the fruit is.

You'll learn more about a road by travelling it than by consulting all the maps in the world.

When fate shuts the door, come in through a window.

No failure is ever final – nor is any success.

If you're doing your best, you won't have time to worry about failure.

Dreams come true for those who work while they dream.

No one is guaranteed happiness. Life just gives us time and space. It's up to us to fill it with joy and meaning.

Do for others with no desire of returned favours. We all should plant trees we'll never sit under.

True wealth is what you are, not what you have.

Almost all our unhappiness is the result of comparing ourselves to others.

We can't do much about our appearance, but we have total control over the type of person we become.

To change everything, simply change your attitude.



Sometimes the heart sees what is invisible to the eye.

Carrying a grudge is like a run in a stocking – it can only get worse. Forgiveness is the answer.

When you remember how hard it is to change yourself, you begin to understand what little chance we have of changing others.

Instead of waiting for someone to bring you flowers, why not gather your own bouquet.

## **A Prayer by Francis of Assisi**

*Lord, make me an  
instrument of your peace!  
Where there is hatred,  
let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not  
so much seek to be consoled  
as to console;  
to be understood  
as to understand;  
to be loved  
as to love;  
for it is in giving  
that we receive;  
it is pardoning  
that we are pardoned;  
and it is dying  
that we are born to Eternal Life.*

- Francis of Assisi

A friend is a person who knows all about you but likes you anyway.

Friends are like a beautiful garden. They require regular care.

The people on our planet are not standing in a line single file. Look closely. Everyone is really standing in a circle, holding hands. Whatever you give to the person standing next to you, it eventually comes back to you.

Today, give to a stranger one of your smiles. It might be the only sunshine they see all day.





## A Bit of History

- 1600s First recorded European landings
- 1642 Abel Tasman reaches Tasmania
- 1770 29th April – Captain Cook lands in Botany Bay  
22nd August – Captain Cook takes possession of the east coast
- 1788 Establishment of the first penal settlement at Sydney Cove by Captain Phillip
- 1793 First free settlers arrive in Australia
- 1816 Establishment of the first bank
- 1850s Population increases three-fold in 10 years to pass the one million mark
- 1868 Transportation of convicts to Australia ends
- 1899-1902 Australian participation in the Boer War
- 1901 Commonwealth of Australia is formed
- 1911 The Australian Capital Territory is declared and an international competition held to design the new capital city of Australia. The Capital is officially named Canberra in 1913
- 1914 Australia enters World War 1
- 1938 The first day of mourning occurs in Australia
- 1939 Australia enters World War II
- 1949 Establishment of Australian Citizenship
- 1972 The Department of Aboriginal Affairs is formed

Remember these?



Australian Currency: One Pound (1952)



Australian Currency: 10 Shillings (1954-60)



Australian Currency: Five Pounds (1954)



Australian Currency: Ten Pounds (1954-59)

## And these too?







# OLYMPIC TRIVIA

We're a bunch of proud Australians when it comes to our athletes. Here's some interesting Olympic trivia about our top performers!



## MOST AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC MEDALS

Australian swimmer Emma McKeon has won the most Olympic Medals of any Australian with 11 - 5 Gold, 2 Silver and 4 Bronze.

Other notable Olympic Medal winners are swimmers Ian Thorpe and Leisel Jones, each with 9. Ian Thorpe with 5 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze, Leisel Jones with 3 Gold, 5 Silver and 1 Bronze.

## AUSTRALIANS TO COMPETE IN THE MOST SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

This honour goes to Equestrian Andrew Hoy with 8 games appearances. It would have been 9 had the equestrian events at Moscow in 1980 not been boycotted.

## MOST GOLD MEDALS AT A GAMES

Australians who hold this honour are:

- Emma McKeon, 4 in swimming in Tokyo 2021
- Betty Cuthbert, 3 in athletics in Melbourne 1956
- Murray Rose, 3 in swimming in Melbourne 1956
- Shane Gould, 3 in swimming in Munich 1972
- Ian Thorpe, 3 in swimming in Sydney 2000
- Jodie Henry, 3 in swimming in Athens 2004
- Petria Thomas, 3 in swimming in Athens in 2004
- Stephanie Rice, 3 in swimming in Beijing in 2008

## OLDEST AND YOUNGEST OLYMPIANS

Bill Northam holds the honour as Australia's oldest Olympian, he was 59 when he competed in the 5.5 Class Yachting in Tokyo 1964.

The honour for youngest Australian Olympian goes to Sandra Morgan, who at 14yrs 6 mths competed in the Women's 4 x 100m relay freestyle swimming at the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.

## FIRST AUSTRALIAN MALE SUMMER OLYMPIAN

This honour is held by Edwin Flack who competed in Athletics and Tennis in Athens in 1896

## FIRST AUSTRALIAN FEMALE SUMMER OLYMPIAN

This honour is held by Sara 'Fanny' Durack who competed in swimming in Stockholm in 1912.

## AUSTRALIA'S BEST MEDAL TALLY

No surprise to see this occur in Sydney in 2000 – 58 medals, 16 Gold, 25 Silver, 17 Bronze.

Aussie! Aussie! Aussie Oi! Oi! Oi!

## MOST APPEARANCES

Australia and Greece are the only two nations to have participated at every Summer Olympic Games of the modern era.

## PRICES IN 1970

It's hard to imagine today but back in 1970, Coles Supermarket advertised these prices -

Lamb cutlets – 59c for 6!

Frozen chickens \$1.59!

Tomatoes 16c per lb!

Carrots 3lb for 20c!

Large legs of lamb \$1.69 ea!

Ice cream ½ gal for 59c!





## 25 Fun facts about Australia

1. Australia is the smallest continent.
2. Australia has 160 spoken languages.
3. Australia has a population of 25.4 million.
4. Vegemite is the most popular spread in Australia.
5. There are at least 125 Australian slang words and phrases.
6. The Dingo Fence is longer than the Great Wall of China.
7. Australia's first policemen were criminals.
8. Australia has the world's longest golf course.
9. There are 150 million sheep in Australia.
10. Sydney has more than 100 beaches
11. There are more than 1.6 million dairy cows in Australia.
12. Australia created the world's first Seat Belt Law as mandatory in 1970.
13. Australia has 21 of the world's 25 most venomous snakes.
14. Canberra actually means "a woman's cleavage".
15. Australia is the 5th largest wine exporter in the world.
16. The government chose Canberra as the capital on January 1, 1911.
17. Ayers Rock is the world's largest rock
18. Australia has the world's longest national highway.
19. The word "selfie" originated in Australia.
20. 50.7°C is the highest temperature ever recorded in Australia.
21. The coldest temperature in Australia is -23°C.
22. Australia ranks 26th in the world's most obese countries.
23. Dr. Mark Lidwill invented the pacemaker.
24. The Sydney Tower was the tallest building built in 1981.
25. Melbourne was previously called Batmania.

### Top movies of the 70s

Jaws, Star Wars, Rocky – which was your favourite flick from the 70s?

While you ponder that, here's a list of 12 of the most popular movies from the 1970s, along with those in starring roles....

**The Godfather Part 11** - Robert De Niro

**Star Wars** - Harrison Ford

**Jaws** - Richard Dreyfuss,  
Roy Schneider, Robert Shaw

**Alien** - Sigourney Weaver

**One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest** - Jack Nicholson

**Apocalypse Now** -  
Marlon Brando, Martin Sheen

**Rocky** - Sylvester Stallone

**Taxi Driver** - Robert De Niro

**Chinatown** - Jack Nicholson

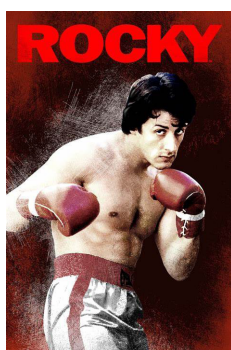
**Close Encounters of the Third Kind** - Richard Dreyfuss

**All the President's Men** -  
Robert Redford,  
Dustin Hoffman

**The Sting** - Paul Newman, Robert Redford



Star Wars - 1977



Rocky - 1976

*"Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood."*  
— Helen Keller





# SPORTS TRIVIA



## 1980 - Who won what?

During the 1980s **Greg Norman** dominated golf in Australia winning the Australian Masters 5 times, while Mats Wilander and Martina Navratilova each won the Men's and Women's Australian Open Tennis titles 3 times each.

### Australian Masters Golf

1989 – Greg Norman (280)  
1988 – Ian Baker-Finch (283)  
1987 – Greg Norman (273)  
1986 – Mark O'Meara (284)  
1985 – Bernhard Langer (281)  
1984 – Greg Norman (285)  
1983 – Greg Norman (285)  
1982 – Graham Marsh (289)  
1981 – Greg Norman (289)  
1980 – Gene Littler (288)

### Australian Open Tennis - Men

1989 – Ivan Lendl (TCH)  
1988 – Mats Wilander (SWE)  
1987 – Stefan Edberg (SWE)  
1986 – No competition  
1985 – Stefan Edberg (SWE)  
1984 – Mats Wilander (SWE)  
1983 – Mats Wilander (SWE)  
1982 – Johan Kriek (USA)  
1981 – Johan Kriek (RSA)  
1980 – Brian Teacher (USA)

### Australian Open Tennis - Women

1989 – Steffi Graf (GER)  
1988 – Steffi Graf (GER)  
1987 – Hana Mandikova (TCH)  
1986 – No competition  
1985 – Martina Navratilova (USA)  
1984 – Chris Evert-Lloyd (USA)  
1983 – Martina Navratilova (USA)  
1982 – Chris Evert-Lloyd (USA)  
1981 – Martina Navratilova (USA)  
1980 – Hana Mandikova (TCH)



## Something you don't see every day!

Spotted this truck while out walking one morning. Ten dogs on the back tray another one in the cabin, all looked similar and were UNLEASHED! Obviously working dogs, well cared for and super well trained!



# THE TRUCK

*Short story by Greg McFarland*

Peter Cook had seen it every day for 15 years, but he did not really see it until the very last year. What he did usually notice on his way to work every day, and on the journey home afterwards, was a rural landscape that never altered.

Peter lived in the main town in the region but was employed at a flour mill 30 kilometres away in the countryside.

So, his drive to work took him past a repeating cycle of the same things: modern farmhouses, old rundown pioneer huts, golden paddocks full of wheat, green paddocks full of cattle and sheep, and the occasional horse looking over a fence.

Unchanging scenery, day in and day out. Part of an identical routine, every Monday to Friday.

But things were becoming different in that final year of work.

Peter had turned 69 and the official retirement age was 70.

The future did not look good, because he was not looking forward to finishing up.

Because he had nothing planned for the rest of his life.

Peter was not keen on sports, never had been, so he could not see himself taking up golf or joining the lawn bowls club.

He was not interested in travelling, and certainly was not intending to go out like his neighbours and buy a caravan to tag along with the 'grey nomads.'

And he had no hobbies.

In fact, he had just three things in his life: his house, his wife, and his job. Soon, he would have just two of those things, and the prospect terrified him.

Peter had already dodged this bullet once, a few years earlier, when 65 was the retirement age. He had been rapidly nearing it when the Federal Government unexpectedly pushed it back another five years.

At the time, some of his co-workers, of a similar vintage to him, were unhappy about that national ruling because it delayed their own retirement plans, but Peter had secretly been elated because it put off having to make any decision about the future.

However, that period of reprieve was now nearly over and the black cloud was back on the horizon again.

Peter wished he was more like his wife.

She had retired a couple of years ago from her job at the school, and to him it seemed her life had not missed a beat.

A keen gardener, she had also kept up her weekly tennis and become a volunteer for half-a-dozen good causes in the town. She had made the life transition so easily, yet her husband could not even think about retirement, let alone talk sensibly about it.

\*\*\*

It was hard to know exactly when the first germination of an idea had taken root in Peter's consciousness but, at some point in that last year of work – while worrying every day about the next stage of his life – he also started paying attention to something that had been under his nose all along.





# THE TRUCK

*Short story by Greg McFarland*

The old truck was parked inside the highway boundary fence of the local gravel quarry, and it had clearly been put there decades ago for the purpose of advertising the business because a metal sign (now so faded and rusty that it was hard to read the lettering) had been bolted onto its back.

Peter began looking at the wreck, twice a day, coming and going, as he passed by at speed, so it was a glimpse of just a few seconds at a time.

One day – just out of mild curiousness, the feeling was no stronger than that – he stopped for a better look.

The truck was a little bit bigger than a utility, but not much.

Peter thought it must have originally been used to cart vegetables from a local market garden, or maybe wool bales from a property further out in the district.

Up close, he could see it had suffered the ravages from many years of being abandoned to the weather.

The timber boards of the tray had withered to bare bones of grey wood, the tyres had rotted away, brown rust was taking over the truck's cabin, and from under the bonnet came the stale smell of a long-dead engine. But everything was still there, right down to the windscreen, bulbous headlights, chrome bumper and dashboard gauges.

It was a Dodge, Peter estimated from the 1950s era, which made it a relic of a very similar age to himself.

The design of the truck was vaguely familiar to him from childhood, he was sure he had seen this model of vehicle before.

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When Peter went down to the newsagent to get the paper that Sunday, he noticed magazines listing old cars and trucks for sale all over Australia, so he bought a few of them – merely on a whim.

However, he soon found he was reading little else.

Then he became aware of these new reality television shows which portrayed ordinary people – mainly in the United States but also in Australia – repairing and refurbishing old bombs.

Peter steadily became addicted to these programs, watching engrossed as he learned how to get rid of rust, rebuild engines, spray paint new colours, and re-upholster seats.

He recorded the episodes and watched them over and over.

His research had shown that the Dodge truck that he was suddenly interested in had been a common model at the time of its production. It would be relatively easy to get replacement parts, even after all this time.

And when he eventually joined the local Historic Car Club as its newest member, there was no doubt about it – he was becoming a vintage vehicle enthusiast.

His wife had quietly taken note of this new passion as it developed. She was delighted that Peter had finally found something worthwhile to do, just as retirement approached.

But she did not yet know the exact object of his desire. She had flicked through the magazines he was bringing home, and she assumed he was going to restore an old Ford or Holden sedan, or maybe an American 'hot rod.'

However, Peter knew all along that if he was going to restore anything, it would be the old Dodge.



It was the vehicle that had first caught his eye, and he would have felt strangely disloyal if he purchased something else.

So, as his last months of employment drew slowly to a close, Peter went past the truck every day and let his imagination run riot: thinking about what repairs he would do to it, what colour he would paint it, where he would drive it once it was brought back to its original glory.

He began looking forward to seeing it every day, anticipating its visual appearance a couple of bends out.

One day he received a fright – he went past and saw that the engine bonnet had been lifted and left sticking up in the air.

He slammed on the brakes and jumped the fence of the quarry for a closer look. It was immediately clear to him that he had a rival; some other person was interested in the Dodge. However, nothing appeared to be missing from the decrepit old machine. It seemed to be intact. He was churned up about it, but what could he do other than close the bonnet and hope for the best.

For a while after this episode, Peter had a secret fear that someone was going to snatch the Dodge away from him, but as the next few weeks passed and no further signs of disturbance appeared, he relaxed somewhat.

His retirement day was very near, he was poised to strike.

And then, with just a fortnight of working life to go, there was a good omen.

A story in the local newspaper revealed that the quarry had been sold to a national chain, which had big plans to modernize the operation.

This news cemented Peter's resolve. He had already planned to buy the truck and he perceived little difficulty now, because surely the new owners would not want to continue with a rusty wreck at the entrance to their business.

Peter had made the necessary preparations at home. He had a large backyard shed and he had measured it to make sure the Dodge would be able to fit inside.

And as he had not had much in the way of garage equipment, he had gone on something of a spending spree.

But the money involved did not bother his wife at all. She was happy for him.





# THE TRUCK

*Short story by Greg McFarland*

## FRIDAY (LAST DAY OF WORK) ...

The final day of employment went better than expected for Peter.

This date that he had wanted to put off for such a long time had finally arrived, but he stayed remarkably calm.

At lunchtime, the company put on a barbecue in his honour, but even at this farewell event he was not sad or emotional.

If anything, there was only a sense of impatience to get on with the next stage of his life, and that feeling stayed with him all day until he drove out the factory gates for the final time.

Motoring back to town in the late afternoon, he was waiting, as he always did these days, to glimpse the truck again.

And there it was, and it seemed to him to be almost waiting in readiness.

But it would not be collected today.

Peter was a man of planning and routine, and he had it all mapped out in his mind as to what exactly he would do.

He had long decided he would finish up work on the Friday, and then start the truck project on the following Monday, the next business day, as if it were a new (admittedly unpaid) job.

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON ...

Peter did a last check of the backyard shed.

It all seemed ready for the arrival of the truck.

The new welder sat in one corner, the new air compressor in another, both waiting to be put into action.

On the walls hung new power tools, spanners, hammers, and screwdrivers.

There was a new vice bolted to one end of the work bench and a new grinder attached to the other, and underneath were tins of rust remover, paint stripper, primer, grease, and oil.

Peter was confident that he had thought of everything that he would need to tear apart and then painstakingly rebuild the Dodge.

He gave the shed floor a final sweep (with his new broom), even though the place did not really need it.

## SUNDAY NIGHT ...

Peter had a dream, one of those special dreams where the sleeper can still remember all the details afterwards.

He was driving his shiny restored truck in a parade, part of a long line of slowly moving vintage cars. It was happening in the main street of his home town, and hundreds of people were standing on both sides of the road watching the procession go by.

He looked to his left and there was his wife in the truck cabin with him, and she was happy.

He was smiling too.

And the truck's engine was purring like a kitten and the sun was shining through the windscreen, and all the spectators on the footpath were waving to him and admiring his magnificent handiwork.

It was a great vision.



## MONDAY MORNING ...

Peter was up bright and early, still glowing with the memory of last night's vivid dream.

He did not linger over breakfast, and he told his wife he would do the first trip alone.

(She knew he had a vehicle in mind, but he had not told her any further details.)

"It'll be more of a surprise for you," he explained.

Then he got into his car and started out on the familiar route to the flour mill, but he would not be going all the way today, of course – just far enough to get to the quarry, where he expected to buy the old Dodge on the spot.

This was the one part of his master plan that he had not carried out in readiness, but he had been very confident that the new quarry owners (whoever they were) would go along with it.

After all, the truck was just a rusty wreck.

In the glove box of the car, Peter had an envelope of cash ready.

He hoped he would not have to pay too much for the truck – but he had invested a lot of time and effort in this grand adventure, so if he was honest with himself, he knew he would pay more than a decent amount if he had to.

He rounded the last curve on the highway before the quarry turn-off, but the Dodge did not come into view.

For a moment, he thought it was the glinting early morning sun playing tricks on him, but then he realized the truck was not there.

It ... was ... gone.

Peter, stunned, pulled up in the quarry driveway, got out of his car and went over to where the ancient Dodge used to be.

There was just an area of flattened weeds and freshly exposed earth.

He was standing there, trying to comprehend this unexpected turn of events, when one of the quarry's big tipper trucks came up the road.

The driver pulled up – he had little choice because Peter's car was blocking the way – and he looked curiously at Peter, the truck's powerful diesel engine idling away. "How are you going, mate?" the driver called out cheerfully.

Peter waved to indicate the spot from where his retirement dream had vanished

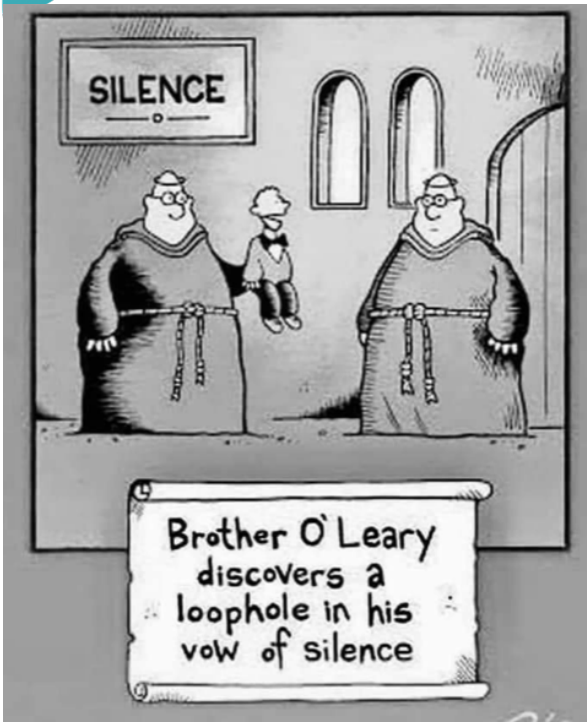
"Oh, the old banger, you mean?" the driver asked.

Peter nodded, dumbly, like an idiot.

"New owners from Sydney got rid of it yesterday. Sold it off to the metal crusher. Said they want to clean up the whole place."







"Life is really simple,  
but men insist on making it  
complicated." — Confucius



## 1938 Humour

These laughs appeared in the Sydney Mail dated April 27, 1938.

SAM: "Yes, I took your advice and told my wife straight out that she couldn't henpeck me any more."

"Splendid!" said the friend. "Now you can hold your head up."

Sam: "yes, but it's still pretty sore and bruised."

VISITOR: "My, what a lot of freckles you have, Colin!"

Colin: "Them ain't freckles. That's my iron constitution going rusty."

BACKER: " 'Ere, your odds are shorter than anybody else's."

Small Bookmaker: "Well, so are my legs."

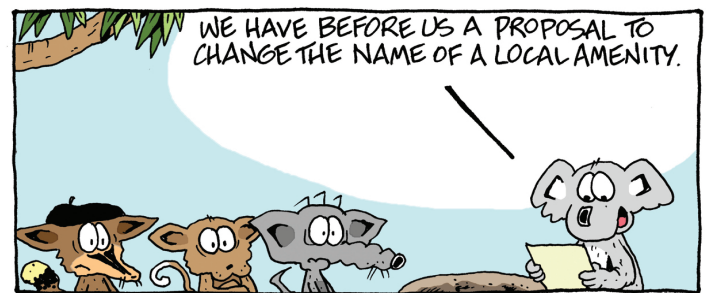
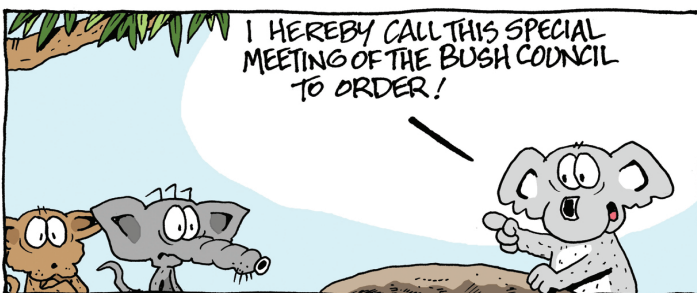
DOCTOR: "Are you ever troubled with thirst?"

McTavish: "No, I never let it get as far as that."



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OF COURSE, WE NEED TO  
CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE  
CONSEQUENCES IF WE DO.



AND YOU NEED TO  
CONSIDER THE REAL  
CONSEQUENCES IF  
WE DON'T!

HURRY  
UP AND  
VOTE!

I CAN'T  
WAIT  
MUCH  
LONGER!



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