

THE TORCHBEARER

NEWSLETTER 50

"56ers Torchbearers Club Inc"

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Greetings fellow torchbearers and partners

This being our 50th newsletter, I would have liked to have brought you more cordial news, but alas two more of our extremely highly respected members have passed away. Bill O'Neill who has resided in Melbourne for some years and a very close friend of our editor and Vice President, Dennis Stevenson, and Mauno Kaurila affectionately known as 'Doc', one of the legendary Kaurila brothers from Ingham.

Dennis, Bill Cummings and myself had the pleasure of socializing with Kauka and Mauno along with Mark Rowell at last year's North Queensland Games and all three men proud Torchbearers from Ingham.



Montanna (second from the left) with siblings Stirling, Hunter and McKenzie. The McAvoy siblings scooped 23 awards at the Trinity Anglican Sports Award Night.

I am happy to inform members Montanna McAvoy, the fourteen year old lass our club sponsored last year has moved ahead in leaps and bounds with her sporting career, excelling in a number of disciplines. Along with being chosen as Junior Sportswoman of the year for the Innisfail District, Montanna was chosen, for the second year in a row as the Sports Woman of the Year for her school, Trinity Anglican

College, with achievements that would fill a page. We will follow Montanna's career with a great deal of interest.



Montanna in full flight during the Australian Junior 1500m event at Sydney in 2015. She was placed third and received a well-deserved bronze medal.

May good health be with you all.

Regards,
Jim Vallely.

FORMER OLYMPIC GAMES

MOSCOW 1980

Moscow became the first Eastern bloc capital to host the Olympic Games. They won the final vote by 39 to 20. The country planned for an Olympic Torch relay that of course commenced in Greece but proceeded into the communist bloc via Sofia, Bucharest, Chisinau, Kiev and Kharkov.

The Soviet Union built more than 90 Olympic facilities and the Moscow Metro was given a facelift. There is a widely held view that the Soviet Union had to borrow heavily to finance the games but this is not true. They raised funds through a national sports lottery. Eight draws were held across the USSR.



The Russian Olympic relay torch.

There was a US led boycott of the games as a result of Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and 65 countries took part in the boycott, 95 countries sent teams including the 24 African that had boycotted the Montreal games in protest against apartheid. Australia did not formally take place as a nation in the Moscow games. Australian athletes did take part however but under the Olympic flag. Australian competitors in athletics who took part were-

- Bill Scott, Stephen Austin and Gerard Barrett in the 10,000m with Bill Scott finishing in 9th place in the final.
- Gary Honey did not advance above the qualifying heat.
- Ian Campbell and Ken Lorraway were placed 5th and 8th respectively in the triple jump.
- Robert de Castella was placed 10th in the marathon and Christopher Wardlow was placed 28th in the final.

- Willi Sawall was placed 8th in the final of the 50km walk.
- Peter Hadfield was placed 13th in the men's decathlon.
- Gael Mulhall was placed 12th in the final of the women's shot put.
- Christine Stanton was placed 6th in the women's high jump.

There are 203 sets of medals awarded to 21 different sports. The Soviets won 80 gold medals.

The Ethiopian, Miruts Yifter, won the 5000m and 10,000m events emulating the 1972 and 1976 performance of Lasse Viren. Steve Ovett made the statement that he would win the 1500m event and would beat the world record by as much as four seconds. He did neither of these *claims as Sebastian Coe won the race with Ovett being placed third.* The games were not a real achievement for Australians.



Sebastian Coe winning the 1500m at Moscow. Steve Ovett (279) was placed third.

Aided by the absence of the USA, Britain Allan Wells won the 100m event beating Cuban Silvio Leonard. He was the first Briton since 1924 to win an Olympic 100m event. For some reason the crowd jeered French, Soviet and Polish vaulters and when Kozakiewicz won the gold medal he responded to crowd with an obscene bent elbow gesture. The gesture is now referred to in Polish as 'Kozakiewicz gesture'. For the first time in history all eight finalists in the men's long jump beat the mark of 8m.

Cuba's Maria Caridad Colon won the women's javelin setting an Olympic record and beat the favoured Soviet throwers. Daley Thompson of Great Britain won the Decathlon gold medal.

LOS ANGELES 1976

Of the post war Olympics few burn brighter in the popular memory than the 1984 Los Angeles Games. London in 1948 ensured that the Olympic Games continued after the brutality and destruction of WW2. Lasting impressions of the Los Angeles games remains their success-they were the most profitable and arguably the most important event in the history of the modern Olympic Movement. They were fresh off the back of Munich, the financially disastrous Montreal Games and the politically controversial Moscow games. Whilst the Soviet Union and 14 of its allies stayed away, an impressive 6,829 (1566 women, 5263 men) athletes attended from 140 nations including China and Romania.

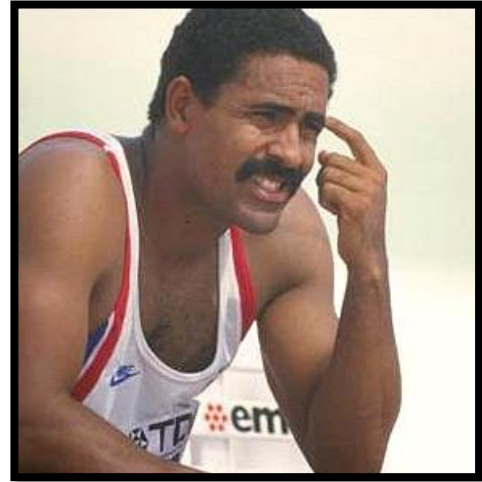


The Los Angeles Olympic Relay Torch.

The only Australian to win a medal was Gary Honey in the long jump winning a silver medal. Gary's jump reached 8.24m. This jump showed a vast improvement on his performance in the Moscow Games when he did not advance above the qualifying heat.

Sebastian Coe won the 1500m event with Steve Cram placed second. Coe was placed second in the 800m. Daley Thompson won the decathlon with

8798 points which equaled the world record. He also won the event in the Moscow Games. Thompson had a Scottish mother and a Nigerian father.



Daley Thompson British decathlon athlete.

Carl Lewis won both the 100m and 200m events. In the women's events the United States won the 100m, 200m, and 400m. Valerie Brisco-Hooks won both the 100m and 400m events. And the US won both relays with Canada taking both silver medals behind the USA.

WE MUST NEVER FORGET THEM

Jai Taurima

One could be forgiven for associating Jai Taurima with Cuba or some South American country. He was born in Southport on the 26th June 1972.



Jai Taurima after winning a silver medal in the Men's Long Jump Final at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

Jai competed in the long jump and reached a silver medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics with a personal best jump of 8.49m.

Jai won a silver medal at the 1998 Commonwealth Games. He is of Mauri decent and after retirement he joined the Australian Federal Police.

Jai married Kerrie Taurima a long jumper and they had a lovely daughter who unfortunately developed leukemia.



The Jaurima family with Indi Rose.

John Winter

John 'Jack' Winter was an Australian high jumper who won that event at the London Olympics in 1948. The 23 year old bank teller, Winter won the first and only Australian gold medal in the Olympics.

Winter's potential was first seen as a 15 year old in the 1940 Inter School Carnival for Scotch College Perth. He cleared 1.79m or 5ft 10 and three quarter inches to win the under 16 event and 1.85m or 6 feet, and seven eighth inches in the open event. Winter served in the RAAF in Britain during WW2 and was about to join a Wellington Bomber squadron when the war finished. He then returned to Australia where he won the 1947 and 1948 Australian championships.

In 1948 he joined the Australian Olympic team where he was considered an outside medal chance. Winter and another athlete used the unfashionable so called eastern cut-off style of jumping. Most other high jumpers used the straddle or western roll. Winter reached 1.95m as did four other

jumpers. The bar was raised to 1.98m-Winter cleared it on his first attempt and the others failed the three jumps. He won the gold medal.



*John Winter exercising his eastern cut-off style
At the 1948 London Olympics.*

Following the London Games he stayed in England and missed the 1949 Australian Championships. But in 1950 he won the high jump title in the lead up to the Empire Games in Auckland. In these games he won the gold medal in clearing 1.98m. At the age of 26, Winter retired from competition.

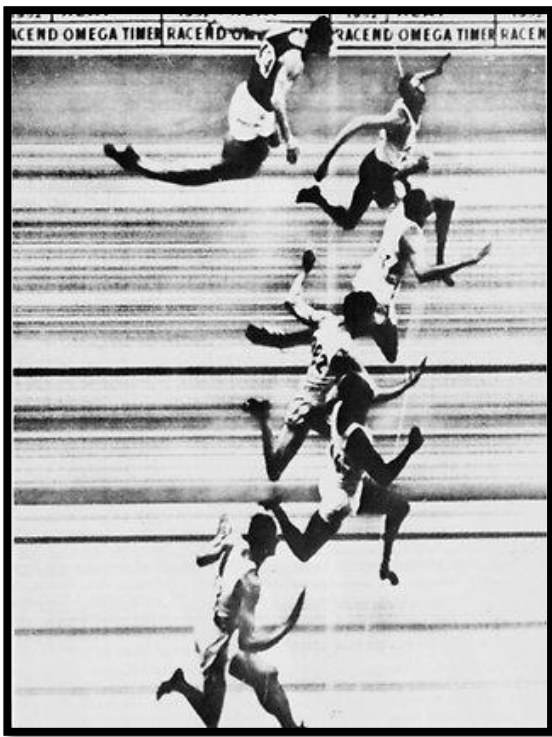
Winter was awarded the Helms Award as an outstanding Athlete in 1947 and inducted into the Western Australian Hall of Champions in 1985. John Winter passed away on the 5th December 2007.

The Helms Award is an American initiated award principally made to American sportsmen but the name was changed to World Trophy. There was initially an Australasian committee headed by Sir Frank Beaurepaire but later a list of Australasian athletes was presented to American authorities for selection. In 1947 John Winter won the award. Other Australians to win the award include Sir Donald Bradman, Robert de Castella, Tracy Wickham, Shane Gould, Cathy Freeman.

John Treloar

John Treloar was a track and field athlete who is considered to have been one of Australia's greatest sprinters. He was ranked as one of the world's fastest men between 1947 and 1952.

He was a triple gold medalist at the British Empire Games in Auckland Games 1950 in the 100 yards, the 220 yards and the 4x110 yard relay. He was placed 6th in the 1952 Olympic Games just 0.1 seconds behind the winner-this was the closest finish in Olympic history.



The closest finish of the 100m event ever at Helsinki 1952.

In his career Treloar won a total of six Australian championships at 100 or 220 yards. In 2000 he was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for outstanding service as an Olympic athlete and since then as an administrator and organizer. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2001.

John Treloar passed away in 2012. His son notified the AOC of his father's passing and said 'Dad passed away exactly as he ran. Quickly'.

56ERS CORNER

Vale William Joseph O'Neill

Bill O'Neill (Mirriwinni) passed away in Melbourne on the 21st March 2015. Bill was a close friend of mine for 64 years with our families sharing holidays, wider family gatherings and mutual visits together. We attended the Gordonvale State Rural School shared scouting experiences and both ran the Melbourne Olympic Torch. We were members of the wedding groups for each other.



Bill O'Neill and the editor at the Torch Relay Monument.

Bill was a keen contributor to the Torchbearers Club and the newsletter initiating stories on John Landy, the Sherbrooke Little Athletics Club, and Babinda pharmacist Max Ackland. Bill and John Landy were work mates for much of their working lives.

Bill will be sorely missed by his family and friends. Rest in peace Bill.

Vale Mauno Kaurila

Another valued 56'er Mauno Kaurila passed away in Ingham recently. The president has already paid tribute to Mauno (Doc) Kaurila and the editor joins in offering condolences to Mrs Kaurila and family.

An interesting story from 56er**Roy Brown****(32 miles north of Innisfail)**

1956 was a busy year for me. I was working at Babinda Sugar mill, shift work in the crushing. I was doing night shift in the week of the relay.

I started work in 1955 and saved money and bought a ute-a Ford V8 1tonne truck a 1942 model. It had been standing idle in a *shed for five years. I restored it and built* a body on the back that I could live in. In January 1956 I drove it down to Stanthorpe and picked grapes at Glen Aplin-that was a trip. There was more dirt road than bitumen and the Burdekin Bridge had not been built.

My family had a cane farm at Deeral and we had a farm over the Mulgrave River where we grew bananas and other fruit and vegetables. I was used to carrying something in my right hand. I will explain- during the crushing there was a bridge over the Mulgrave River and I could ride my bike across the river and ride it straight to our place. In the slack the mill removed the bridge to prevent it being swept away by floods. So I would ride the bike down to the river, row a boat up the river about a mile then run up the other side-a cane headland for another mile and through scrub along an old timber track for another mile. When I ran I carried a cane knife in my right hand it was for killing any snakes I might see. I killed every snake that I saw and averaged one a day, except one. I was running home one day along the cane headland and I saw a snake crossing the road and go into a tussock of guinea grass. I was not quick enough to hit it but I did something silly, I hit the cane knife into the grass and the snake suddenly shot out of the grass and headed straight for me. I left there so quickly that my hat fell straight down to the ground. I went back to get my hat but I could not see the snake, it was most likely a taipan. So you see it was quite normal for me to carry something in my right hand and run fast.

My number was 27 from Cairns and I finished the run about 150 yards from where I lived so I just walked home. I started the run North of Fig Tree Creek. The runner before me ran about 5 yards past

me and then came back. I was not sure that the torch was lit properly and would not go out but they said it 'was okay off you go'. The last part of the run was a slight slope down so I did the last part very fast. The young doctors said I did a very good job. I think I did it in very fast time. There was no cameras about and only about ten people at each stop. That's about it. In 1960 I started my own business as a radio service man and auto electrician. My son now runs the business. I was born in 1931 and don't intend to die.

Roy Brown.

The tribulations some Torch runners had to endure to run the Torch towards Melbourne!. Snakes indeed.



Two 56ers escaping from?

**Some interesting information
about the end of WW2**

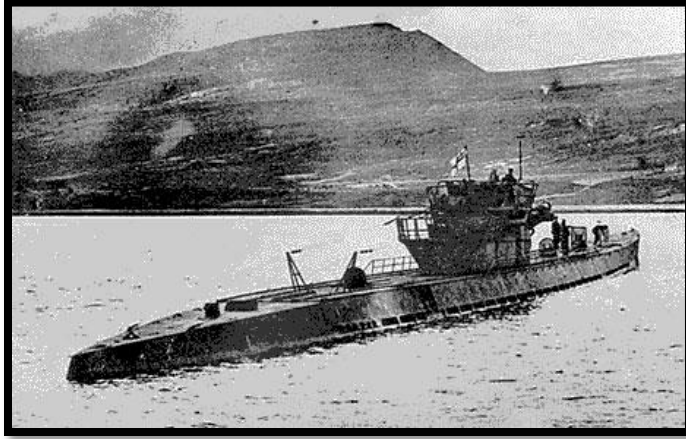
The Surrender of the German Submarine Fleet

During a Scottish journey my wife and I visited Durness in north western Scotland, where a Gathering of Scottish Pipe Bands was being held. We stayed at a B and B at Laid to the East of Durness. Laid is on the Western shore line of Loch Eriboll in Sutherland. We learnt from the B and B owner that the German Submarine fleet, Grey Wolves, had surrendered in Loch Eriboll in May 1945.

A total of 33 U-Boats surrendered in the Loch. One of the first U-boats to arrive was U-1231 that was used as the fleet 'off license' and was loaded with wine. Loch Eriboll was chosen for the surrender because of its significant depth.

Fifteen of the U-Boats were brought under escort from Norway. All were disarmed within hours with explosives and other armaments such as torpedo firing pistols dumped overboard into the deep

waters of the loch. The U-Boats were rerouted to Lochalsh in Wester Ross where the crews were arrested. 121 of the 154 U-Boats that surrendered were sunk in deep water off Lisahally in Northern Ireland or Loch Ryan in Wester Ross.



The German U-Boat U-1231 at bay in Loch Eriboll May 1945. Note the British naval flag at the mast head. Surrender!!

Thank goodness for that.

If the German fleet did not stay in Loch Eriboll very long then my wife and I can understand as the midges were murderous.

The owner of the B and B also grew beautiful oysters in bags immersed in the waters of the Loch-we did not have a meal however!

JOKERS CORNER

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary.

She said, 'I want something shiny that goes from zero to 150 in 3 seconds.'

I bought her a bathroom scale.

Then the fight started.

My wife sat down next to me as I was flipping channels.

She asked, 'what is on TV?'

I said 'dust.'

And then the fight started.

Some Aunty Acid comment



THE \$2.99 special

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the senior's special was \$2.99. When asked what was on the menu the waitress said bacon, eggs, hash brown and toast.

The wife said that sounds good but I won't have the eggs.

In that case the waitress said I will have to charge \$3.49 because you are ordering a la carte.

The wife said you mean I have to pay more if I don't have the eggs!

Yes said the waitress. Then I will have the special. How do you want your eggs done asked the waitress?

Raw and in the shell she replied. She took the two eggs home and baked a cake.

Don't mess with seniors as we have been around the block more than once.

Some more Thomas Jefferson Wisdom

‘To compel a man to subsidize with taxes the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical’.

Examinations

How many 56ers could pass this 1895 examination in grammar?

Time allowed 1 hour.

- Give the rules for the use of capital letters.
- Name the parts of speech and define those that have no modification.
- Define verse, stanza and paragraph.
- What are the principal parts of a verb? Give principal parts of lie, play, and run.
- Define case; illustrate each case.
- What is punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of punctuation.

Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.

The editor would have to be put back to grade 3 or 4!!

Communications by E-Mail

The Club is now set up to send out copies of the Torchbearer and send and receive communications by E-Mail.

If you have an E-Mail address and would like to receive communications via E-Mail, please advise by emailing us.

admin@56ers.org.au

We have also set up a 56ers website where you can access previous newsletters.

www.56ers.org.au



Kind Regards

Dennis M Stevenson

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