

THE TORCHBEARER

NEWSLETTER 64

"56ers Torchbearers Club Inc"

PO Box 2148, CAIRNS Q 4870

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President's Comments

Greetings Torchbearers and Partners

With another successful running of the Biennial North Queensland Games held in Mackay this year, our Secretary Treasurer, Bill Cummings, was in attendance to supervise the distribution of cheques to the successful athletes participating in the Club's sponsored 1500 meters events. Bill reported that Games organisers were the most appreciative of our ongoing contributions and has more detail of the results in the newsletter.

On the local scene, home grown and international athletes have been pounding the pavements in preparation for the Ultra Marathon due on the 10th June, an event which creates a huge amount of interest for the locals.

With winter now in full swing I would like to think our members are taking all precautions to avoid the dreaded influenza.

Good health and keep safe.

Regards
Jim Vallely
President



WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THEM DAWN FRASER

(Another brilliant production from Ron Royes)

According to Dawn Fraser the only place she ever feels at peace is in the water.

There is a certain amount of love in the water that you have. I'm in a dream of my own. I'm free. I can't argue with anyone. No one can argue with me.

Arguments and controversy it must be said, have shaped Fraser's life almost as much as that soothing element in which she found both peace and fame.

Her ability as a swimmer was first spotted at the early age of fourteen years by the renowned Sydney swim coach Harry Gallagher when swimming at the local baths.



She was born in Balmain Sydney on the 4th September 1937, the youngest of eight children from a working class family of Ken and Rose Fraser.

The Australian swimming union banned her for 10 years after the Tokyo Olympic Games. This followed the theft of an Olympic flag from a pole outside Emperor Hirohito's Palace. She was arrested at the time but released without charge. In the end she was given the flag as a souvenir.

Ostensibly she was punished by the Australian Swimming Union.

Fraser later denied having swum the moat to steal the flag, telling the international The

Times in 1991: there is no way that I would have swum that moat. I was terrified of dirty water and that moat was filthy. There's no way I'd have dipped my toe in it.

In fact her real sins were marching in the opening ceremony in defiance of ASU orders and then refusing to wear an official swimsuit, which she claimed was too small and endangered her modesty.

She was the first of only three swimmers in history to win the same event at three successive Olympic Games-Melbourne (1956): Rome (1960) and Tokyo (1964). She might have won a fourth 100m freestyle Gold in Mexico City in 1968 had it not been for the ban.

And her reputation suffered too. She was branded a trouble maker. Over time that softened into something more fitting. She is now the larrikin from Balmain who spoke her mind.

In 1964, she had a whirlwind romance with a Townsville bookmaker Gary Ware while the Olympic Games team was in training for the Tokyo Games. One Saturday in July, she was invited by the Townsville Turf Club at Cluden racecourse to rug the winner of the Townsville Cup. The race was won by a horse called Boomerang , which was owned by Gary Ware.

Ware invited Fraser to the celebrations that night at one of Townsville's top hotels-the Allen. A romance bloomed.

On the 30th January 1965 they were married at St Stephens Church Macquarie Street Sydney. A daughter resulted from the marriage-Dawn Lorraine. The name Lorraine was a gesture to her close swimming friend Lorraine Crapp.

Her marriage was short lived. They separated in 1968.

In 1988 she became the Independent member for the New South Wales Assembly for the seat of Balmain. She remained a member until 25th May 1991 when the seat was abolished. She failed to win the new seat of Port Jackson.

At one time, she was also a hotel licensee of the Riverview Hotel Balmain. This was also short term.

Overtime, honours came her way. Australia named her a Living Treasure. The International Olympic Committee acknowledged her as the World's Greatest Living Female Water Sports Champion.

In 1996 she was invited to be a torch bearer at the Centenary Olympic Games held at Atlanta Georgia in the United States of America. It was a major honour for her. She was the third bearer of the torch before she handed it over to *Evander Holyfield*. He then carried it into the Olympic Stadium and then passed the torch to legendary boxer Muhammed Ali who lit the flame at the cauldron



To officially start the Games. The torch bearers were presented with the actual torch they carried. It portrayed the 100 years of the Olympic Games.

During the course of the Games Fraser took ill suffering from angina pectoris. She was admitted to the Atlanta Hospital for treatment but was later released. At the time she was visited at the hospital but she was more concerned for the whereabouts of the Olympic Torch.

She was one of the torchbearers at the Opening Ceremony of the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney. At the time Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic committee made Dawn, First Lady of the Olympic Games partnering him to the Opening Ceremony where she was one of seven Australian women to run with the Torch in the main stadium.

In 1967 she was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) and appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1998. That year she was voted Australia's greatest female athlete in History. The following year the International Olympic Committee named her the World's Greatest Living Female Water Sports Champion.

Subsequent to any laudable achievements, Fraser made headlines for alleged public comments such as, I'm sick and tired of the immigrants that are coming into my country. The comments were directed at two Australian tennis players with ethnic backgrounds, saying go back to where their fathers or parents came from.

Fame and controversy has followed and as she succinctly put it - but no fortune.

56ers Corner

NORTH QUEENSLAND GAMES

Mackay 5th May 2018

Hon Secretary, Bill Cummings, represented the Club at the opening ceremony of the North Queensland Games in Mackay and presented prizes for the Men's and Women's 1500 Metres Events. The Club again provided \$2000 in prizes for this feature event.

Men's - 1500 Metre Event

1st Josiah McCarthy - Peak Performance Track Club - Innisfail, Time 4:32:52

2nd William Searles - Keppel Coast

3rd Alexander Verelst - Peak Performance Track Club - Innisfail

Women's - 1500 Metre Event

1st Elliarna Mitchell - Peak Performance Track Club - Innisfail, Time 5:08:99

2nd Elena James - Townsville Road Runners

3rd Emily Arthurs - Keppel Coast

Elliarna Mitchell and Josiah McCarthy are trained by Coach Wally Plath from Peak Performance Track Club in Innisfail. The Club primarily works with athletes specialising in distances from 200m to 1500m on track and compete on a local, state & national level. Wally Plath is a former Queensland Champion, National 800m Medalist, International 800/1500m Medalist and NSW Academy of Sport Athlete. Wally has over 20 years of experience at State and National level. Also has spent numerous years training with Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth medalists. Josiah recently competed at the 2018 Commonwealth Games Selection trials in the 1500m.



Games Official Opening March Past.



Games Official Opening Representatives & 3000 Participants.



Official Opening Ceremony



Start Men's 1500m Race



The Cauldron is lit

Bill Cummings 56 Torchbearer and Chairman, NQ Games Councillor Jessie Richardson



Finnish Men's 1500m Race



Mayor of Mackay presenting 2nd Place Mens 1500m Event



Presentation Winners Women's 1500m Event.



Presentation Winners Men's 1500m Event, Bill Cummings & Games Mascot.

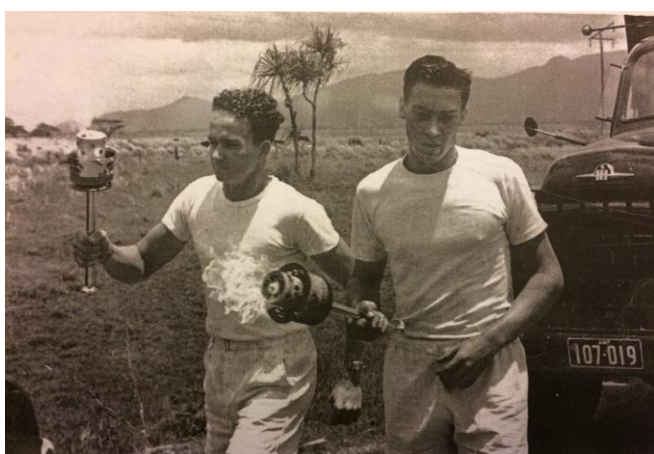


Presentation Winner Men's 1500m Event & Councillor Isaacs Shire

OBITUARY

MARK ROWELL

It is sad to report the passing of Mark Rowell, a torch bearer in 1956. Mark ran his torch two miles south of Ingham. In adult life, Mark was an active farmer and later was the State Member for Hinchinbrook and the Minister for Primary Industries in a LNP Government. When the LNP was defeated he became shadow minister of the same ministry.



Mark was an active member of the Torchbearers Club attending AGM'S and contributing to the Torchbearers Newsletter. Condolences are offered to his wife Sandy.

Rest in peace Mark. Your contributions to Queensland and our Club have earned you lasting peace.

Joker's Corner

GOD'S WIFE

A little boy about 10 years old was standing at a shoe store by the roadside staring into the window and shivering with cold. A lady approached the boy and said, "My! You are deep in thought staring into that window."

"I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes", was the boy's reply.

The lady took him into the store and asked the clerk to supply a half dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if she could have a

basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back of the store and washed and dried his feet.

By the time the clerk had returned with the socks she placed a pair on his feet and purchased him a pair of shoes.

She tied up the remaining socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said. "No doubt you will be more comfortable now."

As she turned to go, the astonished boy caught her by the hand and looking up with tears in his eyes, "Are you God's wife?"

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THE FISHERMAN.

The rain was pouring down. There standing next to a big puddle outside the pub was an old Irishman drenched holding a stick with a piece of string dangling in the water.

A passer-by stopped and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Fishing", said the man.

Feeling sorry for the old man, the gent said, "Come inside out of the rain and have a drink with me."

Being in the warmth of the pub and as they sipped their whiskies, the gentleman being a bit smart could not resist asking, "How many have you caught today?"

"You're the eighth!" the old man said.

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FROZEN CRABS AND THE BLONDE HOSTESS

A lawyer entered the plane and asked the hostess if she could look after a box of frozen crabs for him. She took the box saying that she would place it in the crew's refrigerator. He said that he was a lawyer and that he was

holding her responsible if she let them thaw out.

Needless to say she was quite annoyed at his behaviour.

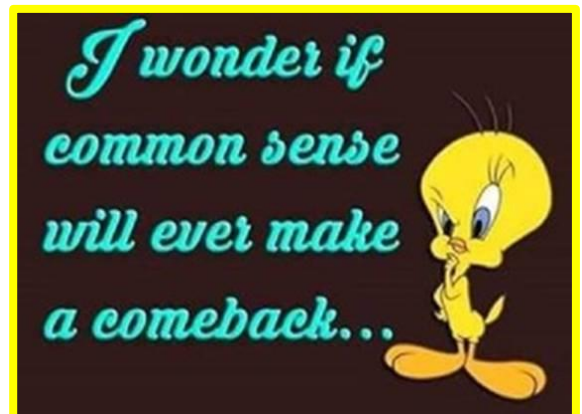
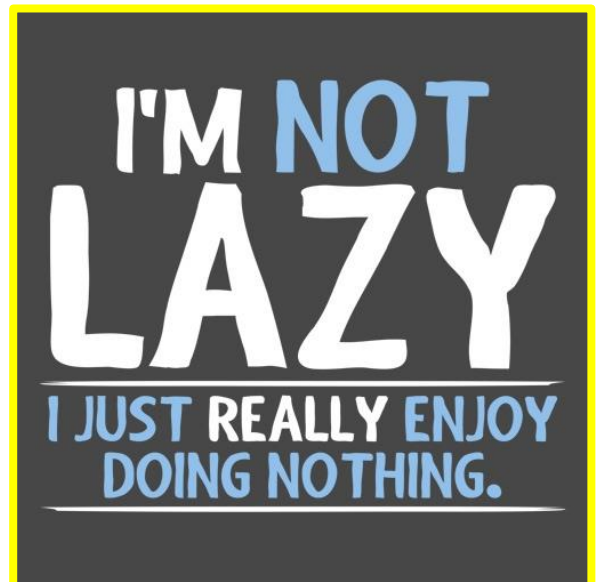
Shortly before landing she announced on the intercom, "Would the lawyer who gave me the crabs please raise your hand?"

Not one hand went up. So she took them home and enjoyed them.

There are two lessons here:

1. Lawyers aren't as smart as they think they are, and
2. Blonds are not as dumb as they are made out to be.
3. Blonds are not as dumb as most people think.

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Kind Regards

Dennis M Stevenson

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"The Running Scotsman"