

THE TORCHBEARER

NEWSLETTER 67

"56ers Torchbearers Club Inc"

PO Box 2148, CAIRNS Q 4870

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President's Comments

Greetings once again Torchbearers and Partners.

Happy New Year to one and all. I trust you negotiated the Festive activity in good shape.

I must thank all members who responded to our request for proxy votes to allow the committee to anchor down the 2018 AGM.

We realize more and more as the years it gets a little harder to gather members on a given date. All is well and our committee remains as previous.

I am pleased to report that Montanna McAvoy's the young lady we follow with close interest has accepted a scholarship with Oklahoma State University to further athletic and education aspirations. We will continue to monitor her achievements being a granddaughter of a 1956 Torchbearer.

May 2019 reach all your expectations.

Regards

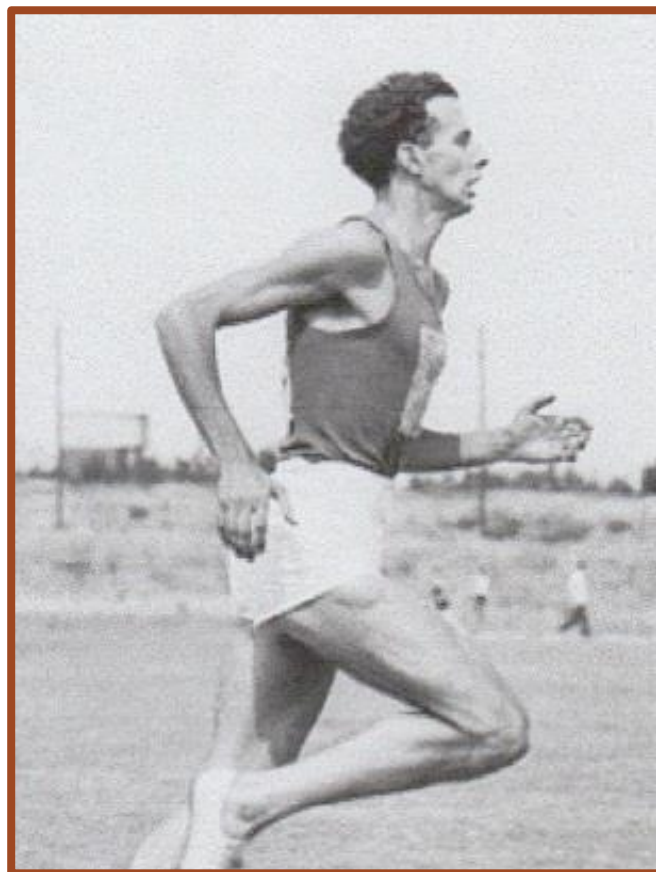
Jim Vallely
President



WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THEM

**The Honourable John Landy
AC, CVO, MBE, FTSE**

I have presented the Fifty -sixer's newsletter since 2010 and have produced 26 newsletters. I have written about most athletes who have excelled at athletics in our time but I have to admit that I have missed out on one of our great milers (1500 m) and a great fellow—John Landy. I guess that members would know Landy's history quite well but in case not, this is his illustrious history.

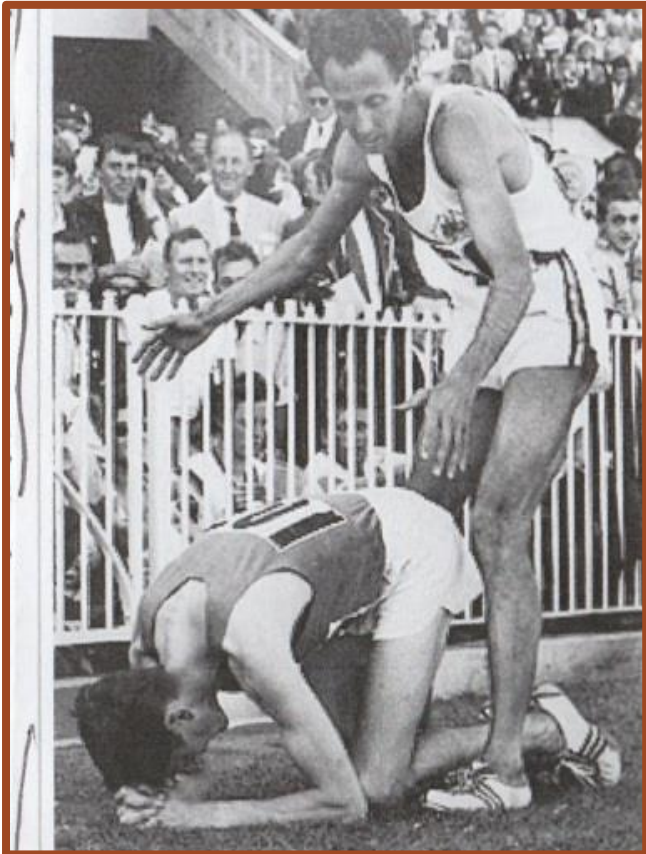


John Landy in full flight in 1954.

John Landy was born in Melbourne on the 12th April 1930. He married Lynette Fisher.

He worked as a senior manager at ICI Australia and had a successful public speaking career. For eight years he served on the Victorian Land Conservation Council—an avid naturalist Landy has written two books on natural history. He was Commissioner General for the Australia exhibit at Expo 92. John Landy was a

colleague of my best friend William (Bill O'Neill) who ran the torch at Miriwinni North Queensland. At the 2006 Melbourne Olympic reunion Bill introduced me to John Landy who was talking to Ron Delaney the winner of the 1500 metre event in Melbourne. We both had a wonderful chat to them both, until some rude chap tapped Delaney on the shoulder and lead him away from the wonderful discussion.



John Landy (the vanquished) comforting Ron Delaney (the victor) following the running of the Melbourne 1500 m event. This further illustrates the qualities of Landy the man.

Landy loved watching middle distance track and became a serious runner during his college years joining Geelong Guild Athletics Club in 1949. He was a member of the Australian Olympic team in 1952 and 1956. He took the Olympic Oath in 1956.

On the 21st June 1954 at Turku Finland he became the second man to achieve a sub 4 minute mile recording a world record time of 3:57.9 rounded this off to 3:58 by the (I A A). This record held for 3 years.

In Australia Landy is remembered for his performance in the 1956 Australian Championships. In the race Landy stopped and doubled back after another runner clipped Clarke's heel in the third lap of the race. Clarke the junior mile record holder got up and started running again. Landy followed and incredibly Landy won the race. This was considered one of the greatest moments in Australian sporting history, a moment of sportsmanship never to be forgotten.

Of course John was placed third in the 1500 m event at Melbourne with Ron Delaney of Ireland placed first, Walter Richtzenhain of Germany second and Landy third.

Landy's honours and awards include,

- In 1995 he was made an MBE
- The Australian Sports Medal in 2000
- The Centenary Medal in 2001
- A Knight of Grace of the most venerable order of St John of Jerusalem plus a companion of the Order of Australia
- In 2006 he was appointed a commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) during the Queens visit to Australia
- He was inducted into Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 1985
- Over the years Landy has been awarded numerous honorary degrees

Governor of Victoria

Landy was sworn in as the 26th Governor of Victoria on the 1st January 2001. He remained in that position until 7th April 2006.

Athletics Achievements

Landy's athletic achievements are multiple. He joined the Geelong Guild Athletic Club in 1949 and represented Australia in the 1952 and 1956 Olympic Games. Worldwide he is best known for his part in the mile race at the 1954 British Commonwealth Games at Vancouver.

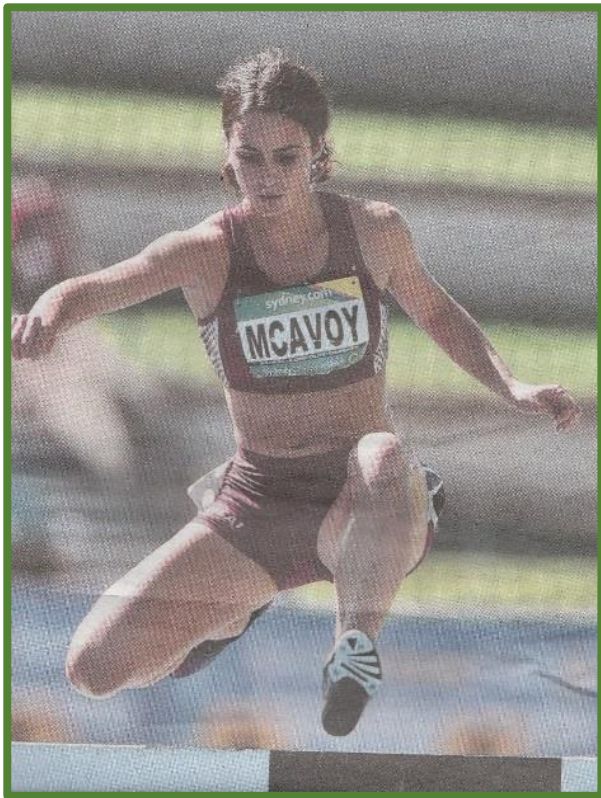
Landy broke his second sub 4 minute mile race but lost to Roger Bannister who had his best time. This meeting was called the 'Miracle Mile, it was heard over radio by 100,000,000 people and seen on TV by millions more. On the final turn of the last lap, Landy looked over his left shoulder and Bannister passed him on the right. A larger than life bronze sculpture was made by artist Jack Harman. Landy was known to quip "While Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt for looking back, I am the only one turned into bronze for looking back."

56ers Corner

Montanna to Oklahoma

Montanna McAvoy has chosen an American University to pursue her path to further athletic fame.

Montanna rejected 18 offers from other Universities after a visit to Oklahoma State University.



Montanna clearing a steeple- chase hurdle.

"Oklahoma was my first visit and I instantly decided I was going there," she said.

"I liked everything about it. It's a bit country. The people were very nice and it reminded me of home a bit."

Apart from studying business and sports management, Montanna, as the president has already advised hopes to progress her track performance through the University's coaching. The head coach over there has good credentials and I wish to gain experience by racing some of the best people in the world.

Photo and story by courtesy of the Innisfail Advocate.

Wimbledon

Over two weeks in July 2018, nearly half a million people descended on Wimbledon for one of the most famous tennis sporting events in the world, and for many people it is a by word for '**Englishness**', the neat grass courts, **clipped British** accents calling for '**new balls please**' or quieting the crowd, immaculately turned out line judges and ball boys or girls, strawberries and ice cream.

It was estimated over 350 million people watched over the world.

Wimbledon isn't just a test of nerve and ability of the world's best tennis players: it is also a major logistical operation.

Around 6000 staff ensure the event runs smoothly-including the 250 balls boys and girls recruited from schools across London who handle 50,000 balls (stored at 20 degrees Celsius, new balls are used after the first seven games and then after every nine games) that were used during the tournament.

Nearly half a million visitors require feeding and not just strawberries and ice cream and

glasses of **Pimm's** that Wimbledon is famous for! Last year as well as 28,000 kg strawberries, they went through 300,000 cups of tea and coffee, 190,000 sandwiches and 100,000 pints of beer and lager, making Wimbledon the largest single annual sporting catering event in Europe.

To handle the potential impact on the environment recycling facilities allowing clean recyclable to be separated as introduced in 2009 boosting recyclable from 22 to 63 percent.

And the players doing battle for one of tennis' most treasured trophies, are greeted by the inspirational quote from Rudyard Kipling's poem '**IF**' inscribed above the entrance to Wimbledon's centre court.

Part of the poem reads:

If you can use your heart and muscles and nerves to hold on,

*Even when there is only **WILL** left,*

Then you have all the earth and everything upon it,

And, as the speaker exultantly ends,

*You'll be a **man** my son!*

While the poem was addressed to Kipling's son John it was inspired by a friend of his Leander Star Jameson a Scottish politician responsible for the raid that led to the second Boer War in South Africa.

No wonder the weary South African Kevin Anderson lost the 2018 Wimbledon singles title to Serbian Djokovic who became Wimbledon champion for the fourth time.

Written with thanks by Ron Royes.

Jokes Corner

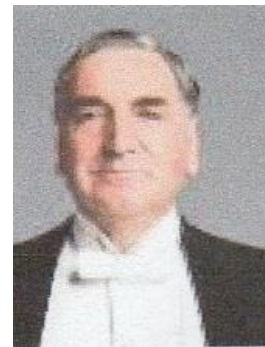
For readers of the newsletter who appreciate the finer points of English language used correctly.

APLOMB

His Lordship was in the study when the butler approached and coughed discreetly, "May I ask you a question my Lord?"



"Go ahead Carlson," said his Lordship.



"I am doing a crossword in the Times and I have come across a word that I am not too clear on. What word is that asked his Lordship?"

"Aplomb my Lord."

"Now that is a difficult one to explain, I would say it was self-assurance or complete composure."

"Thank you my Lord but I am still a little confused."

"Let me explain it a little more. Do you remember the time when the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge visited?"

"I remember the occasion very well my Lord. It gave the staff and myself much pleasure to look after them."

Also continued the Earl, "Do you remember when Will plucked a rose for Kate in the rose garden."

"I was present on that occasion my Lord ministering to their needs."

"While plucking the rose a thorn embedded itself very deeply in Will's thumb."

"I witnessed the incident my Lord and saw the Duchess herself remove the thorn and bandage his thumb with her own handkerchief."

"That evening the hole that the rose made was very sore. Kate had to cut up his venison."

"Yes my Lord I did see everything that transpired that evening."

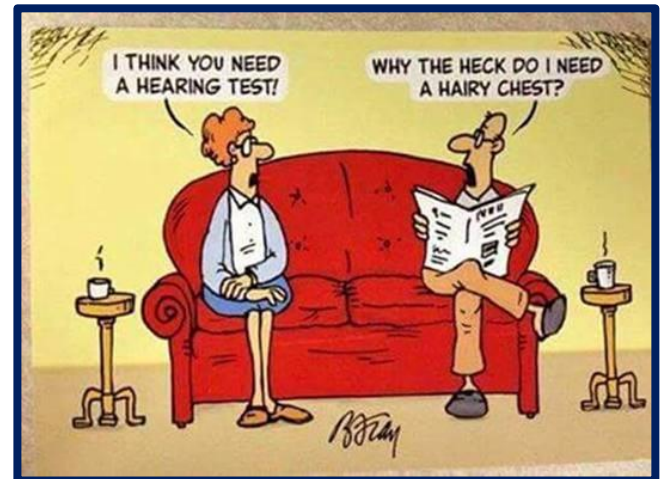
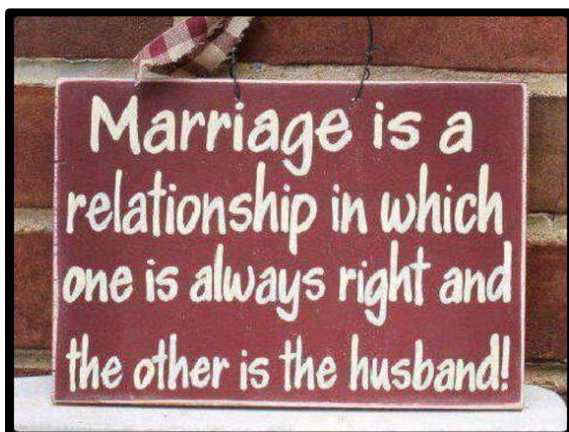
"And do you remember the next morning while you were in the process of pouring fresh hot coffee, Kate inquired of Will in a loud voice.

Darling does your prick still throb?

And you Carson did not spill one drop of coffee.

THAT! Carlson is complete composure or aplomb."

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THE END IS NEAR

Sean is the vicar of a Protestant parish on the border of Northern Ireland and Eira and Patrick is the priest at the Roman Catholic Church across the road.

One day they were seen together erecting a sign that read:-

THE END IS NEAR, TURN YOURSELF AROUND NOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

As a car sped past the driver leans out the window and yells, "Leave people alone you religious nutters. We don't need your lectures."

From around the next curve they hear screeching tyres and a big splash.

Shaking his head Father Patrick says, "Dat's the terd one dis mornin'."

"Yaa," Sean agrees then adds "Do ya think maybe da sign should just say,"

"BRIDGE CLOSED?"

Jokes and stories from Roy Brown

There was a teenage boy who was very sad and depressed and thinking of suicide, but he did a wise thing, he asked an Old man for advice. The old man said it is not urgent, think about it carefully and take plenty of time, things may change. I will tell you a little story. There was a bee flying around as happy as she could be, gathering pollen and nectar from the flowers. She was in a flower when a horse gobbled her up, so the bee was in the horse's stomach and getting very excited trying to find a way out. She did not know what to do-so she decided to sting the horse which was a bad decision for when a bee stings the sting pulls part of their body away and they die. She was looking for a good place to sting but the warmth of the horses stomach made her sleepy and she went to sleep and you know what the old man said with a wry smile when she woke up the horse was gone. That is a great morale setting story Roy. Thank you.

The customer said to the sales girl, "I want to buy a stick." The sales girl said, "Certainly sir, shooting, shaving, walking, candle or lip!"

They say it is okay to use a sharp word when you get it in edgewise.

How is it that the older a man gets the faster he could run as a boy?

Roy these selected stories are a wonderful relief from my dry old *yarns*.

Talking about yarn, my wife and I were visiting Tasmania a few years ago and we decided to place the caravan into a caravan park at Deloraine which was central to a number of

other sites. In Deloraine there was a demonstration titled 'Good Yarns'. Brains trust decided to attend thinking that we would hear some good stories. The show started and a light flicked on a succession of scenes on a screen depicting the development of Tasmania and Deloraine. Suitably impressed we departed the theatre but asked the lady about the yarns that we did not see! She answered that the various stories were made of woollen yarn. There was an embarrassed withdrawal from the theatre.

A vain attempt to introduce a quiz

Some members will be skilled at identifying wonderful land or sea marks and poets and I offer the following double question for answer-:

Who was the Scottish poet and writer that wrote these words about a famous Scottish warning system on the East coast of Scotland?

Pharos Loquitur

'Far in the bosom of the deep,
O'er these wild shelves my watch I keep;
A ruddy gem of changeful light,
Bound on the dusky brow of night,
The seaman bids my lustre hail,
And scorns to strike his timorous sail.'

- Warning system
- Poet

The answer will be provided in the next newsletter.



Kind Regards

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"The Running Scotsman"