

THE TORCHBEARER

NEWSLETTER 69

"56ers Torchbearers Club Inc"

PO Box 2148, CAIRNS Q 4870

Committee:

Patron	Margaret Cochrane	
President	Jim Vallely	Tel 07 40532150
Vice President	Dennis Stevenson	Tel 07 40653223
Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Cummings	Tel 07 40312888
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President's Comments

Greetings once again Torch Bearers and Partners.

With a successful AGM behind us and with executive positions remaining as previously it was pleasing to have new faces around the table as quite a number of topics were discussed. Most encouraging was the acceptance of sons and daughter to be eligible for full membership.

We must thank the RSL for continuing to allow our club to occupy their boardroom for our annual general meetings.

The 2020 North Queensland Games will be held over Easter, the opening ceremony to be conducted in the new Football Stadium. Our \$2,000 sponsorship for the men's and women's 1500 meters will be keenly contested.

I would like to wish all our members and their families a safe and healthy Festive Season.

Kind regards

Jim Vallely
President



Descendants Membership Nomination

PASSING ON THE TORCH

Complete and post the attached nomination form, or go online and complete at www.56ers.org.au/



Merry Christmas

NORTH QUEENSLAND GAMES INVITATION

Members of the 56ers Club have been invited to participate in the opening ceremony of the North Queensland Games at the new Townsville stadium on the evening of Thursday 9th April 2020 in recognition of the Club's support for the Games and its sponsorship of the 1500 metres men's and women's events. The Games will be held over Easter 10th - 13th April and it is expected that the 1500 metres events will be held on the morning of Saturday 11th April.

Members who believe they will be able to attend are requested to advise the Secretary on: **07 40312888** or email admin@56ers.org.au.

WELCOME NEW DESCENDENT MEMBERS

PASSING ON THE TORCH

The Club is pleased to welcome new members under the new descendent members' provision in the Club rules.

- Robert Kahl
- Gavin Petersen
- Andrew Cummings
- Brett Stevenson
- Rosanna Brown

WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THEM

Vale Norma Croker (Fleming)

With the approval of John Rogers Secretary/Treasurer of the Rockhampton Commemorative Torchbearers Club who advised of Norma's passing in their September '19 Newsletter. On behalf of our members we express condolences to her family.

We were fortunate to invite Norma to our club to celebrate the arrival of the Torch in 2000 and that occasion has fond memories for club members attending.



Norma Croker holding her Gold Medal high surrounded by Torchbearers Club members

John Deane

John was the organizer of the Mackay relay and a good friend of the editor. John and his father Terry, sold menswear to Mackayites. John drove myself and two other runners to remote and open roads in Calen in readiness for our torch run. John passed away in August. Deepest condolences are offered to his wife Flo (to whom I spoke), and family from our President, Secretary and members.

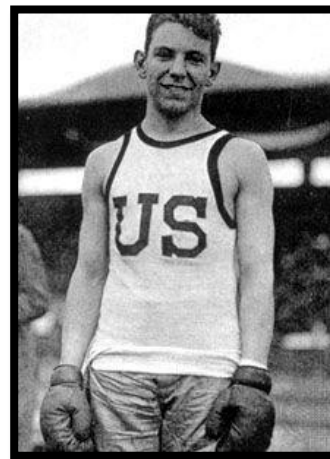


A GREAT STORY FROM ANDREW CUMMINGS

Eddie Eagan

You may not have heard of Eddy Eagan, but he truly deserves his place in Olympic folk law as he managed to get a gold medal in both Summer and Winter Olympics. He is the only one who has truly achieved that as the only other person having got a gold medal in both Olympics has gold medals for the same event (figure skating). The event was simply part of both Olympics (figure skating was first, a Summer Olympics event.)

Also when an athlete gets a medal in two different events it is generally for events that are compatible. For example biathlon and cross country skiing or swimming and water polo. Eddie managed it in boxing and bobsled, a quite uncommon combination. Carl Schuman is another example winning gymnastics events and wrestling events. For the record Carl also participated in athletics and weightlifting.



Eddie Eagan after winning an Olympic gold medal in boxing.

Montanna's progress in Oklahoma State University

Montanna McAvoy is attending the above university on a full scholarship. She had a rough start to this year fracturing her foot however she has healed well and is on the comeback. She was off her feet for 8 months and with only 10 weeks of training under her belt her coach did not expect she would be

able to qualify this season for the cross country competition but she did so and took her place on her team of 7 as no 6 runner.



OSU competed at the Mid-West Conference and took out 1st place Montanna came in 23 overall and came in before the Texas State 5th and 6th runner and in so doing, she created points for her team to take out 1st by 2 points. It is only the second time in the 40 year history of this event that OSU has won.

She was also named by the American Coach's Association as one of the top 148 academic Students competing in the big 12 champs known as the BIG12 Academic Honourees. She is studying Business Management.

Montanna is always grateful to the 56ers for their financial assistance during her junior years which helped her in achieving outcomes which afforded her this wonderful opportunity of a full scholarship in America.

Alicia, Mark and Montanna McAvoy.



Montanna is seen at far right.



Montanna in full flight in a cross country inter varsity race.

56ers Corner

Ralph W Schubert

*Ralph has become known to the club through his participation in the Cairns Masters Games. He is a member and ran his torch 13 miles south of Gladstone. Ralph attended the 2019 games and amazed everyone by competing in the 5000 m event as well as other sprinting and field events and he is **only** 89 years old. As editor I felt that a story on his life for the newsletter was appropriate.*

MY STORY

by Ralph Schubert Part 2

Ralph's story has so far been historical, interesting, and informative I've met some old friends and learnt where those friends finished up when they left Nambour.

As a result of the JC'C newsletters we recruited over fifty men ranging in age from 16 to 60. This also publicised the fact that the Olympic Torch was coming to Gladstone on its way from Cairns to Melbourne and this became a matter of considerable interest in Gladstone. Bill Potter then received advice that the Army would be conducting the Olympic Torch relay run and the torch would arrive at the Gladstone Town Hall at 5pm on a Friday afternoon. I then advised the Mayor whom I had got to know and suggested that he be at the Town Hall to formally welcome the final runner from Rockhampton with the torch.

The Mayor agreed to do this

At my Oil Terminal construction site I had a steel tripod fabricated with a short length of three inch pipe at the top for the torch to be put in by the Mayor after he took it from the final runner from Rockhampton and he said something about the significance of Olympic Games and the Torch Relay. I had five half inch long pieces cut from a six inch diameter pipe and there were welded to the tripod which was then painted silver with the rings painted with the Olympic Colours. The mayor and everyone else said this looked very good at the top of the five steps from the footpath up to the vestibule at the front entrance to the Town Hall which then was a relatively small building.

By about 4.45pm on the Friday afternoon when the Olympic Torch was coming to Gladstone there was two or three hundred people outside the Town Hall waiting to see it and an army jeep arrived with an officer and a driver. I went and greeted them and the officer asked what the tripod in front of the town hall represented and what was the crowd expecting to see? I explained that the Mayor was going to welcome the final Rockhampton runner. He said the Torch could not stop. I told him about the Mayor going to speak and this would take five or ten minutes at the most and that our first runners had been training and run their mile in 6 minutes so we could catch up on the 10 minutes. I then took him to meet the Mayor and informed the mayor about the Officers concern and my explanation. About then the torch arrived and everything proceeded to plan.

Because I wanted to thank the Mayor after our first Gladstone runner who was a son of a Greek family in town was on his way with the Torch, I ran the 13 mile south from Gladstone.

We had to drive ourselves to our start positions and we arranged that generally two

or three would go and come back in one car. I went with two other JCS.

By the time we were waiting at our 12, 13 and 14 miles starting places it was getting dark and we waited until an army truck came along with its head lights on and it gave us each a torch at our start places. The soldiers on the truck advised us how to ignite our torch from the runner before us. They also told us there would be another army truck after we had run our mile and lit the next runners torch and we were to give the torch we had run with to the soldiers in the back of the this truck and they would give us a medal. I still have that medal. I had a small stand made for it and I now have it displayed in a glass fronted wall cabinet in our dining room. It is one of my prized possessions.

Back in 1956 there was little traffic at night. After the three of us had received our medals we drove back to Gladstone and we went to one of the other fellows home where our wives were waiting with dinner for us and we all enjoyed a very happy time dining and discussing the experience of running the Olympic Torch Relay. Because runners whose miles were further south were returning to Gladstone later than me when Lillian and I drove to our home after our happy dinner, we saw lights on in other homes where those runners were then likewise enjoying their late dinners. That was a very happy, memorable night at Gladstone.

Yes that night in 1956 when we ran as Olympic Torch Bearers south from Gladstone as members of the team of Torchbearers who carried the Olympic Torch from Cairns to Melbourne is one we all proudly remember.

Ralph Schubert.

Well done Ralph you can be well proud of your organizational role and participation in the Gladstone area.

ROY BROWN'S PRE RUN HISTORY PART STORY OF HIS RUN.

In 1955 I started shift work at Babinda. At first I rode a bike 10 miles to work. In October when I had saved enough money I bought, 1942 model Ford V8 1 ton truck which had been standing idle in a shed for 5 years for 80 pounds. I restored it and built a good lockable-body on it so I could live in it. In January 1956 I drove it down to Glen Aplin which is about 6 miles past Stanthorpe and managed to get a job picking or cutting table grapes. On the way down I bought a case of peaches from the COD. They were my food on the drive down. I think that there were two left when I got there and I had 15 pounds money in my wallet. The farm or vineyard where I worked was owned by Ray Ferris and the next farm to him was owned by Jack Dunne, the brand on the case was J Dunne so I showed it to him and he said that he sent that case of peaches to the COD in Townsville. A remarkable coincidence. He told me this joke.

'There was this man in England who was coming to Australia to live. He had a friend named Mrs Dunne, and she told him she had a son who went to Australia years ago and who never writes to her. She asked this man could he look up her son and get him to write to her. She said that he lived in a white house close to a railway station. He was walking to it when a man came out. He asked the man, "Are you Dunne?", "Yes I'm done", so he said, "Why don't you write home to your mother?"'

Roy ran his torch in November 1956 as we all did.

I started work in Babinda as a junior chemist in 1955 and no doubt qualified for my run with Roy but I didn't meet him.

Jokes Corner

Roy Brown's Joke - Seeing Eyes

In a picture theatre there were two Nuns in their uniforms and big high hats. There were two men sitting behind them having trouble seeing the picture. Why don't we go to the next town, there are not so many nuns there. The other man said or the town after that, there are even fewer nuns there. One of the nuns stood up and turned around and said why don't you go to hell there are no nuns there at all!

The wedding

At a wedding ceremony the pastor asked, "If anyone had anything to say concerning the bride and groom please stand up and talk or forever hold their peace."

The moment of utter silence was broken by a young beautiful woman carrying a child. She stood up and started walking slowly towards the pastor.

Everything quickly turned to chaos.

The bride threw the bouquet and burst out crying.

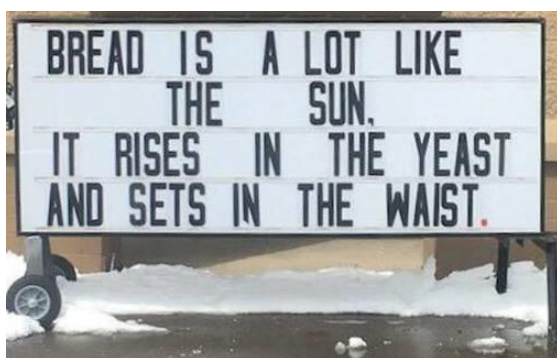
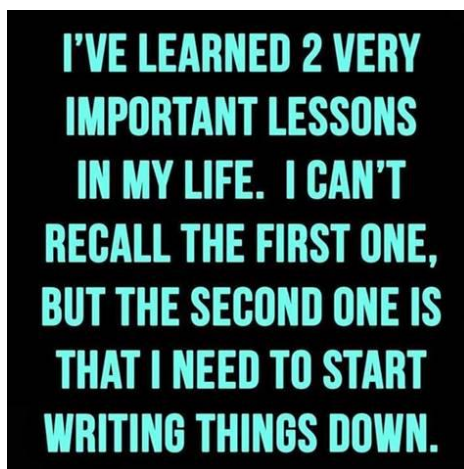
Then slowly the groom's mother fainted.

The Best men started giving each other looks and wonder how best to help save the situation.

The pastor asked the woman, "Can you tell us why you came forward. What do you have to say?"

There was absolute silence in the church.

The woman replied, "We can't hear in the back."



Age and Memories

My name is Alice Smith and I was sitting in the waiting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his dental diploma which bore his full name.

Suddenly I remembered this tall handsome dark haired man with the same name in my secondary class some 30 odd years ago. It could be the same guy that I had a secret crush on way back then?

Upon seeing him I quickly discarded any such thought.

This balding, grey haired man with the deeply lined face was far too old to be my class-mate. After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended Morgan Park secondary school.

Yes, yes I did, I'm a Morganner! He beamed with pride.

When did you leave school to go to college I asked? In 1965, why do you ask?

You were in my class I exclaimed.

He looked at me closely.

Then the ugly, old, bald, wrinkled, fat arsed, grey haired, decrepit bastard asked me.

What subject did you teach?



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Kind Regards

Dennis M Stevenson

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"The Running Scotsman"