

Preserving Memories

A joint project of the City of West Torrens and the West Torrens Historical Society

THOMAS QUINN

'I HAD NO REASON TO GET MY LICENCE UNTIL I WAS ABOUT 18. I LEARNT THE BOOK, WENT INTO MOTOR VEHICLES ON NORTH TERRACE, AND ANSWERED THE TEN QUESTIONS. I PAID THE TEN SHILLINGS AND WALKED OUT AS A FULLY QUALIFIED DRIVER.'

Tom Quinn began his education at the small St James School at Mile End.

Tom lived in Bennett Street close to South Road and recalls the Hilton Hotel and many shops around the area.

After a few years the family moved to the Adelaide Hills but returned to their home in Hilton and Tom finished his schooling at Adelaide High School.

Tom went on to become a teacher, completing a variety of country and city postings.



Eva and Tom Quinn, 2000

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FAMILY BACKGROUND

Paternal Grandparents - William Quinn and Margaret Sheild

William Quinn and Margaret Sheild married on 4 May 1892 at Dromore, Aghaloo/Caledon, Ireland.

Children:

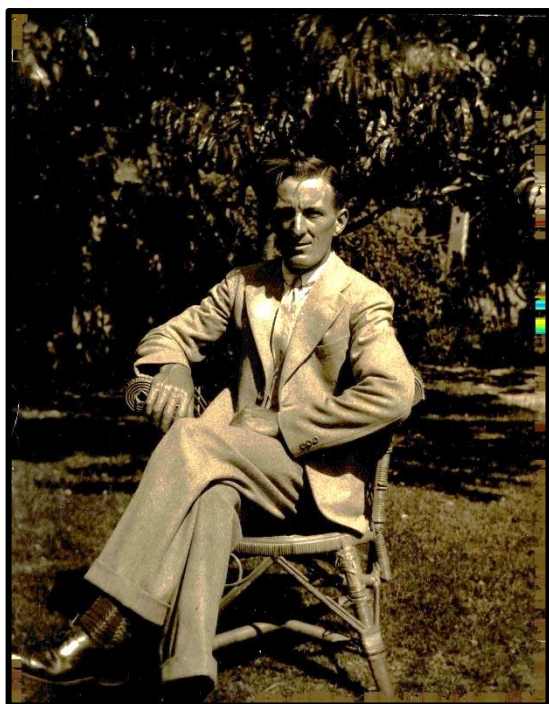
1. William John, 22 Nov 1892
2. Thomas Henry, 29 Oct 1895
3. Margaret Alice, 6 Jan 1900

Father – William John Quinn (1892-1968)

William was born 22 November 1892 in Antrim, Belfast, Ireland.

William served in the First World War in Ireland receiving an attestation for 6 years' service with the Army Reserve (Special Reservists), Royal Irish Rifles.

William married, and tragically this first wife and child (a female) died during childbirth.



ARMY RESERVE. (SPECIAL RESERVISTS.)
6 YEARS' SERVICE.
ATTESTATION OF
No. 5341 Name William Quinn Corps Royal Irish Rifles

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name?	1. <u>William Quinn</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town where you born?	2. In the Parish of <u>Belfast</u> in or near the Town of <u>Belfast</u> in the County of <u>Down</u>
3. Are you a British Subject?	3. <u>Yes</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>19</u> Years <u>20</u> Days
5. Have you resided out of your father's house for three years continuously by the same place, or occupied a house or land of the yearly value of £10 for one year, and paid rates for the same, and, in either case, if so, state which?	5. <u>Labour (Down)</u>
6. Have you ever been sentenced to Penal Servitude or Imprisonment by the Civil Power?	6. <u>No</u>
7. Are you, or have you been an Apprentice? If so, where? to whom? for what period? and, when did, or will the period expire?	7. <u>No</u>
8. Are you Married?	8. <u>No</u>
9. Have you ever been sentenced to Penal Servitude or Imprisonment by the Civil Power?	9. <u>No</u>
10. Do you now belong to the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, to what Unit and Corps?	10. <u>No</u>
11. Have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, state which with and name of discharge.	11. <u>No</u>
12. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous service?	12. <u>Yes</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Military or Naval Forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds?	13. <u>No</u>
14. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?	14. <u>Yes</u>
15. Are you willing to be called up to serve in the Army Reserve for a period of 6 years provided His Majesty should so long require your services?	15. <u>Yes</u>
16. Did you receive a notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you?	16. <u>Yes</u>
17. (a) Are you aware that you are liable to be called out, or detained whilst called up for training, in case of imminent national danger, or great emergency, on permanent service in the United Kingdom or elsewhere until otherwise ordered?	17. (a) <u>Yes</u>
(b) Are you aware that if so called out you will be liable to be obtained in Army Service for the completed portion of your term of service in the Army Reserve and for a further period not exceeding 12 months if so directed by the competent Military Authority?	(b) <u>Yes</u>
(c) Are you aware that you will not be permitted, while serving in the Special Reserve, to join the Royal Navy or Royal Marines, nor while serving in the Special Reserve of the Royal Field Artillery, or Army Veterinary Corps, to join the Regular Army, or to transfer to any other branch of the Special Reserve, nor while serving in the Special Reserve of the Army Service Corps, or Royal Army Medical Corps, to transfer to any other branch of the Special Reserve?	(c) <u>Yes</u>

I, William Quinn do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagement made.

William Quinn SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
George Henry Pickering Lord Rona SIGNATURE OF WITNESS.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, William Quinn swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, lawfully and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The recruit above named was examined by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at Belfast on this 22 day of February 1914.

Signature of the Justice James Blundell

If any attention is required on this page of the Attestation, a Notice of the Press should be prepared to make it and fill in the attention under section 50 (5), Army Act.

The Recruit should, if he requires it, receive a copy of the Declaration in Army Form B. 59.

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Maternal Grandparents – John McKinley and Sarah Mahon

John McKinley (c1840)

(father - Ralph McKinley, farmer)

married Feb 1887, Monellan Church,
Donaghmore, Ireland

Sarah Ann(e) Mahon

(father - George Mahon, labourer)

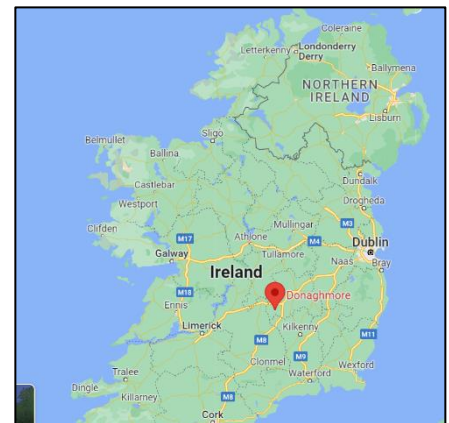
Entry No. 18. Monellan Church in the Parish of Donaghmore
Certificate Reference Number.....

When, Where, and How Married	Names (in full) Rank or Profession Marital Status	Age	Usual Residence	Parents Details	Officiating Minister or Registrar Witnesses	When and Where Registered Registrar
*1? Feb 1887 St Anne's Monellan According to the Rites of the Church of Ireland	John McKinley Farmer Bachelor	Full	Calhane	Ralph McKinley Farmer	Minister: James Green Witnesses: John Mahon William Lyttle	
	*2 Sarah Ann(e) Mahon — Spinster	Full	Killygordan	George Mahon Labourer		

Card Identification Number..... *1 - just entered as Feb 1887
*2 - hard to tell from the handwriting if there is an "e" or not.



St Anne's Parish, Donaghmore [donegalgenealogy.com]



Around 1926 there was a fire at the Dublin Post Office and records of this era were lost, so we don't really know too much about the Irish family background.

Children:

1. Maria, circa 1887-1887, died at birth
2. Thomas, circa 1889 -
3. **Katherine Sarah (Sarah/Kitty) , 4 August 1891 Donegal, Ireland - 18 August 1955**
4. Elizabeth, circa 1892 -
5. Ralph, circa 1893 - (Lived Kincaid, Saskatchewan, Canada)
6. John, circa 1894 -
7. Violet, circa 1896 -
8. Albert, - 29 Oct 1900, married 19 August 1936, Donegal, Edith Jane Bonar

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Parents – William Quinn and Sarah McKinlay

William John Quinn, 22 November 1892 - 19 September 1968,
married around 1926 in Belfast, Ireland.

Katherine Sarah (Sarah/Kitty), 4 August 1891 - 18 August 1955,
Their first son William John was born in 1927.

William Sr migrated to Australia in arriving 6 June 1928 on board the *Ballarat* leaving Sarah in Ireland until after the birth of their second son, John in May 1928.

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Page No. 10
Form P.—2.
(Amended)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
PASSENGER LIST—INCOMING PASSENGERS.
(Navigation Act) 1912-1928.

Return of Passengers Brought to the Port of ADELAIDE from Places Outside Australia.
(To be furnished in Duplicate.)
Note.—1st Class, 2nd Class, and 3rd Class Passengers are to be entered in separate groups.

Name of Ship	Official Number	(a) Port of Registry, (b) Home-Port	Master's Name	Through- (a) Crew (b) Pass.	Date of Arrival	Voyage
* BALLARAT	145596	(a) <i>Swansea</i> (b) <i>P.O. Australia via</i> <i>the Cape Route</i>	<i>John Parker</i>	(a) (b)	<i>6/6/1928</i>	<i>From London</i> <i>To Sydney via Cape</i>

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF PASSENGERS.

Line No.	Port where Embarked	Name (Separate line to be used for each Passenger.)	Age (at date of arrival)	Profession, Occupation, or Calling	Sex	Age at Birth	Country of Birth	Country of Last Permanent Residence*	Rank in Armed Forces	Country of Present Residence*	Remarks
270.	London	ALDER John	3rd	Blacksmith	M	35	England	England		Australia	
✓ 271	do	Mary Olive		Housewife	F	34					
✓ 272	do	John		Scholar	M	11					
✓ 273	do	Creighton		do	M	10					
✓ 274	do	BARTON Florence		Housewife	F	44					
✓ 275	do	Ellen Florence		Scholar	F	12					
✓ 276	do	Gladys Mary		Domestic Servt	F	19					
✓ 277	do	BENTLEY Martha E.		Nil HD	F	47					
✓ 278	do	BROOKFIELD James		Blacksmith	M	49					
✓ 279	do	BENNETT George Cyril		Land Surveyor	M	25	Ireland	Irish			
✓ 280	do	BESTFORD Matthew W.		Motor Mechanic	M	35	England	English			
✓ 281	do	CAVANAGH Alice		Domestic Servt	F	31					
✓ 282	do	DAVIES Fredk		Retired	M	72					
✓ 283	do	Ethel		Nil HD	F	54					
✓ 284	do	EVANS Elizabeth		Domestic Servt	F	36	Wales	Welsh			
✓ 285	do	LINDSAY Jessie Emma		Probationer Nurse	F	19	England	English			
✓ 286	do	McDONALD Wm Chas Hy.		Clerk	M	26					
✓ 287	do	MULLEN Marjorie		Housewife	F	29					
✓ 288	do	Doreen		Nil HD	F	2					
✓ 289	do	MURDOCH Margaret Ann		Domestic Servt	F	49	Scotland	Scottish			
✓ 290	do	QUINN Wm Q.		Motor Driver	M	53	Ireland	IRISH.			
✓ 291	do	REYNOLDS Florence		Childrens Nurse	F	19	England	English			

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With the two infants, William and John, Sarah arrived in Adelaide on the 18 March 1929 on board the *Benalla*.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
PASSENGER LIST - INCOMING PASSENGERS.
Form P. 2 (Amended)

Return of Passengers Brought to the Port of **ADELAIDE** from Places Outside Australia.
(To be furnished in Duplicate.)
Note - 1st Class, 2nd Class, and 3rd Class Passengers are to be entered in separate groups.

Line No.	Port where embarked	Name of Ship	Official Number	Designation	Age	Sex	Marital Status	Country of Birth	Place of Birth	Remarks
1	London	BATTERBY, Mr. Wallace	130322	3rd Tractor Driver	21	M	S	Australia	British	Australia
2	"	WYATERS, Mr. Lee E.		Leather Worker	51	M	V	England	"	"
3	"	CRACK, Mrs. Jessie		N/D	42	M		Australia	"	"
4	"	Miss Sylvia		Scholar	10	S		"	"	"
5	"	Miss Jean			9	S		"	"	"
6	"	Miss James			6	S		"	"	"
7	"	Miss Ruth			5	S		"	"	"
8	"	THUR, Mr. Jorgen		Restaurant Mgr.	59	M		Denmark	Danish	"
9	"	Mrs. Emma		N/D	66	M		"	"	"
10	"	WATWOOD, Mrs. Annie			62	M		England	British	"
11	"	GRONKILL, Miss Polly		French Polisher	25	S		Scotland	"	"
12	Capetown	KIMLEY, Mr. Eric E.		Butcher	22	S		Australia	"	"
13	London	LAW, Mr. William		Gen. Labourer	50	M		England	"	"
14	London	OWEN, Miss William		Scholar	11	S		England	British	Australia
15	"	Miss John			9	S		"	"	"
16	"	Miss Thomas			7	S		"	"	"
17	"	Miss Jean			5	S		"	"	"
18	"	Miss Jane			3	S		"	"	"
19	"	Miss John			1	S		"	"	"
20	"	Miss John			1	S		"	"	"
21	Capetown	SINGLETON, Mr. Charles		Gen. Labourer	71	M		Australia	"	"

They never went back to Ireland at all, they just couldn't afford it in those days.

The young family first lived in Kent Town, prior to moving to Barnard Street in North Adelaide.

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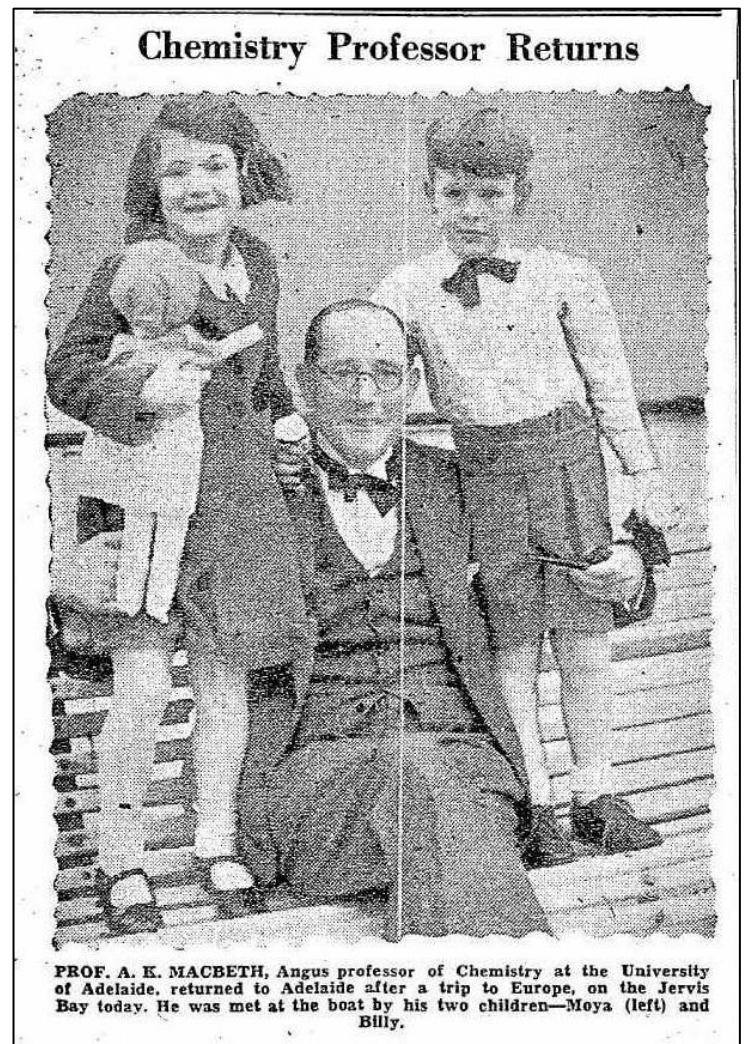
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William first worked at the University of Adelaide Chemistry Laboratory in Kintore Avenue as a Laboratory Assistant with Professor Alexander Killen McBeath.

I think Professor McBeath had something to do with the invention or introduction of Bex powders, a strong compound analgesic popular manufactured by Beckers Pty Ltd, originally based at Dudley Park.



[adelaideaz.com]



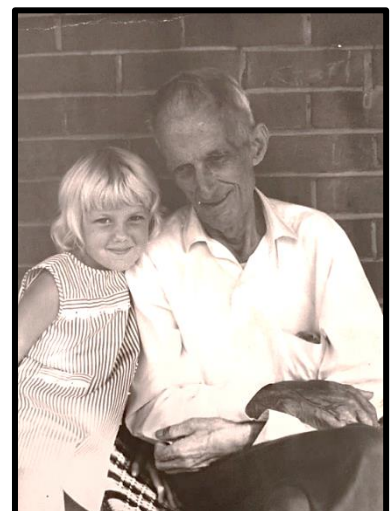
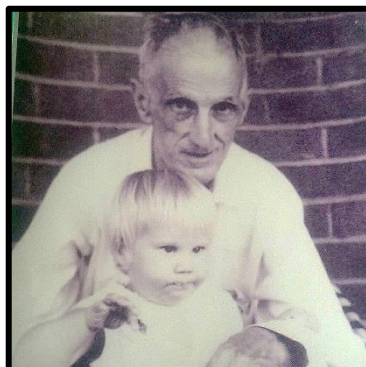
News, 3 Apr 1935

We later lived in what I think was the old gate keeper's cottage at his home in Stirling East. This was about a 10-acre property.

Sarah Quinn passed away on 18 August 1955.

William John Quinn passed away on 29 September 1968.

*William with
granddaughter Shari (left)
and Tania, circa 1968*



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Children

1. William Ralph (12 July 1927 - 11 June 2022)
married Maureen Hunt 27 April 1934 - 24 June 1922
Mark Anthony (10 December 1960 -) married Jill Blackshaw (27 June 1964 -)
Lucy 1991; Henry 1993
2. John (20 September 1928 -
married Dorothy Kearney (29 May 1927 - 22 February 1982)
Anthony (7 February 1961 -) married Mirella Delfonso (19 June 1953 -)
Matthew 1988; Justin 1990
Leonie (27 June 1962 -) married Michael Cahir (29 April 1960 -)
Jordon 1990; Aisling 1994; Eden 1995; Pheobe 1997
married Aileen Roberts (11 April 1930 -)
3. Margaret Alice (22 February 1930 -)
married Douglas Keith Parrington (23 November 1930 -)
Katherine Elsie (6 March 1956 -) married Michael Jelliffe (30 May 1952 -)
Kylie 1977; Timothy 1978 ; Cameron 1984
Elizabeth Grace (27 May 1957 -) married Gary Bohringer (6 Sep 1983 -)
Benjamin 1983; Emma 1985
Christine Joy (6 Feb 1959 -) married Dennis McKenzie (3 April 1956 -)
Samuel ; Stephen 1987 ; Alice 1988 ; Peter 1989
Craig William (30 Mar 1961 -) married Michele Dolamore (22 November 1963 -)
Teegan 1990; Amber 1993; Zoe 1996
Judith Gaye (17 February 1964 -) married Tim Ireland (1964 -)
Matthew 1997; Kimberley 2000
Gregory John (12 March 1965 -) partner Joyce Baronian
4. Elizabeth (Betty) 16 September 1931 - 15 May 2022
married John Lawrence Donnelly (8 August 1930 -)
David (29 November 1956 -)
married Kate Gray;
married Pauline Cavalani
Elessa 1998; Meagan
Stephen (11 January 1960 -) married Tanya
Paul (5 July 1962 -) married Lorraine Pebble (28 February 1963 -)
Michael 1992
Andrew (14 March 1964 -)
Phillip (12 November 1965 -)
5. **Thomas Henry (22 September 1933 -)**
married Eva Lorraine Lowe (14 July 1940 -)

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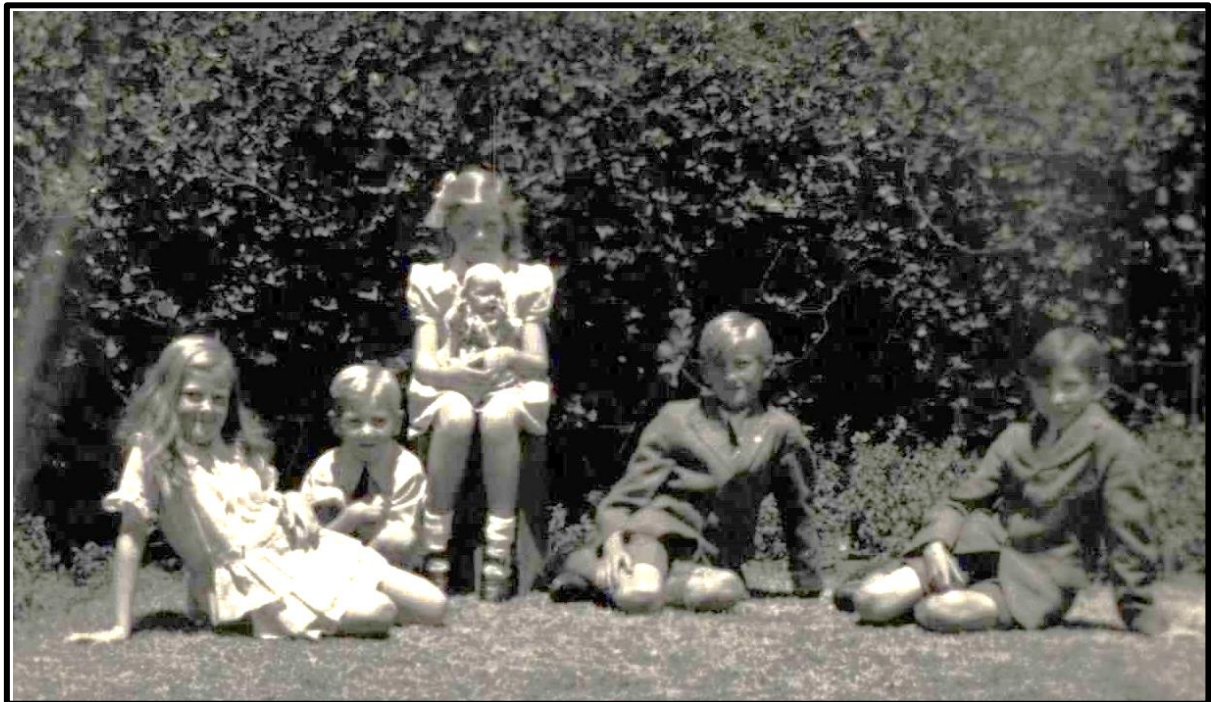
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Thomas, William, Margaret, John and Betty, 1935



Mother, Sarah at rear, William, Margaret, Tom, Betty, John, 1938



My father had a plate camera and with his job had access to developing chemicals. He took photos and developed them.

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My Dad took this photo of us around 1934 at the Bennett Street home.

Many years later when we tried to replicate it, there were arguments about the order. We got it right eventually!



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Bill

My brother Bill, trained as a motor mechanic with Shipp Brothers at Mile End, where the Bunnings is now. He then started out on his own at the service station near the Hilton Hotel with my father helping him out. After his marriage to Maureen, they first lived at Darlington and then Kingston S.E. running the roadhouse. When he returned to Adelaide, he worked for Chryslers at Mile End until he retired to live at Goolwa.



John



My brother John did printing - a letter press apprenticeship, and when he finished he took off to see Australia, travelling up the East Coast. When he came back down to Melbourne, he married and lived there until his first wife died. When he remarried, he lived up near Renmark. He also lived at Goolwa.

Margaret

My sister Margaret went to Adelaide High and then she also worked for a printing firm after school. Margaret met her husband Douglas through church and they went to New Guinea with a linguistics program. She went into an area in the north of New Guinea where there was no written language. They learnt the language and produced an alphabet, to be able to produce their written language. Fifteen years later, they published the first-ever translation of the New Testament into the Notu-Ewage languages.



Betty



Betty, the younger sister, also married quite young. She married a friend of my brother John's, which caused a bit of a problem because they're both named John. So one was Jack and one was John. They had five boys before they gave up trying for a girl. She got cancer, but she survived for more than 11 years until she made 90. Her older siblings Bill, John and Margaret had all reached ninety so she was determined to get to ninety.



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EARLY HOMES

In 1930 the Quinn family lived at 58 King William Street in Kent Town. (In 2007 the home was a café, now an apartment building occupies the site.)

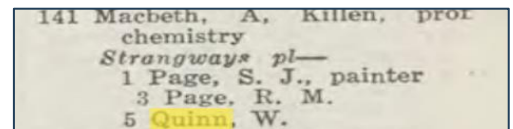


King William Street, Kent Town
Sands and McDougall directory 1930



58 King William Street, Kent Town, Streetview, 2007

From 1931-1934, W Quinn, was listed in the directory as 5 Strangways Place (behind 141 Strangways Terrace, North Adelaide, home of Chemistry Professor A. Killen Macbeth).



5 Strangways Place, 2010 [realestate.com.au]

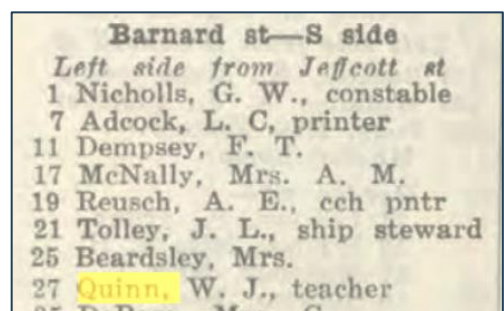


141 Strangways Terrace, North Adelaide Streetview, 2022

From 1933 to 1937 the family lived in, the now 1870s-built heritage listed house, at 27 Barnard Street North Adelaide. Tom was born in this home.



Row Houses 21-29 Barnard St [experienceadelaide.com.au]



Sands and McDougall directory, 1934

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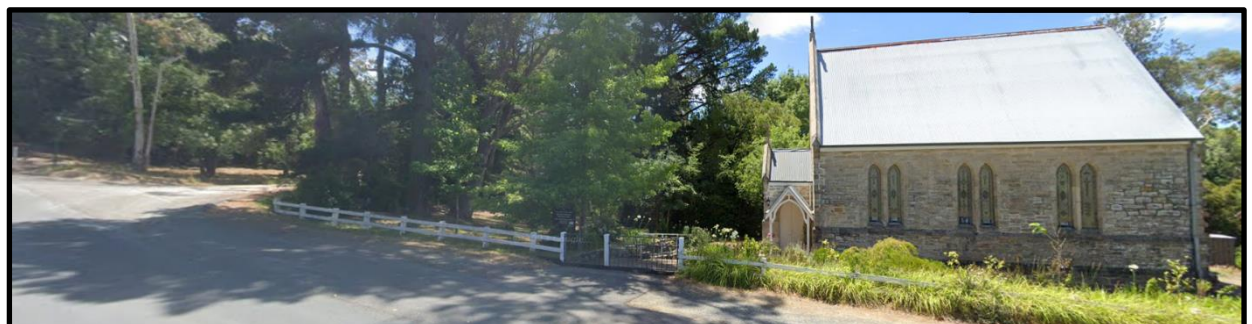
William bought the property at 2 Bennett Street, Hilton, in 1937.

Bennett st—N side R side from Fisher ter	Bennett st—S side L side from Fisher ter
1 Luedeke, Miss C.	2 Quinn, W. J., asst
3 Chenoweth, S. W.	4 Footer, H. F., crpnr
5 Raffin, P., gravedgr	6 Dineen, D. M., clk
7 Wilson, J. H., lbr	8 Damarell, E.
9 Strawhan, G. H., lbr	10 Driver, Mrs C. M. C.
11 Winkler, B., sdr	12 Pengilly, Mrs. S. A. M.
13 McGillick, B. A.	14 Sowton, N. H., clerk
15 White, A. C., mllr	16 Richardson, F. H.
17 Thompson, L. M.	18 Kennedy, J. D., crrier
19 Collins, W. J.	20 Moten, J.
21 Black, A. G., fitter	22 Shiers, A., oxywldr
23 Tomblin, H., laborer	24 Hartshorne, S. R.

Sands and McDougall directory, 1937

My Dad's supervisor, Professor McBeath moved to land at Stirling East. Dad was driving for him, and we ended up moving there and living in a cottage near his house on St Margaret Drive in 1942. I remember I could see Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church from the back verandah.

During the war we saw the Italian Prisoners of War in their orange uniforms going to the church. I think they worked at the Piccadilly market gardens.



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church [Streetview, 2023]

The house at Hilton was rented out, but we returned there around 1948 when Dad stopped working for Professor McBeath at the University.

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When they returned to Hilton after living in Stirling East for 12 years, the Sands and McDougall shows many of the same residents still living in Bennett Street.

Over the years, until about 1960, Dad had various family or boarders living in the house, including me and later my sister Elizabeth.

Bennett st—N side		Bennett st—S side	
Right side from South rd		Left side from South rd	
1	Luedeke, Miss E.	2	Quinn, W. J.
	Nicolson, G. T.	4	Footer, Mrs. D. M.
3	Chenoweth, S. W.	6	Purvis, F.
5	Tilbrook, S. M.	8	Allen, C.
7	Wilson, J. H., lbr	10	Driver, Mrs. C. M. C.
9	Strachan, G. H.	12	Bacchus, J. S.
11	Winkler, B. sdr	14	Sowton, Mrs. C. J.
13	McGillick, Mrs. L.	16	Richardson, F. H.
15	Trescowritch, H.	18	Kennedy, J. D., carrier
17	Thompson, L. M.	20	Dilena, P. J., driver
19	Collins, W. J.	22	Shiers, A., oxywldr
21	Black, A. E. R.	24	Hartshorne, S. R.

Sands and McDougall directory, 1949

The house was demolished in the 1980s to make way for a carpark for the office complex facing South Road.



1979 [West Maps public]



2012 [West Maps public]

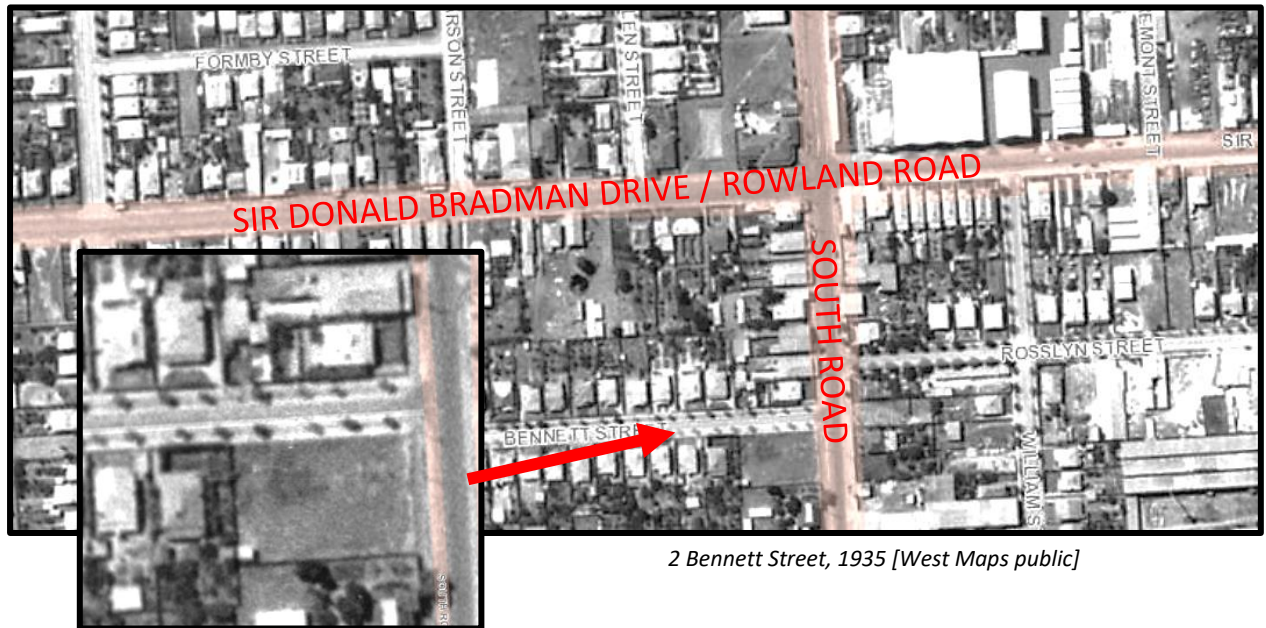
Preserving Memories

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TOM'S MEMORIES

Food and the home garden (2 Bennett Street, Hilton)

My mother was a good Irish cook, mainly meat and three veg. Sunday we always had a roast. Monday was usually the leftover meat cut up and made into a curry or stew.



We were the first house in Bennett Street. It was larger than a normal block because we had the drive on one side and as much again, or more, on the other side.

We had chickens for both eggs and food. Occasionally I would have an egg for breakfast, but normally it would be Weetabix.

Lunches for school were maybe cold meat, like mutton or bacon, or cheese sandwiches with day old bread. With five of us, if we'd got into the fresh bread, it wouldn't have lasted long.



[etsy.com]

Near the school there was a shop on Henley Beach Road, straight opposite Falcon Avenue where you could buy a pie or a bun on the occasion that we bought our lunch. We didn't do that very often; a pie would be threepence and it would have been a penny for a bun.

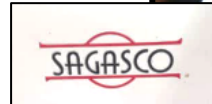
Dad had planted vegetables and he grew grapes over a trellis in about a third of the yard. We had four apricot trees, a quince and a fig tree, and over the time, I think we had a peach tree. We weren't really impacted during and after the war, because we always had fresh fruit and vegetables.

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With four apricot trees I would have to help cut up apricots and put them in jars to preserve or make jam. We had a pantry which would have been about 8 or 9 foot long, all shelves with jars of apricots and apricot jam.

Mum cooked on a SAGASCO gas stove, I can still see it, it was blue and white.



1930s gas stove [gumtree.com.au]

There were fireplaces in every room, but we only ever had one lit in the combined dining/lounge room. The rooms were fairly large as one room had three beds for the boys and another had two for the girls.

On a number of times in the summer, we slept out on the front lawn. We had a big hedge around, so our front was quite private.

I remember to get to the beach I caught the tram to Henley Beach. I'd go for a swim and get fish and chips wrapped in paper.

The Milky and other deliveries

When I was in Grade 1 or 2, another one of the pleasures of my life, was when our local milkman would be coming past with his horse and cart as we got out of school, and he would quite often give me a lift. My sisters would have to walk, but they would get home an hour or more before me.

I would sit up in there and the milky would jump off with his can, because in those days they emptied the milk into billy-cans at the house. The horse would just amble along a bit, stop to have something to eat and the milky would run and catch up. Once I got a little bit older, I was too big to sit there.

We had ice delivered for the ice-chest to keep food cold and there was a large van that delivered the groceries.

Later on, I remember the local grocer delivered in his car, a big old Rolls Royce.



Ice Chest [Gumtree.com.au]

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Christmas and Birthdays

Christmas celebrations were really just a bigger lunch. My father never drank, so there was no alcohol in the house. We had a few decorations, but not a tree. During the war, you didn't do those things. I don't think it was an Irish family tradition, but celebrations like that were not a big deal growing up.

For Christmas about the age of 6 or 7, I can remember getting a train set made up on a board in a figure eight.

I can't ever remember having any birthday celebrations. It just wasn't done. I had a 21st birthday party and that was about it. That was only because a girlfriend organised it. It was at our home in Hilton with just a few people as my brothers and sisters had all left home.



1930s Hornby Train Set [easyliveauction.com]

I don't think Dad was highly paid but with five children we were never hungry. We always had shoes and clothes even though some were hand-me-downs. I wore shorts until I got to high school when I got my first long trousers.

Friendships

There was an old Irish lady that I remember as Min, who was a friend of the family. There were some other Irish friends past the Cowandilla Primary School. We would walk down there through the area which was just an open area surrounded by box thorn hedges.



Cowandilla Primary School 1935 [West Maps public]

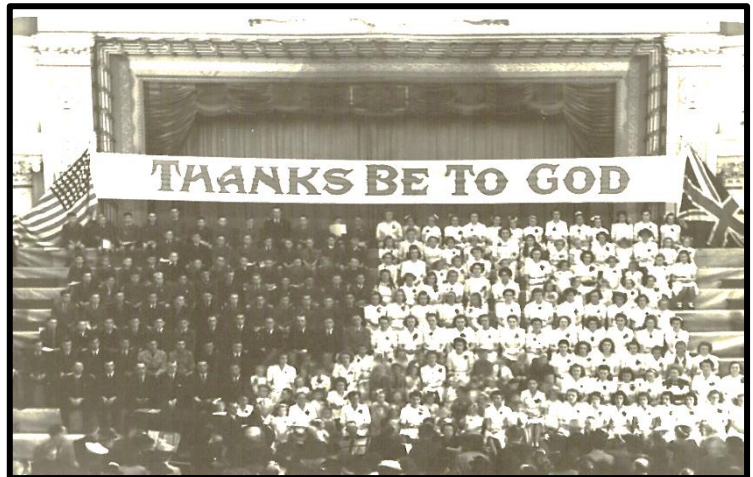
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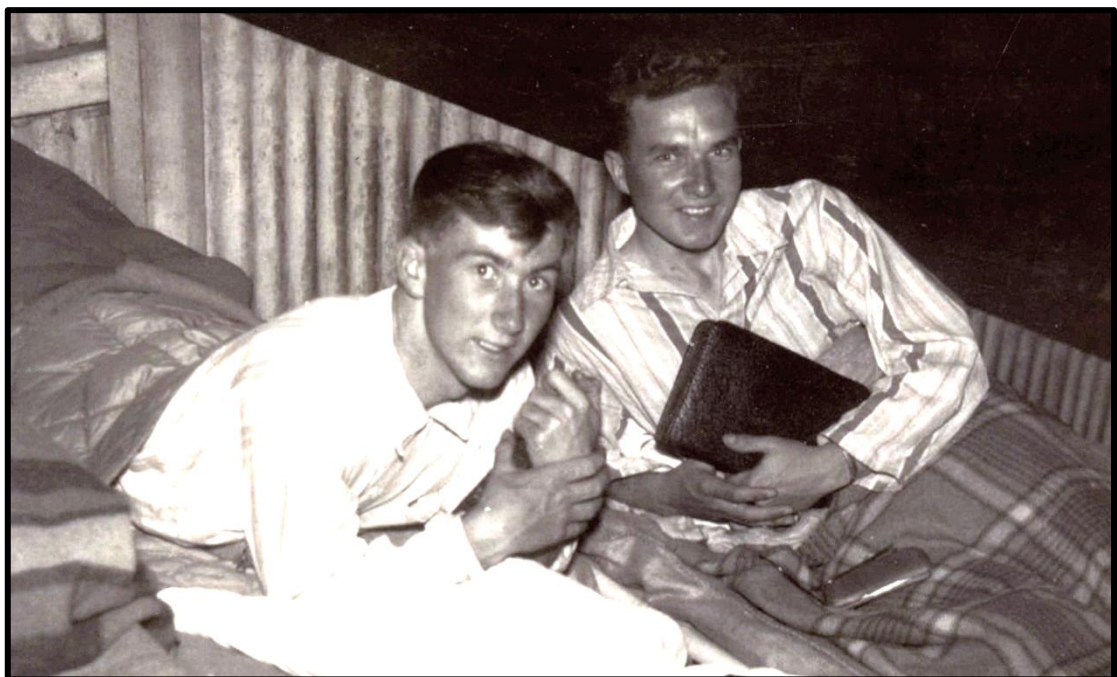
Religion

Our family was Anglican. My parents didn't really go to church, but they sent us to Sunday school at St James on Falcon Avenue initially. We went to the Congregational church when we were in Stirling. When we returned to Hilton, I was about 15, and we went to Holder Memorial on South Road.

We were involved with the Sunday School Picnic up in the hills and the annual concert. The Thebarton Town Hall was hired for the concert. After the Saturday evening film had finished, the stage would be set up. We went along pressed and neat in white shirts to perform on the Sunday.



Holder Sunday School Anniversary concert at Thebarton Town Hall [WTHS LH0046-26]



Tom with Doug Parrington at Mount Barker, 1952

Preserving Memories

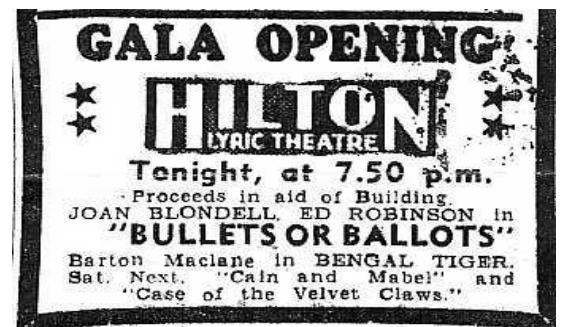
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Entertainment

We'd play cricket out on the back lawn. We'd kick the football out in the street with another family in the street who had two boys that were my brother's age, and another from over the road.

I more recently got given a book on Adelaide in the 1950s. In 1950 I think it said there were 5,000 cars registered in Adelaide, so it wasn't a big deal playing in the street.

From when I was about 7 or 8 years old, on Saturday afternoons quite often with my brothers or friends, we would walk to the pictures at the Lyric Cinema. They used to have pictures 6 days a week. We went there for the serials like Hop-along Cassidy and Roy Rogers. Each week was a different episode. We would have seven-pence, sixpence to get in and a penny would either buy an ice block in the summertime or a marshmallow block. They used to fill the square ice-cream cones with marshmallow. Or you could buy a stick of licorice.



Hilton Lyric Theatre, 1937 (WTHS LH0828-06)



Hilton Theatre 62/Lyric Theatre [WTHS LH0377-29]

I had marbles and we'd play on the gravel flicking them into a circle to hit other marbles, and we'd play for keeps. In fact, I was still playing marbles later in my life when I was teaching at Kapunda. I would let the boys go out for a break from woodwork class and we'd go out and play marbles. I kept on winning (sometimes)!

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Holidays

In the January of 1939, I was about five years old, and my mother, sisters and I were at Estcourt House for a week. It's funny the things you do remember, I was quite annoyed because my mother insisted I put a shirt on in the sun, and I didn't want a shirt. It was the year of the heatwave.



On 12 January 1939 Adelaide recorded its highest maximum temperature ever when the mercury reached 47.6° Celsius. For 14 days, from New Year's Eve until 13 January, the city sweltered, with nine days over the century. [sahistorians.org.au]

Our family didn't really take holidays. We didn't have a car and, of course, during the war, it just wasn't done.

The War Years 1939-1944

At my age, from 6 to 11, instead of playing cowboys and Indians, we were the good guys, and the others were the Germans, we'd be making guns out of bits of wood.

I guess it wasn't until I was 10 or 11 that I really started to get interested and we would be following on the map where they were advancing. Before that I was too much involved in playing games.

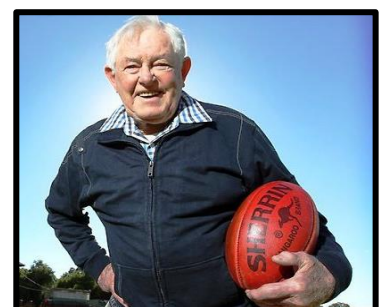
We had the radio to listen to the news and by the age of 11, I could basically understand what was going on, but would not have appreciated the horrors and the deaths and the shootings.

Sport

There was a youth group at the Thebarton United Church, and I played cricket with my brothers. I was 5 or 6 years younger than them so I was playing with the adult cricket team. I usually got put as 12th man, or if I got in, it would be at the end of the day or end of practice.

I got to the stage that I decided that there was no point doing this, so I took up tennis. I started in the D team and eventually finished in the B team.

We officially lived in the West Adelaide Football Club area, but we followed West Torrens. We didn't go every week, but fairly often. Bob Hank was probably my childhood hero. I ended up playing golf with him a few times in later years, he was a thorough gentleman.



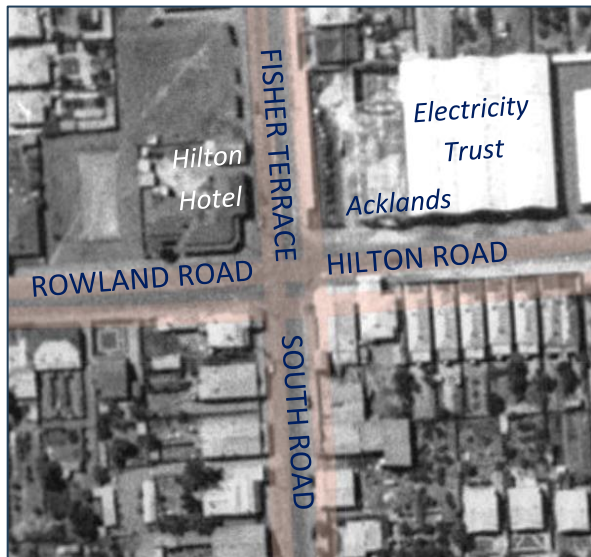
Bob Hank [WTHS LH0049-29a]

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Hilton Area

Behind the Hilton Hotel, in the area that is now the car park, they held a circus. I was about 6 or 7 and I rode the ponies around and got swung around in the air. They would get you to try and stand up with a harness on.



South Road, Hilton/Rowland Road, 1935 [West Maps public]



South Road, Hilton/Rowland Road, 1949 [West Maps public]

The Hilton Hotel initially closed at 6 o'clock, and then in 1954, 10 o'clock closing started. Beer was delivered from the Thebarton Brewery by a horse drawn vehicle.

There was a policeman who would ride his bike down from Thebarton, lean it against Scott's, the chemist, on the opposite corner to the Hilton Hotel and then stand in the middle of South Road and direct the traffic. It was where South Road changed to Fisher Terrace to the north. Diagonally opposite was a barber shop.

Nearby there was a grocery store and a newsagent where I got my comics, and a butcher shop across the other side of the road, and there was a service station there for a while. There was also a milk bar. Around the corner was Philmac Engineering [94-96 South Road]. There was a bank across the other side of the road. B.J. Walters timber yard and also McMenemy's who manufactured concrete laundry troughs on South Road near the end of Bennett Street [97 South Road].

Dad would go regularly to the trots over at the Wayville showgrounds. Occasionally I would walk over with him. He probably was the best example I've had for gambling or betting. He'd put his two bob on, 20c in today's money, and if he won enough he would buy a cup of tea and a bun but if he lost a few bob that was it. He wouldn't double up to try to win it back.

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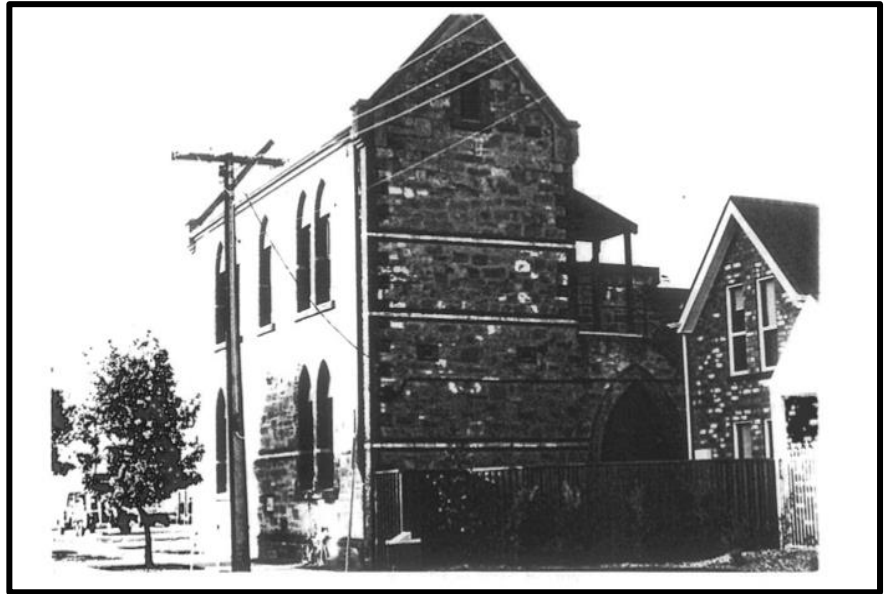
SCHOOL YEARS

St James Anglican Church School 1937-1941

Tom attended the St James Anglican Church School in Mile End.

The building at 1A Falcon Avenue is heritage listed is cojoined and now used as part of the Mile End Office Furniture showrooms.

We went in looking for some furniture one time and they said, oh go down to the back there and you'll see it. So I walked in, I looked around and I said, "This is my classroom." They'd knocked the wall out and it was now part of the showroom.



1A Falcon Avenue [Thebarton Heritage Survey, 1991]

The Manse or rectory was built next to it on what was our play area. I remember there were 3 female teachers. My year 1/2 teacher was my first love.

I didn't play sport there, St James was too small to have sports teams.

That's me on the left and Betty is the second one in from the right. Robert Purvis is second from the left seated.



St James School, circa 1938

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Stirling East Primary School 1942-1945



'Old Stirling East Primary School' 2019 [mtloftyhistoricalsociety.org.au]

I really enjoyed living at Stirling. There was a sense of freedom, despite it being the war years.

There were two teachers, one for the year 1 to 3's in one room and one for the combined year 4/5 and year 6/7s in the other room.



For us older children this meant some subjects, like history, were taught over two years. In year seven I was dux of the eight-student class!

There weren't enough boys for a football team, so we combined with another school, but I really didn't play much sport.

I was bullied at primary school by a girl a couple of years ahead. She was a vicious type, if she caught us, she would hit us. We had to run and hide in the boy's toilet to get away. The funny part about it was that her younger sister, who was a year or so younger than me, also chased me with her girlfriend, but with other ideas. If they caught me, they would try to kiss me.

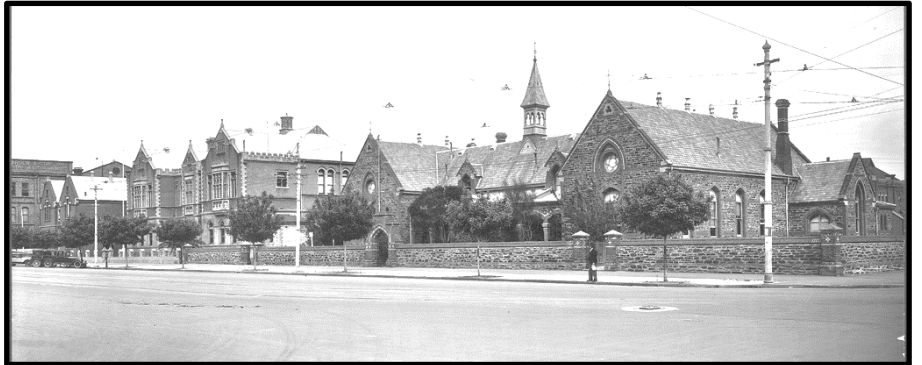
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Adelaide High School 1945-1948

Our family was living in Stirling East so I had to catch a bus to school.

My secondary school was the Adelaide High School at its first location, now the Adelaide Remand Centre. Bill and Margaret went to Adelaide High. John went to Thebarton Tech.



Adelaide High School. Grote Street, south side, 1935 [SLSA B 9268]

Bill and John left school at fourteen and worked a couple of jobs. Bill went on to become a motor mechanic and John went into printing.

Miss Batchelor was my first-year teacher, she was nice. There were 5 or 6 classes and only the bottom ones did woodwork. I could do German or French. I did German. Which was good except that German puts everything backwards, makes really long words. and put the verb at the end.

In my first-year high school, our science teacher was named Mitchell, and I was as tall as he was. He was called Titch, but boy, you didn't cross him.

Our classroom was up on the first floor and there was a long staircase, with a rail down the middle. A nice, nice round, smooth rail. Well, I was sliding down, oh no, I was walking down of course, behind another lad and he hit the bottom just as Titch walked out and bowled him over.

The other thing that Titch taught me that I've never forgotten was that hydrogen is lighter than air, and is combustible. To get the hydrogen, it was through a KIPP's apparatus with hydrochloric acid on zinc, and that would then bubble through some soapy water and these bubbles would rise up. I remember the science room was set up with a bench across the front, and there was Titch standing on the bench with a candle and as the bubbles hit, they'd go pop.



Over the years I did English, Latin, German, Maths one and two, Physics and Chemistry. I still remember the Latin verb conjugations for Amo, Amas, Amat, which means, I love, you love, he, she, it loves. I think it was very useful because I can see a word and get its meaning and its derivatives and so on. I can remember my brothers and sisters having to analyse sentences, learning verbs and adverbs. I learnt all my grammar by having to understand the Latin grammar and so on from the root word. I didn't enjoy Latin so much, but I passed it.

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I think the subject I enjoyed was physics, not so much the chemistry, because that meant just learning a lot of formulae.

I was in 1A, so in second year we moved to Grote Street. My second-year teacher was a man named Ted Clapp. I had the privilege of actually being on the staff with him in later years at Findon High, he was the deputy head, and I was on the staff there.

Another teacher in my third year, named Clyde Vial, had been a state hockey player, he was only about 28 when he died.

SUDDEN DEATH AT CAMP.
The Sudden death of Mr. Clyde Vial of Brighton, on Saturday morning in the Youth Camp at the Showgrounds was a shock to the young people.
Mr. Vial was one of the most energetic workers of the camp committee, and was recognised among his fellows as a man of fine Christian character.
For some time passed Mr. Vial had been suffering from cardiac weakness and knew he would be likely to collapse at any time. However, his heart was in helping the young people, and he died amid the scene he loved, a gathering together of youth who were seeking to find a greater experience in Christian living.

Northern Argus, 12 Apr 1950, p5

We moved back to the house at Hilton when I was about fifteen, so I didn't have as far to travel then.

When we were in Grote Street, our classroom was in the girl's section of the school. There was a brick wall with a divider and as soon as the bell went, we had to march straight out through to the boys section and couldn't move out of there until the bell went when you could go back.

It was forbidden to walk down Grote Street as a boy with a girl...but I had to catch the tram in Currie Street, and there was nothing ever said about walking down the other street, Brown Street!

I was playing soccer for Prospect United, and I would ride out there for training and to wherever the matches were. I'd ride as far as Colonel Light Gardens, play, and ride home again. Prospect United morphed further out to Enfield and eventually merged with Central Districts.

In my second year I got an elbow to the kidney and spent two weeks in the Adelaide Hospital. I remember the long wards, and the beds down the side. I woke up on the Sunday morning and I could hear the nurse coming down asking "What would you like for breakfast?" I was thinking, 'Oh, this is good. I'll have some bacon and eggs for breakfast.' Not a thing that we normally had. She got to me and she said, "I'm sorry, you can't have bacon and eggs. Would you like some porridge." A while later, she came back and she said, "I'm sorry, you can't have any porridge. Would you like some bread and butter?" I don't know if she wasn't game to come back and tell me, I couldn't have that because I never did get it!

For about 2 or 3 years I also played hockey for Brighton at Birkalla Oval.

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MUSIC AND DANCING

While I was at school I saw an orchestral performance at the Elder conservatorium. This got me interested in classical music.

I sang in the church choir and later in my first year of teaching in Nuriootpa, in 1960, I sang in the school production of Pirates of Penzance.

I didn't actually go to dances, I was put off dancing about aged 14, because my brothers Bill and John, and to a lesser extent Margaret, but certainly Bill and John, were into competition dancing. Proper ballroom dancing. They were about 19 and 20 and went for lessons at a dance school near the Wayville tramline. I only went a couple of times. They would have been dancing to American's Tommy Dorsey and Duke Ellington's strict tempo jazz music.



[discogs.com]

Bill and John had lessons and then they would also go to group classes where they would be teaching girls. Both of them married their dancing partners. They would be constantly talking dancing all the time.

When I was boarding at Kensington, I had a little radiogram, with a gramophone. When I could afford it, I bought a record or two.

CARS AND DRIVERS LICENCE

The family had a bicycle and my sisters and brothers taught me to ride on a small bike. I bought my own bicycle after I had been working for a year.

My brothers got a car around 1949 or 1950. When Holdens started up, you could buy a second-hand car for a few hundred pounds, do it up and make money on it.

Around 1951 or 1952 my father got a car, a little baby Austin Seven.

I had no reason to get my licence until I was about 18. I learnt the book, went into Motor Vehicles on North Terrace, and answered the ten questions. I paid the ten shillings and walked out as a fully qualified driver.



Austin 7 [Classiccars.com]

My mother and my sister Margaret never drove.

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FIRST JOB, 1949

My brothers had done apprenticeships and because I didn't know what I wanted to do my father arranged for me to be an apprentice as an electrician with Unbehaun & Johnstone in Gawler Place.

To start, you did three years of schooling at Kintore Avenue. We'd do one day a fortnight and one night a week for three years.

5—THE MAIL, Saturday, December 17, 1949



S.T.C. Christmas GIFTS FOR THE HOME

"TOAST-A-RACK"
S.T.C. "Toast-a-rack" toasts evenly, cleans easily and makes 45 slices of perfect toast for approximately 1d. £2/13/6

"WRISTESI" IRON
S.T.C. "Wristesi" Iron rests your wrist and makes ironing easier; gives maximum control with minimum pressure. £2/17/6

S.T.C. WAFFLE IRON
Has bigger grids for bigger waffles, "keep cool" wooden handles. Special recipe book free with every S.T.C. Waffle Iron. £5/7/6

(Prices in capital cities)

Available from all electrical retailers

S.A. Distributors:
UNBEHAUN & JOHNSTONE LTD.
"Electricity House"
58 Gawler Place, Adelaide :: C 3900



Unbehaun & Johnstone 'Electricity House' 58 Gawler Place, 1939 [SLSA B-8206]

We did a lot in the first years. It was mainly repairing small appliances like electric jugs and toasters, then they moved me into the elevators.

These were the ones with the gates and open shafts which operated on 400-volt direct current. You had to watch yourself!

They had big carbon contacts on a swinging arm which was operated by the buttons to go up and down. I started with a senior, but then I took over and I would have a regular round, once a week, where I'd go around the city keeping the lifts operating.

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The Oriental Hotel had a lift with a maximum capacity of five.

A number of times I had to go there to get people out when the lift was stuck. It had gone and tripped the guv'nor. I'd go round there and there'd be eight or nine people packed in the lift!

As soon as I got up into the lift house, I could operate the motor and bring them up a bit so they could get out.



Orient Hotel, Corner Gawler Place / Rundle Street, 1964 [experienceadelaide.com.au]

This would have been in the senior part of my apprenticeship in what they call the journeyman stage.

I worked on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at one stage, as our firm did the air conditioning.

I had to go out to Waite Institute as they had a small service lift, but apart from that, I just worked in the CBD.

The apprenticeship was 5 years all up and in the first year I was earning about the equivalent to \$3 per week.

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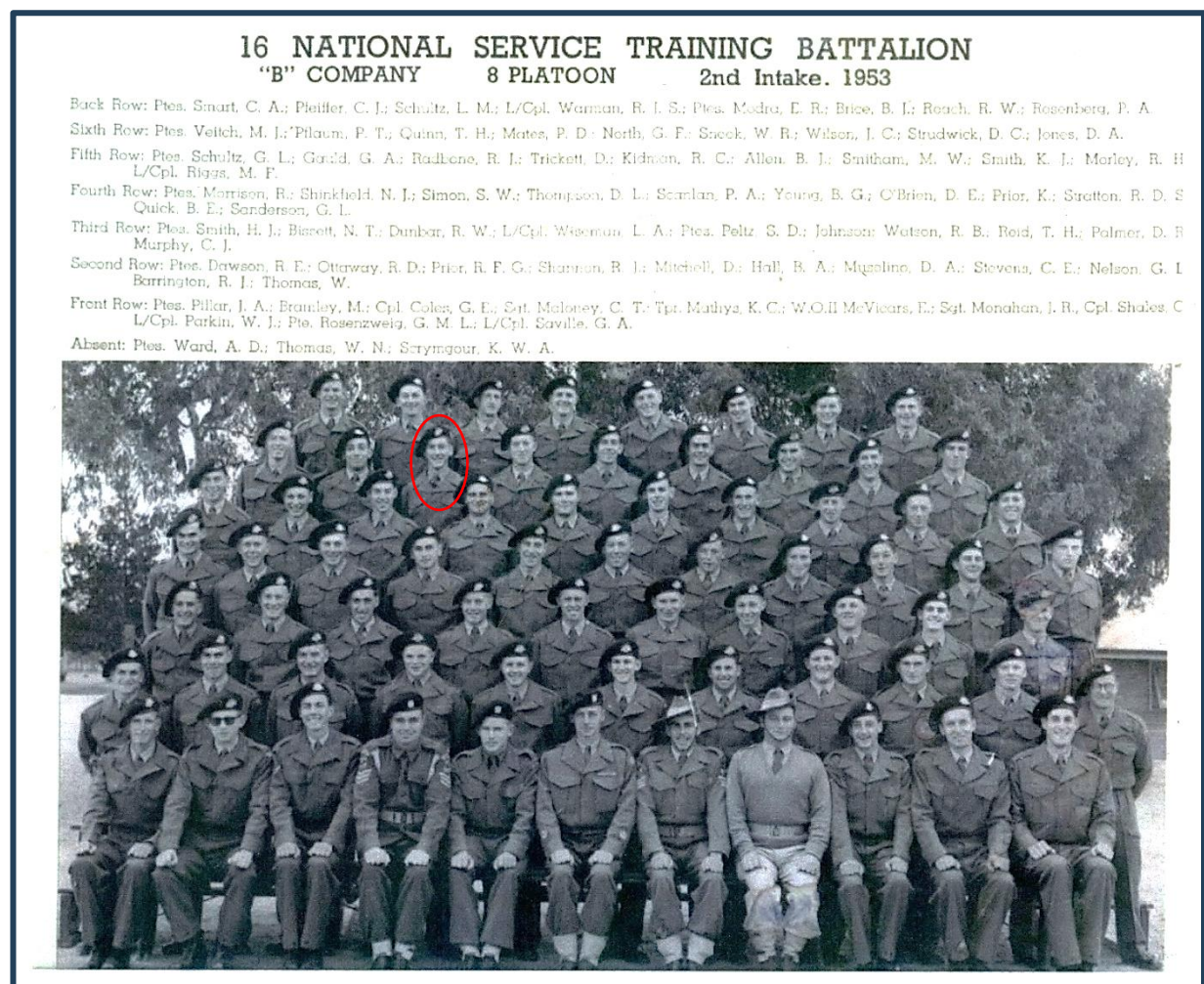
ARMY RESERVES, 1953

Back in 1953 National Service was compulsory.

After I had finished my apprenticeship schooling, I did basic training in the Signal Corps at Woodside for 3 months and then 168 days over the next 3 years as Reserves, stationed at Central Command at Keswick. Our communications range went as far as London.



I went to Bivouac camps on some weekends, but the furthest I went was out to Modbury Oval!



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Woodside, 1953

Some 287,000 young Australian men were called up in 2 separate schemes for compulsory training in the Navy, Army and Air Force between 1951 and 1972. Of them, 212 died on active service in Borneo and Vietnam. National Service was part of Australia's defence-readiness policy for over 20 years.

Australians in the National Service Scheme [anzacportal.dva.gov.au]

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THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, 1954-1956

When I finished my apprenticeship, I went to the Adelaide Bible Institute in Payneham. I decided to do this mainly for my general spiritual beliefs and had ideas of doing missionary work. I spent two years at the college and then at the end I felt that I was more suited to teaching than preaching.



My mother had always suffered badly from asthma before the modern-day inhalers were introduced. Sadly, she passed away during this time from a heart attack.

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TEACHING

From 1957 to 1959 I went to the Adelaide Teachers College at Wattle Park. By now I was about 23 or 24. I was living at Kensington at the time as I received a boarding allowance.

Nuriootpa, 1960



District High School, Nuriootpa, circa 1950 [SLSA B 69196]

In 1960 after the three years at the Teachers College, I got my first posting to Nuriootpa. I was the Technical Studies teacher, but I also had maths and English classes for the less advanced kids.

Three other new graduates started at the same time at Nuri. One of them, Edwin Close, was later headmaster at two schools where I taught. Another was a deputy when I was teaching at Campbelltown.

Later in this first year I applied to teach in Alice Springs, Darwin or Katherine because South Australia supplied teachers to the Northern Territory then. I thought it would be good to do this while I was young and single.

Until 1973 South Australia played a major role in the provision of education services to the NT as many teachers were recruited from SA and worked under the SA education department regulations.

Teaching Territory Style, JA Bennett, 2017

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Ceduna, 1961-1962

Despite my application to teach in the Northern Territory, the department rang me one morning in late November and asked if I would be interested in going to Ceduna instead. I wanted to think about this, but they were back on the phone again straight after lunch. I had no reason to stay or go, so said I would take it.

I started in January 1961, with several woodworking classes and teaching maths as well.



Ceduna Area School 1960s [Facebook, Ceduna Old Photos]

Soon after I got there, I was asked to drive the school bus, so this meant living near Watraba, about 50 kilometres west of Ceduna so I could collect the students on the way each day. On the Friday night after the drop offs, I would come back to the town, take a night class and then stay with one of the teachers who had a spare room.



Some Wednesdays after school I'd stay a bit longer as the kids might have errands to run or shopping to do for their families, before I took them back home.

One day after rain I was driving through a clay pan and noticed that the tail of the bus was skidding past the front. After rectifying this one of the students called out "Do it again, sir!"

I remember it being a very friendly community.

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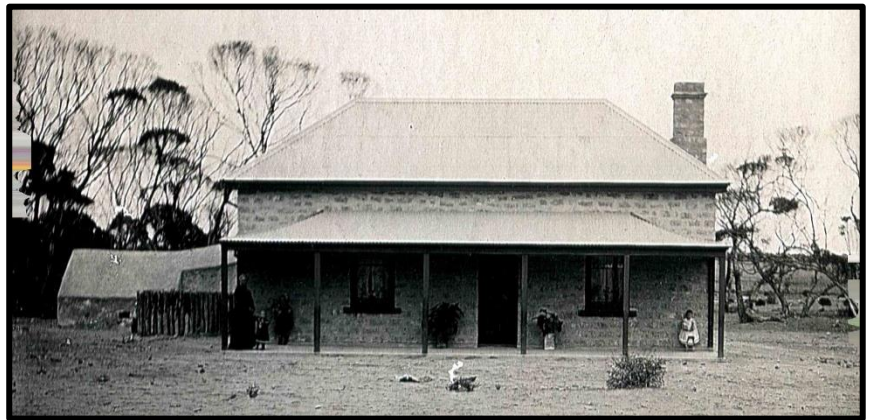
EVA LOWE

Fairly soon after arriving at Ceduna I met up with another teacher who was talking to Eva. I was introduced to her, and we chatted for a while, then I didn't end up seeing her again for about four months. I came in on a Saturday night to go to the pictures and went back to one of the teachers' houses and she was there. I offered to take her home. I was 27 and she was 20.

Eva Lorraine Lowe was born 14 July 1940 to Maurice Lowe and Gladys née Bubner. The Lowe family farm was about ten kilometres out of Ceduna towards Adelaide.



*Eva's parents Maurice and Gladys
circa 1965*



*Lowe House, Section 19, Hundred of Wandana. Built in 1900 by Joel and Florence and
extended in 1912*

Eva attended the Ceduna Area School from 1946 to 1957.



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Eva played District League Netball in 1955 and won the Premiership. She also played tennis.

Eva was playing netball when I was teaching in Ceduna, so I would go and watch her play. We would go to a café for lunch and most Saturday evenings we would go to the pictures there.



Ceduna Netball Team, circa 1956

*Back row: Yvonne Hofrichter, Gwen Thompson, Christine Jones, Kay Blumson, Beryl Skinner
Front: Audrey Karas, Joyce Jones, Eva Lowe*



Eva Lowe, Betty Lowe, Anne Gething, Kathy Phipps, 1959

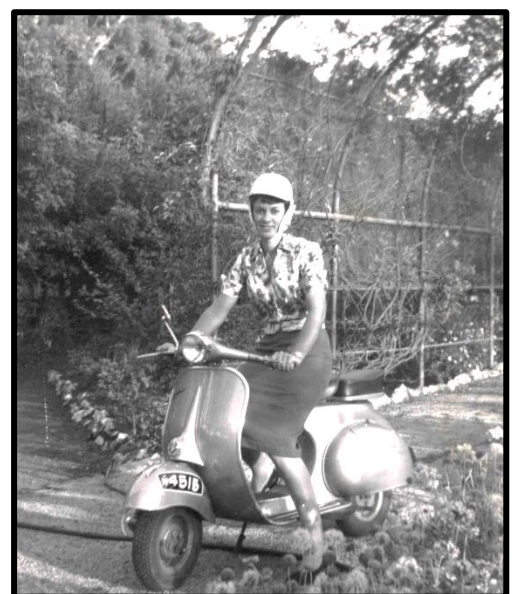
In 1958, at the age of eighteen, after finishing school, Eva moved to Adelaide joining her sister Betty, in nursing training at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Eva contracted glandular fever and was unable to continue so returned to Ceduna in 1960.

Eva continued with competitive sports in later years including softball and basketball, running in the City-Bay, and competing in three marathons in her early forties.

She was hit by a car at the age of 44 resulting in an injury to her knee that unfortunately did not heal enough for her to run or play basketball again.

Not to be deterred in 1992 she was introduced to Dragon Boating. She went on to compete locally and overseas, the team winning a number of gold, silver and bronze medals.



Eva, proud owner of a Vespa, Ceduna, 1961

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MARRIAGE, 1962

Eva and I married on the 20th of January, 1962.

Eva's father had lung cancer so was transferred to an Adelaide hospital by plane in the November before. His cancer was too advanced to operate, and we brought forward our wedding and were married at a church on Diagonal Road at Clovelly Park. Her dad then lived another 21 years.

There is a modern building there now, but the church then was an octagonal shape with a very short aisle.

I remember it was a hot day, 105 on the old scale, over 40 degrees Celsius. We had our reception at a place in Prospect.



In 2022, for our 60th wedding anniversary, we received a letter from the Queen and the Prime Minister.

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TEACHING

Kapunda, 1962-1964

In those days the department provided teachers with housing and since I was now married, I was looking for a school where we could have a house. The options were Allendale East, down near Mt Gambier or Kapunda.

I took the posting in Kapunda. They needed me to go part way through the year to fill a vacancy where a teacher was sick and had to go to Adelaide for treatment.

The Kapunda classes were not big, but I taught about 44 out of 40 lessons a week! I had two lessons off a week to get everything else done. My year nine arithmetic / maths class was all of seven or eight students. I had the year eight and nine woodwork class together because of the numbers and I taught history and maths.

I also played tennis while at Kapunda.



The Kapunda school uses the a home built in 1876 for Alexander H Greenshields, which was bought by Sidney Kidman around 1900 and re-named Eringa. Kidman used this property as his home base until he donated it to the Education Department in 1921.

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HOME AT WEST BEACH, 1966

When I was at Kapunda, I had received notice that I'd be transferred to the city. We'd seen in the paper that Housing Trust houses opposite the Lockleys Oval at the end of Kingswood Crescent were becoming available. When we came down to see about it, we also had a look around this house at West Beach which had been mostly been completed. We thought it looked good and asked to have our name put down for it. We had this house allocated before we'd even applied.



The back of the house faced the Breakout Creek. When we first moved in you could see the created riverbank. Now the trees are huge.



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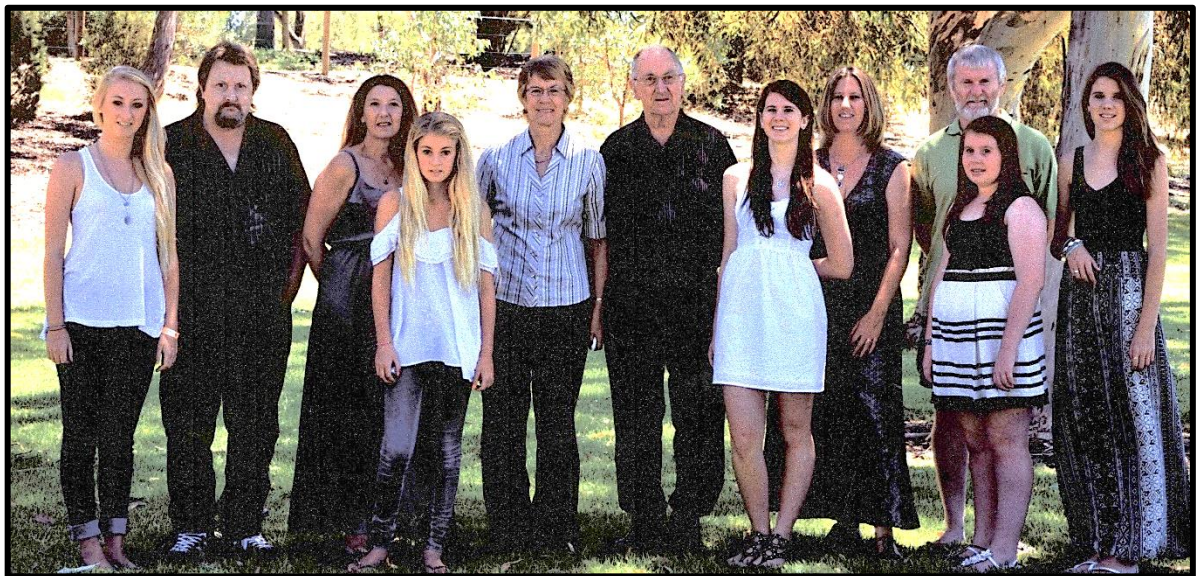
CHILDREN

Through these years we had two children. Tania Lynette was born on 21 January 1963 and Shari Leanne was born 28 January 1967.



Tania and her partner John Langston had two daughters, Daisy Lee in 1994 and Mollie Laura in 1999. Tania passed away on the 5th of May 2021.

Shari married Christopher Paul Madden. They have three daughters, Abbie Louise in 1995, Kealyn Lorraine in 1999 and Isla Leanne in 2000.



Tom and Eva's 50th wedding anniversary, 2012

Daisy Langston, John Langston, Tania Quinn, Mollie Langston, Eva, Tom, Abbie Madden, Shari Madden, Chris Madden, Isla Madden (front), Kealyn Madden

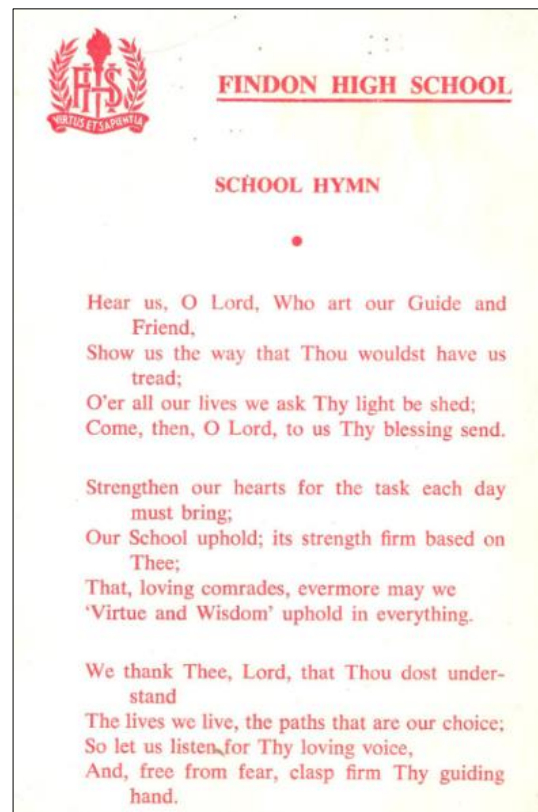
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TEACHING

Findon and Mitchell Park High Schools, 1965 - 1968

I taught Tech Studies and Maths at Findon and I was one of the photography teachers at Mitchell Park. This was a period in which there was a big expansion in technical studies, and this included photography, woodwork, metalwork, electronics and plastics.



Mitchell Park Boys Technical High School, 1966.

TEACHING STAFF FROM 1958 TO THE PRESENT	
ADAMS, Colin T. 1968-1969.	BOWEN, Archibald T. 1964-1967.
PROSSER, Brian R. 1962-1963.	
QUINN, Thomas H. 1967-1968.	
RAFTRY, Sandra. 1977.	

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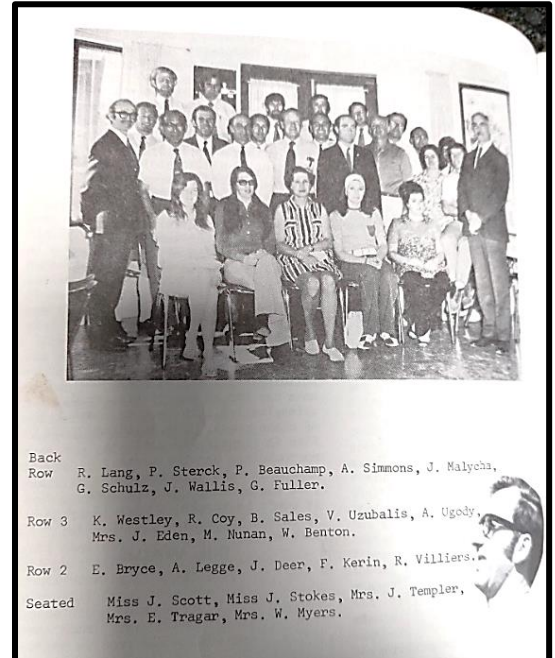
TEACHING

Marryatville High School, 1969 - 1974

I had an interest in photography from watching my dad developing film when I was younger. I bought an enlarger at one stage.

With this interest and experience I was tasked with starting up photography at Marryatville High and had to get all the new equipment in, enlargers and a fridge for the film and chemicals. Back then it was all black and white film and developing using chemicals.

In 1974 the school was renamed the Marryatville Boys High School.



Woomera, 1975-1978

We spent four years at Woomera. The Woomera Range had completed doing long range weapons testing and was in its closing stages now doing upper atmosphere rocket tests. I was teaching Tech Studies, and supervising Home Economics and Art. My year eight home group was about 25 students. There were about 300 students at the school and a lot of them were American.

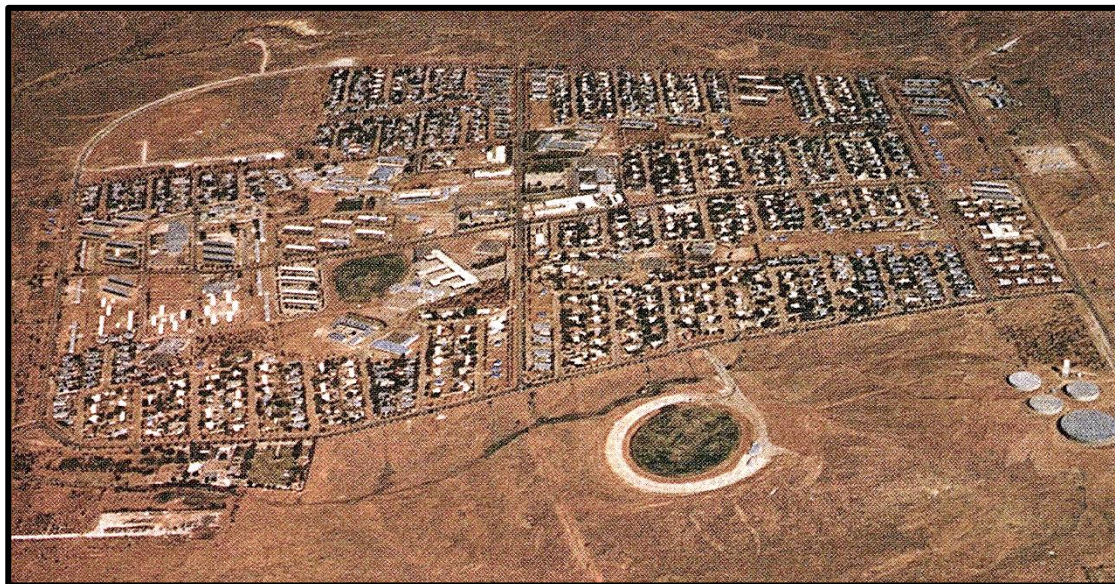
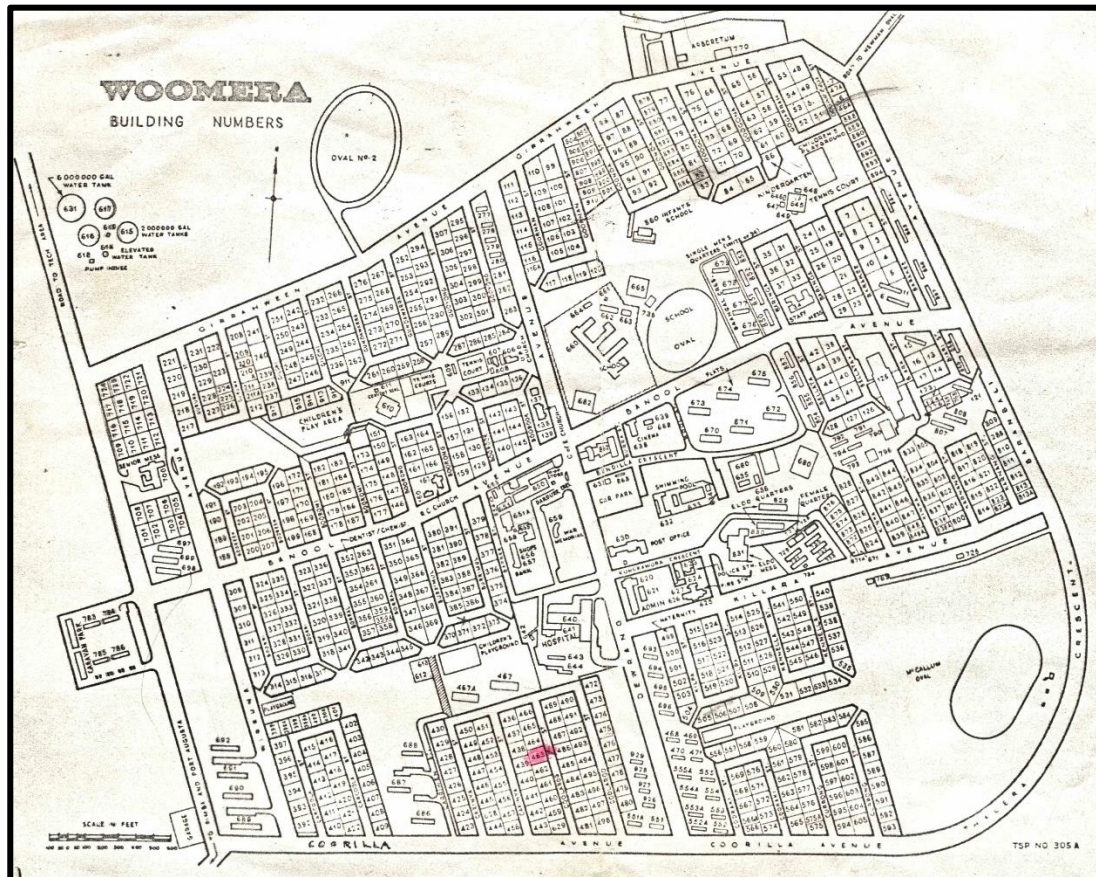
On some occasions when they were doing rocket launches, we could take the class to the range. It was a great way to learn about the speed of sound!

Eva started teaching in the kindergarten here.



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We rented the West Beach house out while we were here. We could have sold to people that had come from Darwin after the cyclone on Christmas Eve in 1974, but we are glad now we held on to it. If we had sold it, we would have had to find somewhere else.

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OVERSEAS FAMILY HOLIDAY, 1977

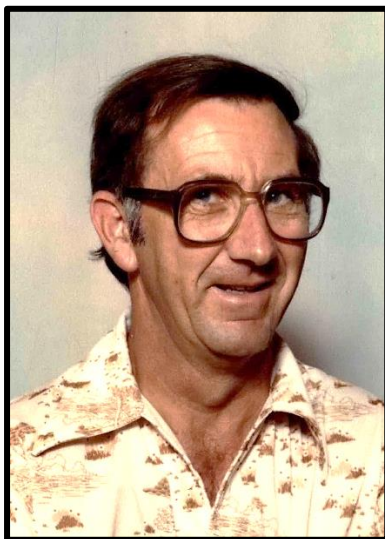
After a cancer scare, I took long service leave for the last term of 1977. This gave us holidays from September through to the end of January and we took this opportunity to take the girls overseas to the United States, Canada and Ireland. Even though the girls missed their last term of year eight and year eleven, the experience itself was educational.

In Canada we met Eva's sister, Betty who had married Deiter and was a nurse in Peace River in Alberta. I also met my mother's brother Ralph living in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Highlights of the trip was swimming in -30°C temperature in Banff and walking on a frozen lake in Saskatchewan.

TEACHING

Para Hills, Northfield, Cambelltown and Craigmore, 1979-1989



At these bigger metro schools, I was mostly teaching Tech Studies.

At Northfield I also taught Maths. I was the Senior Master of Technical Studies and Home Economics at Northfield and Campbelltown.



TURNING 50, 1983

For my 50th birthday the family gave me a dog which we called Deca. She was named after Robert de Castella as she would run all day or chase a ball until we got tired!

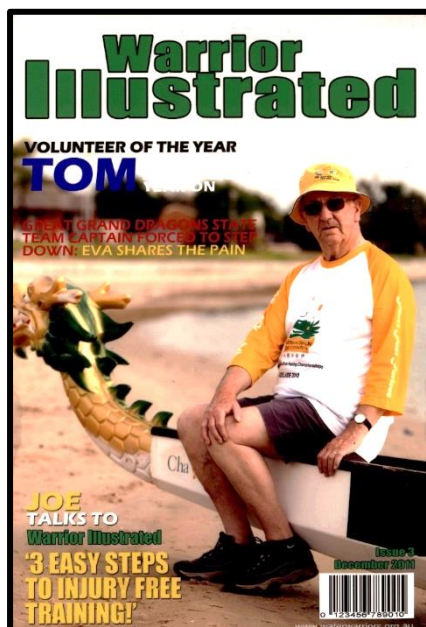
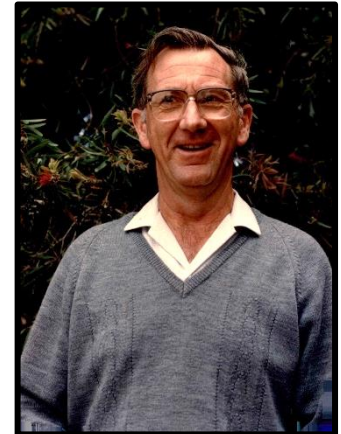
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RETIREMENT, 1991

We were living at West Beach, and I was driving about a hundred kilometres a day to school at Craigmore. I still enjoyed teaching but besides the travel, working with older children and their parents had its challenges, so I decided to take early retirement!

Eva was still teaching at the West Beach Kindergarten after previously working at North Haven and Grange. She retired in 2003 and we continued taking holidays.



After surviving breast cancer, Eva started Dragon Boat racing.

In 2005, Eva was competing for the Water Warriors and Warriors Abreast in a Dragon Boating competition in Vancouver.

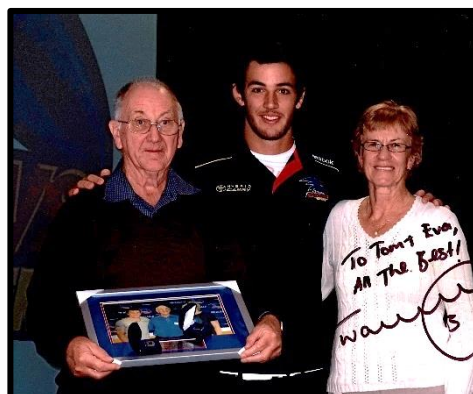
Just prior to the races we took a cruise from Vancouver to Alaska to visit friends in Homer, then flew back for the races.

In 2007 the Dragon Boat racing was in Penang.

Eva continues to train with South Australian Dragons Abreast (SADA) to keep fit and enjoy social interaction.

CROWS MEMBERS

From 1992 Eva and I became members of the Adelaide Crows Football Club. We attended most home games in both good and not so good years.



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MORE HOLIDAYS

We took a cruise on the Mediterranean in 2011, with the highlight being Tunisia on the north coast of Africa.

In 2012 we were due to take a 14-day cruise from Fremantle to Sydney along the Australian northern coasts. Apparently, this trip was so heavily booked they needed to offer some of the guests an alternative. The alternative ended up being one of our travel highlights, we received a full refund and then a free 40-day cruise around Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and Japan.

We have taken 3 trips back to Ireland, including a trip that included Copenhagen and New York in 2014.

As Eva's sister Betty lives in Canada, we have had several trips to see her and her family in Peace River. We also took the opportunity to visit Vancouver, the Rocky Mountains, Saskatchewan, and the USA including seeing friends in Idaho, and going to Las Vegas. We took a mule ride to the bottom of the Grand Canyon.



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VOLUNTEERING

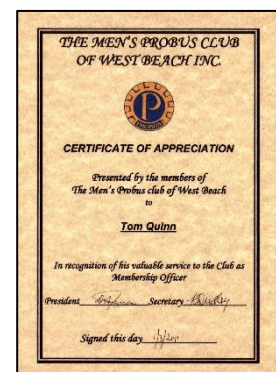
Eva and I have spent many years as volunteers at various Australian sporting events including the Special Olympics in 2008, Australian and Australasian Masters Games, Australian Open Tennis, Beach Volleyball, Dragon Boat Championships, Marathons and the 2007 World Police and Fire Games.



I have also been involved with the West Beach Men's Probus Club for more than twenty years.

LAST THOUGHTS

Be yourself, but never let the truth get in the way of a good story!



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The *Preserving Memories* project aim is to interview people who have lived in or had extensive connections to the West Torrens area. The West Torrens Historical Society in conjunction with the City of West Torrens invite them to share their memories and talk about the events and experiences which helped to make up their life's story. It allows us all the chance to reflect on the past and to preserve those memories into the future.

This interview was conducted on 18 July 2023. The opinions and views expressed in this interview, and documented in this transcript, are not necessarily the views and opinions of the interviewer, the West Torrens Historical Society, nor the City of West Torrens Council, and therefore neither the Society nor Council accepts responsibility for any comments or opinions expressed by the person being interviewed.

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Thank you, Tom and Eva, for participating and sharing your life story and experiences.