



HELM



Heritage of East Lake Macquarie

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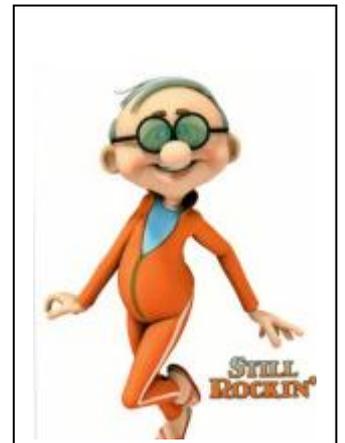
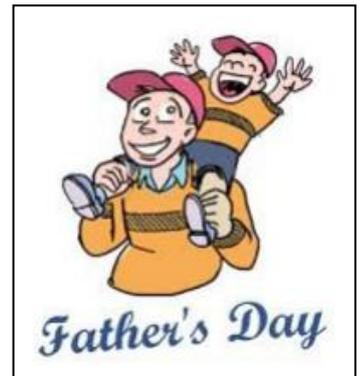
FATHER'S DAY

Father's Day in Australia falls on September 1st this year. While thinking about what food to serve, Dad jokes to tell, the perfect gift to buy; we may sometimes become curious as to how Father's Day originated.

In Catholic Europe, Father's Day has reportedly been observed since the Middle Ages. Some Catholic countries like Spain and Portugal celebrate Father's Day on 19th March – the feast of St Joseph. Germans celebrate their "Vater" / "Papa" on 3rd Sunday in June. It is the one day of the year when they are officially allowed to liberate themselves from their parenting duties. The United Kingdom also honours father figures on the 3rd Sunday in June, giving cards and gifts.

Taiwan and China commemorate their fathers on 8th August – the eighth day of the eighth month. 8 has long been regarded as the luckiest number in Chinese culture. Pronounced "Ba", it sounds similar to the word "Fa", which means to make a fortune. It suggests prosperity, success and high social status – a good omen for businessmen. It also sounds like the Mandarin word for "Papa". In Thailand on the other hand, Father's Day is held on the birthday of former King Bhumibol Adulyadeg's birthday - December 5. Here in Australia and New Zealand, we recognize their contribution on the first Sunday in September. Whether it's your dad, step-dad, foster dad or just a special father figure who has helped you along the way, Father's Day is a chance to say "Thank You". It wasn't always a day dedicated to brightly coloured socks or gaudy ties. It is a widely held belief that the month was chosen for commercial benefit – being midway between Mother's Day and Christmas. It also signifies the start of spring.

It is believed the day was first celebrated in Australia in the late 1920s. Among the early mentions, an ad appeared in the Newcastle Sun newspaper, promoting a Father's Day meeting at the Baptist Tabernacle, on Sept 6, 1936, for fathers and sons and expressing the hope it would become as popular as Mother's Day.



Interesting facts:



- There are about 4.6 million fathers in Australia.
- The traditional flower is a rose (Red for the living; white for those passed).
- In the 20s and 30s it was suggested that Mother's Day and Father's Day be combined to form Parents Day.
- The "Father" seahorse carries the eggs and gives birth to the babies.

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Kindly supporting the community – including Caves Beach Surf Life Saving Club; this edition of HELM newsletter.

4972 1066 - NOW AT SWANSEA!
SWANSEA PLAZA ARCADE
Near Coles and Blondies.

The campaign to celebrate the nation's fathers did not meet with the same enthusiasm as Mother's Day, perhaps because fathers don't have quite the same sentimental appeal as mothers.

SONORA LOUISE SMART DODD

In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington USA, was inspired to create a holiday honouring fathers. Sonora was born on 18th February, 1882, the eldest child and only daughter of William Jackson Smart and his wife, Ellen. William was a Civil war veteran. William and Ellen went on to have 5 sons. Unfortunately, Ellen died after giving birth to their youngest son in 1898, leaving William to raise his 6 children alone. Sonora was only sixteen years old at the time and helped raise her younger brothers. In 1899, she married John Bruce Dodd, and they had one son, Jack, born in 1909.



On 5th July, 1908, a church in West Virginia, USA, sponsored the nation's first event in honour of fathers; - a Sunday sermon for the 362 men who had died the previous December in the explosion at the Fairmont Coal Company's No 6 and No 8 mines in Monogah, the worst mining disaster in American History. There had been 367 men in the two mines. Most of the men were killed instantly. The mine, roof, surface and the ventilation system were badly damaged. It was believed to be caused by an electric spark or by the miners' lamps. During the early days of coal mining they had to act very quickly to try to bring the miners out alive because of the gases and the lack of breathing equipment. The large ventilation fans which cleared the gases, had been destroyed, and rescue soon turned into recovery. Only 5 miners escaped.

However, 1908 was a one-time commemoration and not an annual event. The next year Sonora was inspired to create an annual celebration honouring fathers and establish a bit of balance to Mother's Day. It only took a few months to convince the local churches, the YMCA and government officials in Spokane, to set aside a Sunday in June to celebrate fathers. She proposed June 5, her father's birthday, but others wanted the 3rd Sunday to give a bit more time after Mother's Day celebrations. The first Father's Day in America was celebrated on 19th June, 1910. Sonora delivered presents to handicapped fathers; boys from the YMCA wore flowers in their lapels and ministers devoted their sermons to fatherhood. The widely publicised event struck a chord with the population and successive Presidents; going from strength to strength and becoming a national holiday in 1972. Sonora died six years later, aged 96, having achieved her dream.

FATHER'S DAY TRIBUTE BY THELMA FORSHAW (13 YEARS)

The Labor Daily, Sydney, 19 Sep 1936

On dad's chair big brother sets slippers, tie and cigarettes; Joan creeps in with two new books, surveys her gifts with tender looks. Young Ted brings a smart ashtray, grins with joy and steals away.... Dad walks in agog with glee, all these presents fine to see. What does mother give her man? Why, a brand new watering can. Dad, wrapt in paternal bliss, receives wee Johnny's gift - a kiss!

GIFTS AT KERR'S - MAITLAND MERCURY - Sep 1, 1936

".....Father's Day is destined to become a great day in the lives, not only of communities, but of nations. Kerr's Ltd, have specially selected many useful "Dad" gifts such as ties, socks, shirts, handkerchiefs. With each purchase a specially prepared presentation "Dad's Day" card will be provided free.

FATHER'S DAY GIFTS IN SHOPS.

Others advertised cigarette cases, torches, pipes and pouches; boxed sets of shaving, clothing and hair brushes; underwear, tools, vests; corkscrews and bottle openers; tie pins, pens and pencils. Most of all - don't forget the day!

WWII ARMY BOOK OF JOKES - DAD JOKE. Two dads -Levy and Cohen talking

Levy: Hello Cohen, what's the matter? You look as if you are in pain? Cohen: I am in pain, it's my shoes.
Levy: What's wrong with your shoes? Cohen: They are two sizes too small.
Levy: Why don't you buy larger shoes? Cohen: See Levy, I was unlucky. My wife left me, my daughter ran away with some good-for-nothing fellow and my son is a wastrel.

The only pleasure I have left is when I come home and take off my shoes!!



Northern Star, Lismore
Sat, 14 Sep. 1929

TRIBUTE TO A LOCAL FATHER - WILLIAM COWEN

The citizens of Swansea owe a debt of gratitude to William Cowen, who through his painstaking enterprise, enabled future generations to enjoy the legacy of his historical photographs that are in existence today. William was born 26th March, 1883 in Brotten, Cleveland; Yorkshire, England; to farming parents John and Susannah Cowen (nee Thirkettle).

In 1887 John, Susannah and young William set sail aboard the "Bulimba" for Australia arriving in Rockhampton, Queensland in 1888. By 1890 the family had settled in Merewether, and father John acquired work in the coal mines. Quite soon their family had grown to 6 children.

William commenced his working life at the coal mines in West Wallsend. Like most youths of that time, he began work at an early age – usually fourteen years old. In November 1898, he visited the west coast of New Zealand to search for gold. During this time, he courted his future bride, sending her letters and cards that are still in the possession of family members today. He returned to Australia in February 1900 – destination - Newcastle. In April 1904 he married his sweetheart at West Wallsend – Elizabeth Colleen Cooper with a wedding ring fashioned from gold he had found in New Zealand. They were to have eight children between 1904 and 1916 – 6 girls, two boys. In 1916 William was advised to discontinue working in the mines due to a heart condition. So, William, Elizabeth and their family of eight children settled in Swansea, purchasing a miner's cottage on the corner of Lake Road and Josephson Streets – the site of the present Medical Centre.

William took great pains in making several additions and alterations to the premises to accommodate his growing family. To survive, William started a large vegetable garden, as well as raising chickens. Soon he was producing not just enough for their own needs, but also accumulating surplus stock which could be sold. An industrious gentleman, he began mending shoes and boots, and extended his skills to fixing watches, clocks and radios – any task that was not too heavy.

Most significant was his interest in photography and for most of the time, 1920s and onwards, he could be seen roving around the region, from Coon Island to Swansea Heads and beyond, taking shots of interest, creating yet another source of income, not only from the sale of photographs; but also from the development of film for other enthusiasts. He devised and handcrafted picturesque tourist folders, depicting local scenes, which could be purchased from the local newsagent.

William died in December 1960, followed by Elizabeth in 1966.



William and Elizabeth
with their children: -
Elizabeth: Naomi: Joyce:
Susannah: John:
William: Hannah: and
Charlotte.

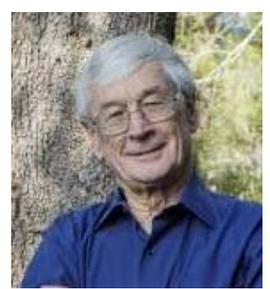
(Photo: Bill Cowen)

AUSTRALIAN FATHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Each year, since 1957, a distinguished father is selected who has demonstrated support, guidance and love to his or other children through his work or family life. He is seen as an inspirational model and has made a significant contribution to our country. (Awarded by Australian Father's Day Council and The Shepherd Centre).

FATHER OF THE YEAR - 2018 – DICK SMITH - ENTREPRENEUR, AVIATOR, ADVENTURER, PHILANTHROPIST.

Richard Harold Smith was born in Sydney, 1944. Married for over 50 years, Dick and his wife Philippa have two daughters, Hayley and Jenny. He founded the iconic Dick Smith Electronics, the Australian Geographic magazine, and Dick Smith



1982 with wife and daughters; Dick Smith Food Foundation; 2018 Father of the Year
(Source: News Corp Aust)

Food Foundation which has donated over \$10 million dollars to over 400 charities. He was named Australian of the Year in 1986.; and has been awarded Companion of the Order of Australia. He sold his famous electronics business in the 1980s, to spend more time with his family. In an interview on 2GB Dick explained “One of the things my dad and my mum did for me, they let me be an individual and never forced me to go to uni or do something that I wouldn't be capable of. And we did our best to do that with our girls. The best thing I can suggest to any father is we always had breakfast and dinner until we left home, always with our dad and mum, and that was really fantastic.”

1972 – DR WILLIAM MCBRIDE – PROFESSOR, GYNAECOLOGIST, OBSTETRICIAN

William Griffith McBride was born in Sydney, May 1927. He grew up in Dungog, in an ordinary, hard-working family who were not well-off, liking the country life and farming. However, he carved out a brilliant medical career, becoming Superintendent of Crown St Women's Hospital aged 28– then the largest obstetrics hospital in the Southern Hemisphere. In 1961, he noted birth defects and deaths in the children of women prescribed Thalidomide, a drug to help with morning sickness in pregnancy; released before being fully tested. He published a letter in the Lancet, medical journal, when the manufacturer ignored his warnings. In the 60s and 70s some 12,000 babies worldwide were born with missing, shortened or malformed limbs, eventually resulting in compensation payouts. Having received awards, he established “Foundation 41” to research causes of birth defects. Many will be surprised that William McBride can trace his family history to the pioneer families of Lake Macquarie. His great-grandparents were John Taaffe and Elizabeth (nee Freeman). The Taaffes arrived with 2 children at Galgabba (Swansea) c.1853 aboard the brig “Ann” with Thomas Boyd. They are generally considered to be the first European settlers of Swansea. They had 13 children. Their fifth child – daughter, Eliza, married Thomas Griffith. In turn, their second daughter, Myrine, was born in 1897 ; and married John McBride. Their son was Dr William Griffith McBride, CBE, AO. Dr McBride died on 27th June, 2018, aged 91. His legacy to warn against the use of thalidomide has led to the recommendation of no drugs – including tobacco and alcohol - for pregnant women.



Source: NYTIMES; SMH

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WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR IDEAS FOR MORE HERITAGE STORIES!!!