

Vale, Bruce Reeves Glastonbury '52 (1936-2024)

Bruce was born to Dudbridge and Gwendolyn Glastonbury on October 12, 1936, at Rumont Maternity Hospital, Unley Road.

He grew up at Cranbrook Avenue, Millswood. Family life was fairly quiet, but his parents enjoyed entertaining at home with extended family often visiting. During school holidays, Bruce and his sisters caught the train by themselves to Owen or Kimba to spend their holidays with cousins.

Dad began his schooling at St Georges Goodwood, this was short lived, the school advising his parents that he was too difficult to manage. He then went to Westbourne Park Primary School. Bruce had a beautiful singing voice, and received a Choir Scholarship through St Paul's Church, Pulteney Street, enabling him to attend Pulteney Grammar School. Bruce developed a lifelong affection for, and interest in the School and he formed some really great mateships there. His school mates were scallywags as adults, one can only imagine what they were like together at school. Dad really enjoyed catching up with twenty or so of them, regularly at the lunches organised by Mark Bouchier.

A chance meeting in August 1951, between his parents and the Captain of the Coral Star, whilst holidaying in Perth led to Bruce embarking on a two-month journey by boat to New Guinea as a fourteen-year-old schoolboy. He accepted the challenge having received consent from Headmaster, Canon Ray, to go. It was agreed it would be a great experience for a young boy. His job as cabin boy meant polishing the brass, helping with the cooking, setting tables, washing up and caring for a herd of ten goats. It was a 4,000-mile journey with many adventures along the way. Bruce gained valuable experience on the trip and was allotted a turn at the wheel meaning he was on duty for two hours and off duty for six hours twice a day.

Brothers, Ian and Owen Davis also went to Pulteney, Ian was in the same year as Bruce, and when Bruce was given two free tickets to the Royal Adelaide Show the Davis boys sister Rona tagged along and six of them gained entry to the show on the two tickets!

This was Bruce and Rona's first meeting and a romance began. It is held on good authority, that Bruce pulled his socks up, so to speak, when he met Rona.

Rona attended Woodlands Church of England Girls Grammar School at Glenelg and lived at Queenstown. Bruce must have been super keen because he would ride his bike from Millswood to the city, catch a train to Alberton and walk to Victoria Street Queenstown to see her. They courted for several years and enjoyed going to the pictures in the city at one of the many theatres, Church dances, and the Old Scholars ball was always a highlight.

On the 22nd August 1959 they married at Holy Trinity Church on North Terrace, because the Pulteney Chapel was still under construction. Their reception was held at the Fernilee Lodge in Burnside. They made a striking couple and for their honeymoon they borrowed Owen's car, a little Austin travelling to Mildura then down to Melbourne to see "My Fair Lady".

In 1953, at 17 Bruce had received an apprenticeship with the South Australian Government Railways as a fitter and turner and then he moved on to Noblett and Forest an engineering firm.

Bruce changed direction with employment, becoming a sales rep for various companies. He then worked for his father in law, at his clothing factory at Queenstown, before joining the South Australian Housing Trust in 1974. He worked as a Housing Officer there until his retirement in 1996.

At age 21, Bruce was installed as a member of the Pulteney Grammar Freemasons' Lodge and eventually went on to become Master of the Lodge. His daughters remember this as a busy time and that Bruce looked particularly handsome in his dinner suit or tails and white gloves, as he headed off to Lodge.

Bruce played football for Pulteney Old Scholars Club, he played hard, often battered and bruised, he would just get his body right by Friday night, ready for the next game. He was a key member of the 1955 A4 Premiership winning side. Bruce's great nephews, Ryan and Jarrod Marsland, attended Pulteney in recent years and there was always much banter as to who could get their photo in the Pulteney magazine!

Bruce and Rona moved to Carisfield Retirement Village in 2023, as result of Bruce's declining health. Bruce died peacefully on 14th October, aged 88 years and will be warmly remembered, by many, as a true Navy Blue.