

Crossed the Bar

John Fredrick Nunn Feb 3-1926– July 8th 2009. Vindi 1942(c) R262563

John lived at the Heritage Estate retirement village, Toukley, I was notified of his death by ex branch member Ted Heath who lives nearby. As far as I know none of us ever got to meet John, tracking down a relative for some detail using White Pages and Google maps I saw that he had lived only about a kilometer from where we had held three Vindi picnics at Norah Head, if I had known that I would have knocked on his door.



My thanks to Vicki Hayward for allowing me to use details from the eulogy she wrote for John's funeral

John Frederick Nunn was born at Portsmouth, England on 3rd February 1927. The son of William John Nunn & Lillian Nunn, John's dad, William, was the Chef at the Goddard Arms Hotel in High Street Swinden and lived with Lillian in Plymouth Street, Southsea.

John attended school at Shanklin and according to his school diary, at age 12 attended an excursion to London, the party who traveled included Nora Winter, a childhood sweetheart. While going through John's possessions recently, I have found that John and Nora have been writing to each other regularly following his visits to England over the last number of years. Mostly they would compare notes on family going's on's and health issues.



Upon leaving school, John started his career in the British Merchant Navy. According to paperwork, one of his adventures on board was on a ship named the "Tantallon Castle" where he was listed as a Steward. On his report, for Ability and Conduct, he is noted as VG (very good) for both – he would have

been happy with that.

Lots of John's stories we have heard have been about what he got up to when on board ship (though I probably have only received the 'edited version'. I think these experiences set him up as an independent person, ready to take on the world.

On 21st November 1951, John married Mary at Stepney in England. John and Mary have 2 children, Philip and Jacky, who have since provided John with much adored grandchildren & great grandchildren.

John, Mary, Philip and Jacky migrated to Australia in 1960 and John worked for the Electricity Commission of NSW at Munmorah Power Station as a power crane driver and storeman. He made lots of friends and from all accounts this second career adventure was almost as colourful as his first!

In 1967 when John lived on a property at Cooranbong and was breeding pigs, he obtained his Certificate of Registration under the Swine Branding Act for his brand named "ZMV". It was just after this time that Les and I first met John. When we slept over one night (after a few too many), Les awoke early hours of the morning to a very large pig, right up close and personal! He was startled and called out to John who said 'don't worry about it mate, they sleep in here all the time!' Les didn't get back to sleep after that – it's just as well swine flu wasn't around back then!

1984, and John's next adventure - marrying Colleen and settling at Mirrabooka – stories of house moving dramas, foxes absconding with chickens overnight, giant goannas stealing the eggs and running up trees, Sally the dog rounding up the geese - we had lots of fun times up there on the farm.

In 1986 John was diagnosed with diabetes that forced a change of lifestyle upon him, it took a few years to adjust, but he eventually did-to a certain extent...

1988-John is aboard the "City of Poros" in Greece and survives a terrorist attack in which 7 people die and a large number are injured. Fortunately, John survives unscathed and features on the front page of the newspapers assisting those injured. His journal for that day reads "stuffed by terrorists".

Around Y2K John inherits his first computer and becomes a "computer nerd" johnnunn1@bigpond.com – discovering a whole new world and surfing the net from his lounge room, sharing emails with neighbours at the Heritage, family, friends, even his GP – in this year he was diagnosed with Cancer

A few of John's vital statistics:

- Last bet on horses – Saturday 3th July 2009 – he had a win!

Last videos watched – Inspector Morse – I remember John telling me how he was tired because he had been up helping Morse again last night!

If you could find a perfect friend, it would be someone like John. Vicki Hayward