

Ros Ness August 2017



I am not a 'lime-light' person and so far I have eluded the Press, but alas all good things come to an end...

I was born in Burra SA, goodness knows when, to gardening parents.

I grew up north of Burra in saltbush country - Reed Brothers, my Father and his brothers ran 'Wandilla' a sheep station with a five stand shearing shed - they raised fat lambs.

Grandmother Reed had quite a mansion at Burra, with a tennis court - she had fruit trees and with her sister who never married, made the fruit into jam.

My Mother used to grow Iceland poppies for fetes and fairs and my job was to burn the ends, which I thought was a cool job.

My Father always had grapes, nectarines and peaches and there was much preserving and jam making done at home.

I went off to boarding school in 1952 - Methodist Ladies College (MLC) - my school days were very happy, but when sent to MLC I missed my Burra friends terribly - and my bike!

At MLC, while I was very home sick, I made many new good friends and today we continue to enjoy regular school reunions.

In those early days, while suffering home sickness, a visit and a big hug from my Mother was a great help.

At MLC lessons included music and singing and it was during a singing lesson that my

Mother once arrived.

I have always enjoyed sport and very proudly have my name inscribed on the MLC A Grade Tennis Cup - it is little wonder that all of my four children play tennis.

A left-hander, today I play golf right-handed as I had to learn to play hockey right-handed back in my school days where I played tennis, hockey, house basketball (netball) and house softball.

To achieve the A Grade Tennis Cup I played off against a best friend and may have thrown the game, but my Father chose that day to visit school and I just could not let him down!!

MLC had four houses and I was House Prefect for two years of 'Nemea House' and have many happy memories of my school days including four years of boarding school.

The Reed Brothers' partnership was dissolved and my Father moved us to 'Glenbrook' near Coleraine in Victoria - this was a beautiful place, lovely country.

My Father later made another move, this one to 'Woodlands' at Finniss - this country was much like 'Wandilla'.

I continued to enjoy my sport after school, playing first for Finniss, but later, table tennis, basketball (netball) and tennis for Strathalbyn.

More recently I play golf with the McLaren Vale Golf Club at Ashbourne - I am a warm weather golfer and through the cooler weather enjoy social days in the warmth of the club house.

I married a local farmer and our property 'Lake View' enjoys views to Lake Alexandrina.

In recent years I have become a town dweller, but continue to be a very keen gardener.

On the farm I planted 1,000 Blue gum trees for florists and 800 olive trees.

No one would help me pick the olives, so eventually they were pulled out to make room for hay - the Blue gum survived.

On the farm we ran an intensive piggery - the effluent was pumped out onto the paddocks and we never had to put out fertiliser - the solids were stock piled for 10 months, hence the sample bags for our raffle table.

I am still a very keen gardener and my weeds thrive on the compost.

I have met so many friends through the Garden Club, it has been a wonderful journey.