

The Life of Ian Scott

Eulogy by Graham Scott

Ian was born in 1929 and lived in Dulwich Hill, first in Pile Street then Macarthur Parade until his posting to Newcastle as Science Teacher.

1935 to 1941: Ian attended Dulwich Hill Infants and Primary School. The depression was on. Ian recalled some youngsters not having to wear shoes. He recalls complaining about having to wear them. His grandfather owned a shoe shop in Dulwich Hill.

1942 to 1946: Ian attended Canterbury Boys' High where he was a Prefect in his final year. He also won a Tennis Blue in that year.

1947 to 1950: Ian attended Sydney University where he obtained his Bachelor of Science and Diploma in Education. He remembers getting a 'post' every year in his undergraduate course. This meant re-sitting an exam during summer. His major subjects were Organic and Inorganic Chemistry.

1951 to 1952: Ian was appointed to Cooks Hill Intermediate High School located in Newcastle where he taught science, also teaching in the local Technical College at night. He joined in the activities at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church where he met my mother, Mary.

1953 to 1959: Ian was transferred to Cowra as Science Teacher, where he and his new wife began their time together in a small flat before finally getting a little fibro house with a tin roof. It was very hot in summer and cold in winter when sometimes the water pipes would freeze. I remember occasional black-outs and candles, and a roof that leaked in heavy rain.

I was born in 1953, changing Ian and Mary's lives forever! Mum stayed in Sydney with Ian's parents in later pregnancy. Ian travelled by train from Cowra to Sydney during this time to visit mum. The overnight train trips were an experience to be repeated in later years. At this time, they were old 'dog boxes' where he sat up all night or lay on the seat when possible. By coincidence, Cowra High was my first appointment as Mathematics Teacher in 1977.

Ian was appointed Officer in Command of the Cowra High School cadet corps. He built it up and it was recognised in the town, participating in civic activities. The cadet ball became a pronounced social activity, the highlight being when the general officer commanding Eastern Australia, Lt General Pollard, attended a parade of the unit and received 5th year girls at the ball in the evening. My mother, Mary, was the Matron of Honour at all cadet balls.

1960 to mid 1966: Ian was Science Master (Head Teacher, Science) at Cooma Monaro High School. We progressed to a more substantial weatherboard house, still cold in winter. This period was an exciting time for the area, with the Snowy

Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme being build. Large parts of the workforce were European migrants. Cooma was the first truly multi-cultural town in Australia. Ian was involved in the Civil Defence movement. Among other things, it was involved in planning survival strategies in a nuclear attack: duck and cover! He was also involved in local service clubs, which organised working bees for civic improvement. I remember going along sometimes with dad. Whilst in Cooma, the Wyndham Scheme of Secondary Education was introduced, extending high school for an extra year.

Mid 1966 to 1969: Ian applied for, and became an Inspector of Schools – Science. He was one of the first to have experience under the Wyndham Scheme. He travelled throughout the State, generally by steam train, sometimes in overnight sleepers, assessing teachers for promotion and the efficiency of Science Departments. We moved to Sydney to live, first in Dulwich Hill at Ian's aunt's house, then buying a place in Bexley North. For the remainder of 1966, I attended Canterbury Boys' High, dad's old school.

1970 to 1974: Ian became the Area Secondary Inspector of St. George Region, responsible for secondary schools in the area. His office was at Hurstville; nothing remains today. During this time, Ian spent six months in the U.S.A. recruiting teachers to address a then teacher shortage. I had some use of the family car while he was gone. On his return, Ian was seconded to the Advanced Education Board to look after the interests of the Director General as teachers' colleges were passing from the control of the Director General to the Advanced Education Board, and were themselves becoming Colleges of Advanced Education.

Interviewing teachers in America during the day was done in universities but people who had applied apart from universities were interviewed at night in the hotel Ian was staying at. On one occasion a girl said "Mr Scott, I am so embarrassed but my father is with me and he will not let me go to a room with a man unless he comes as well." "That's alright" said Ian. "I have no objection."

Many years later, Ian was travelling by plane to Armidale and a man came over to him and said "Are you Mr Scott?" "Yes" said Ian. The man said "I have always wanted to meet you and thank you for bringing my wife to Australia." "You will remember her" he said. "She was the girl whose father would not let her be interviewed unless he was present also."

1975 to 1976: Ian moved to head office, also abolished, and was involved in the staffing of secondary schools in N.S.W. Being a pragmatic fellow at heart, Ian contributed to the introduction of work experience in N.S.W. high schools.

1977 to 1979: Ian moved his work to Parramatta, where he was the Director of Education in the Metropolitan West Region and was responsible for all aspects of pre-school, primary and secondary education within the region. Ian sometimes remarked that these were his best days, being able to captain his own ship by and large.

1980 to 1987: Ian returned to head office as Director of Personnel, responsible for manpower planning, staffing of schools, leave, employment, discipline, conditions of service for all teachers. Ian met a range of Ministers of Education during this time as well as working with the teachers' union. He was also a member of a number of boards, both State and Commonwealth.

Ian elected early voluntary retirement in 1987. I attended his retirement and remember, amongst other speakers, Ray Cavenagh, the Vice-President of the N.S.W. Teachers' Federation giving a most supportive speech about Ian. This reflected his diplomatic skills in relating to all types. He had a good working relationship with the teachers' union.

While in Cooma, Ian was ordained an elder of the Presbyterian Church. Throughout his active life he [.....unclear....] in St Stephen's Uniting Church, Macquarie Street Sydney, the church he was baptised in. In his later years Ian became a member of this Uniting Church at Bardwell Park.

After retirement, Ian secured a part-time position with St George Hospital, organising seminars for doctors. He secured funds from pharmaceutical companies, the seminars thriving under his management. He spent four years at St George before retiring for good.

Ian lived on for many years, suffering from cancer in his early 70s. The prognosis was not good, but Ian's determination along with the Oncologist and his team of radiographers at St George were successful in curing him. A lot is owed to these people, as well as other contacts that Ian had developed whilst employed at St George.

Ian lived at Bexley North for the remainder of his life. Mercy, Kimberley and I kept in touch regularly, doing odd things in the house for him. All the above aside, to me Ian was just plain dad, a person who I could rely on and was always there if I needed support.