

# Father's Day



Calvin Coolidge with his family (Public Domain)

## History of Father's Day in the USA

Those who are avid readers of *Eumundi Voice* and have a good memory may recall my article about the origins of Mother's Day and Mothering Sunday. So, when did fathers get in on the act?

Father's Day – a day to honour our wonderful dads and celebrate fatherhood – is celebrated in Australia on the first Sunday in September, placed almost perfectly between Mother's Day and Christmas. Around the world it falls on other dates.

The history of a day honouring fathers can be traced back to celebrations such as St Joseph's Day in early Christian times but the modern-day version began in Spokane, Washington State, USA when a lady called Sonora Smart Dodd decided to honour her father William. He

was a farmer and Civil War veteran who single-handedly raised his six children following the death of their mother during childbirth.

The first Father's Day celebration was held at the YMCA in Spokane on 19 June 1910 with towns and cities across America following suit. As a good American, Sonora realised she would need to commercialise the day to ensure it grew in popularity. Buying gifts for fathers was, and is, incredibly attractive to clothing and tobacco manufacturers and anyone else who sells 'boys' toys'. Its success is demonstrated by the fact that by 2016 Father's Day sales in the US were estimated to have brought in \$US15.5 billion.

US Presidents have also lent their support to honouring dads. In 1924 Calvin Coolidge pressured state governments to mark the celebration. Lyndon Johnson issued the first presidential Father's Day proclamation in 1966, making the third Sunday in June Father's Day. Six years later President Richard Nixon signed it into law, establishing the day as a US national holiday.

In Australia Father's Day began in 1935 and although not officially recognised it has grown in importance over the years. **Paula Martin**

## History of Father's Day in Australia

Father's Day in Australia is celebrated on the first Sunday of September although this has not always been the case. Throughout the early 1900s newspaper cuttings indicate that official recognition of the day was slow to come and most Australians didn't even know it was an event for several decades.

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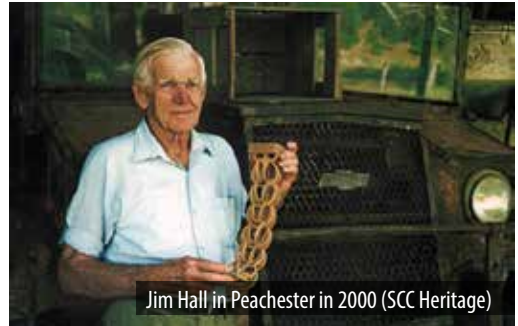
The earliest celebrations of Father's Day in Australia were held in June alongside the newly established American holiday. As in the USA, fathers were honoured at church services. In Australia however Father's Day appears to have been greeted with mixed opinions. Newspaper editorials, classified ads and even satirical poems from this period indicate that Father's Day was seen as somewhat frivolous and unnecessary, with the content often being less than flattering.

A cutting from a 1917 newspaper reads: "FATHER'S DAY. LAST SUNDAY WAS MOTHER'S DAY. We asked a lady we know was it true that there was a movement on foot to institute a Father's Day. She said, "No! Certainly not! Father had a day whenever he felt inclined." A modern-day translation of this is along the lines of, "It's Father's Day in our house every day!"

It took several decades until Father's Day started to be celebrated around the 1960s. Dads in Australia can now be grateful they finally get to put their feet up and enjoy a bit of pampering. Father's Day traditions in Australia look a little different to those around the world with the day regularly involving spending time with Dad doing outdoor activities, fishing, BBQs or a day

at the beach.

The true joy of Father's Day is in spending time with family, receiving a handmade card and having the perfect excuse to do as little as possible. **Tania Broadbent**



Jim Hall in Peachester in 2000 (SCC Heritage)

## SCC Heritage

Father's Day in Australia is a day to say thanks and show appreciation for fathers and father figures who inspire and support children with guidance and kindness.

Part of Sunshine Coast's heritage, Peachester's Jim Hall was known as The Whittler. He was born in 1920 in Woodford where his father was a farmer. The family later moved to Beerwah and Jim started whittling at the age of nine. His mother and father did not mind the chips of wood on the kitchen floor and encouraged Jim with his craft.

One of seven children Jim attended Nambour Rural School. His collection of wooden carvings has been donated to Peachester History Group and is currently housed at the Woodford Museum until Peachester's new museum is complete. Visit: [www.bit.ly/3KoBjt0](http://www.bit.ly/3KoBjt0).

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# Father's Day



## A Father's Day letter to family

Dear family,

The time has come for me to enlighten you as to my wants and wishes when it comes to presents for Father's Day. Don't get me wrong – I do appreciate the effort, however small, you have put into thinking about an appropriate gift for he who has nurtured, supported and guided you all these years.

But I guess you don't lie awake at night wondering what gift would be most useful and, dare I say it, bring me some semblance of pleasure. Those items that do neither I will now list:

**Socks** – I only have two feet and there are also only five days between washes so my 24 pairs of socks, some that have never seen the light of day, will probably see me out to the end of my life.

**Handkerchiefs** – It is no longer sanitary to carry a 'full' handkerchief around in one's pocket. Disposable tissues are now the go and I have enough old hankies for all my future painting and staining tasks around the house.

**Matching underwear** – I am an old-fashioned man with simple tastes in what I wear under my clothes. Nothing wrong with the old Y fronts. There's plenty of room for comfort. For previously gifted matching underwear see above, Handkerchiefs.

**Ties** – Not much explanation needed for this useless item of clothing accessory. I have some beautiful ties that I now use as tie-downs for loads in the back of the ute.

At the risk of sounding ungrateful I will leave it at

that. However, I do have some gift suggestions that would bring me much pleasure and gratitude and be best received:

**Red wine** – Should not be a 'quaffer' but a quality Shiraz or Cabernet Sauvignon. I would suggest spending nothing under \$35 per bottle. And lastly, more red wine with maybe a box of Father's Favourites thrown in.

I look forward to waking up this Father's Day morning with great anticipation that you have even read this letter.

Lots of love, Dad

Greg Ison



## What I learned...

On Father's Day I take a moment to reflect on the lessons about life that Dad tried to teach me. During WW2 he was a training sergeant at the Qld Canungra Jungle Warfare Training Centre and I suppose that was part of who he always was – direct, authoritative, rational, clear and focused.

I remember when he taught me to drive an automatic car. We were in a local park and he explained it in its essence with me in the driver's seat. Him: "One pedal to go, and if you don't want to go, one to stop." We started driving backwards in the park around the trees as reversing speed was limited and it taught me to gauge what the steering wheel would do.

We used to go 'shopping' for new cars together as he loved cars. This taught me to also love cars and how to engage with salespeople. Do more listening than asking. Don't be afraid to wait and never try to show off how much you already know!

An older memory was in response to my asking

for a new doll. He sat me down and explained the dollar value of turnover, liability, loss, capital and profit. He talked about the cost of living expenses and how small the fraction of disposable income really was. I certainly valued that doll.

We spent a year sailing in Qld and PNG on his 42 foot yacht which taught me a whole lot of things – navigation, sail trimming, heavy weather sailing and anchoring. One black, moonless night we up-anchored to help a couple find their boat which had drifted out to sea. I was very glad I had learned to use a radar and could give calm and clear 'left 15 degrees' style instructions to those above deck so that we avoided hitting anything ourselves, found their boat, and our own way back to the anchorage.

Keep your memories alive and share them with your family. It's part of who you are. **Ruth Hickey**



## Dads doing business

There are many dads out there who run their own businesses in Eumundi however there is only one dad who owns a Tiki Bar. Jon and his wife Karen recently opened their venture and have been overwhelmed by the community's support.

With Father's Day a few days away, we asked Jon to reflect on what he loves about being a dad. "The way they look up to me. The cuddles I get. It is really simple. It's the way they look at you and rely on you. Nobody has ever needed you like your own children."

Many things have changed for Jon. Previously he worked away for anywhere up to four weeks at a time but now he is home more during the day and working at night. Although Jon is tied to the business at the moment, as staff take on more responsibilities he is looking forward to having

more quality family time over summer.

"One of the benefits is that the kids love being here, particularly when Karen is here on the weekend. They often don't want to leave as they are playing with all their friends but Karen tries to keep some routine for them."



## Father's Day netball dads and daughters

The Noosa District's netball season has ended and it has been wonderful to see so many dads involved with their daughters' sport. The two teams in the competition – the Eumundi Gems and Eumundi Starlights – have had a fantastic season! **Cont. p22**



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**Cont. from p21** When asked, "What is the best thing about being the coach of your daughter's team?" Matt Green the coach of the Eumundi Gems replied, "I work long hours so I don't see a lot of my daughters through the week. Being able to spend quality time with them, not only coaching netball but also life skills, is really important to me. I love seeing the confidence grow in all the girls throughout the season and watching them come together as a team to play brilliant netball. It is so rewarding and worth every training session and Saturday morning".

The Eumundi Gems' manager is also a proud father and other fathers have expressed an interest in coaching teams next year. This greater 'Dad' involvement may lead to an expansion of the club in 2023.

## In memory of my father 1930-2021

Whenever I see ice-cream sundaes I am transported to an ice-cream parlour in Nairobi Kenya about 55 years ago. The ice-cream



sundaes were a once-a-week treat for me and my sister. For my father, the treat was the time he had alone with us. What I recall as much as the ice-cream was the pleasure that seeped from my dad while he watched us and listened to our stories.

Those Tuesday afternoons allowed a closeness to be created between my dad and his girls. He became someone in his own right in relationship



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to his daughters, simply because it gave him the space and time to be himself, by himself, with his girls. He became the primary parent for a few hours and he relished and relaxed in that role.

Ice-cream sundaes always remind me of my dad because they gave me my dad for a few hours a week. And once a week, ice-cream sundaes gave my father his Father's Day.

When I've started the day prising open  
my dad's urn;

When I've selected the right view, the  
appropriate garden, the perfect tree;

When I've walked for hours to scatter his ashes,  
alone as his representative;

When I've felt him cheering me on because I've  
found his favourite track in the forest;

When I've heard him whisper 'You've done  
enough now, lass';

Then I'll allow my dammed-up tears to  
now spill over.

Anne Winning



## Delivery heroes

Every fortnight dozens of volunteers collect a pile of some of the up to 5,000 copies of *Eumundi Voice* and deliver them to homes and businesses in Eumundi, Doonan, Verrierdale, Yandina Cooroy, Noosa Information Centre and out as far as Kenilworth, Kin Kin and Pomona. Some work as a team with the family and two dogs to help, others get their walking exercise with some hilly areas and others cheat just a little bit with an electric bike! To join our 'delivery heroes' contact Les Godwin on 0411 877 346 or email: [les@davidsondem.com.au](mailto:les@davidsondem.com.au).

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