



COMMUNITY

INDEX



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Take it as it comes

VIC and Lois Snowdon marked their 64th wedding anniversary on January 4.

"We got married in the Tragowel church in 1955," Vic says.

"It was 106 degrees in the shade, with no air conditioning of course, but we had a lot of fun. She was a local girl and I was a teacher from Appin South."

Born in Box Hill, Lois had moved with her family to a dairy farm 2 miles out of Tragowel when she was 12 years old.

Vic, who grew up in Maffra, arrived in the district in 1950 to take up a teaching job at the Appin South school.

The couple met at the Macorna dance when she was 16 and he was 20.

"Mum was a pianist with the band and my brother, Graham, played mandolin. Anywhere they went to play, we'd go and dance," Lois said.

"I remember my sister saying, 'Isn't that Vic Snowdon a nice chap? He dances with everyone.' And I said, 'Well he hasn't danced with me.'"

But soon enough the young teacher asked her.

"She's a beautiful dancer, just a natural dancer. She was always first on the floor. Everyone would grab her," he said.

"I noticed her glasses and happened to look at her eyes. She's got lovely kind eyes behind those glasses. I thought she'd love kids and love animals, and that turned out to be true.

"She was a bit surprised when I asked her. We danced a foxtrot and a three step. Then a modern waltz came on, which very few men could do."

"I nearly died," Lois said.

"I'd never done it before."

But Vic said he was "absolutely perfect".

"She's got tremendous glide and tremendous balance. And a tremendous ability to follow a lead," he said.

"She danced three brackets of that and never put a foot wrong."

For their first date the couple met up at the Kerang Show and went on to the circus.

"Then we just got to know each other better and started going out on the motorbike," Vic said.

"She was working in the butter factory and was very active. She used to walk 2 miles to and from work every day. Sometimes she'd ride a borrowed bike, and the only way to ride was fast. She'd ride around the block flat-out, trying to beat her own record.



Vic and Lois Snowdon, who celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary on January 4. In the wedding photo: best man Ron Bear; Lois' cousin and bridesmaid Mavis Rudd; her brother Graham Long; and matron of honour Betty Reynolds with the happy couple.

"She was the only one at the Tragowel Hall Gymnasium Club who could do 60 chin-ups. And she could run like a hare."

"We were engaged when I was 18," Lois said.

"But my sister had to wait until she was 20 to get married so we waited until I was 20 and four days."

Vic's career as a teacher saw the couple relocate several times.

His first posting as a married man was to Darraweit Guim, north of Melbourne, where the job came with a residence.

"I had 32 kids in nine grades. We stayed there for three years," he said.

"It was quite a nice home but there was no electricity or sewerage," said Lois.

"We had a big yard and chooks."

From there Vic transferred to Mickelham, then to Ultima, and in 1963 back into the district to teach at Kerang Primary.

The couple's first three children - Steven, Andrew and Perry - had already made their appearance by then.

Kaye and Michelle were born while they were living in Kerang, while Philip came along after

they moved back to Tragowel.

"We're pretty proud of our kids. They've all done well. Every one of them has done what they wanted to do," Vic said.

Throughout their lives Vic and Lois kept dancing, and taught ballroom and square dancing around the district.

For many years, after Vic retired, they travelled on weekends to non-competitive dances all over the southern states.

"Dance was a big part of our lives. It meant a lot to dance well," he said.

Another important activity was tree growing.

Noticing the lack of trees in the district, they started experimenting with what would grow in the area and harvesting seed.

"I was a tree advisor for the Kerang Research Farm for a long while," Vic said.

"We started growing them on our block and had quite a few too many. Someone told us to take them to the Murrabit market."

Lois took to tree cultivation in a big way and was growing 30,000 a year at one stage.

"She would've grown well over a million trees, and most of those

were planted on the plains," Vic said.

"I'm pretty proud of her for that. She's left a pretty good legacy."

Four years ago on their anniversary the pair packed the Tragowel hall for a joint celebration of their six decades together and Lois' 80th birthday.

This year, in Kerang, it was much quieter.

"We went to the tenpin bowling for a lamb roast special," Vic said.

Now 84 and 88, the Snowdons are still going strong together.

"We've been married 64 years and in that time have never had a real argument," Vic said.

"Except for the time she threw the cupboard door at me."

"It had fallen off for the third time and hit me in the shin," Lois said.

"Then she started laughing like mad," Vic added.

"Instead of crying, you laugh," Lois said.

"Just take it as it comes."

Vic said they were "still on our honeymoon".

"We've always been happy but we're happier now than we have been for years," he said.

Weather

Temperatures

Thursday: minimum 12.1 degrees, maximum 28.7 degrees. Friday: 13.2, 36.8.
Saturday: 16.3, 44.3.
Sunday: 16.2, 38.6.
Monday: 19.2.

January minimums: lowest 12.1 degrees [10th], highest 21.3 degrees [4th], average 16.3 degrees [long-term average 15.5 degrees]. Lowest on record: 5.8 degrees [18th, 1966]. Highest on record: 30.9 degrees [26th, 2003].
January maximums: lowest 26 degrees [5th], highest 45.9 degrees [4th], average 35.6 degrees [long-term average 31.6 degrees]. Highest on record: 45.9 degrees [4th, 2019]. Lowest on record: 16.2 degrees [5th, 1991].

Rainfall

Nil. Month to date: 0.4mm [long-term average 23.1mm]. Year to date: 0.4mm. Last year to January 13: 2.6mm. [long-term January average: 23.1mm]. Highest on record: 160.8mm [2011]. Lowest on record: 0.0mm [1882].

Evaporation

Weekly pan evaporation: 55.2mm.



Source: Bureau of Meteorology.

Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, 21-45
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, 25-46
Thursday: Partly cloudy, 25-41
Friday: Partly cloudy, 25-38
Saturday: Partly cloudy, 19-30
Sunday: Sunny, 12-32

Daylight

Today sunrise 6.24am
sunset 8.43pm
Wednesday 6.25am, 8.43pm
Thursday 6.26 am, 8.42pm
Friday 6.27am, 8.42pm
Saturday 6.28am, 8.41pm

Ultra-violet index

Sun protection recommended from 9.10am to 5.50pm, UV Index predicted to reach 14 (Extreme)

Fire danger

Mallee: Severe. Northern Country: Severe. Fire danger and restrictions information is available from www.cfa.vic.gov.au