

Tom, Dick & Harry Neilen

The Maleny Triplets

After completing their primary education at the Maleny State School, Tom, Dick & Harry were sent to Brisbane Boys College as boarders to complete their Junior Education. Tom & Harry enjoyed their school days, they joined the A grade tennis club and played at all the Greater GPS schools in SE Qld and had a really good time. The cross country was a special event too as the course went past Grandma Neilen's at Taringa and they always visited her for a refresher with a menagerie of



Tom, Dick & Harry at BBC

This photo appeared in the Courier Mail the day they started at BBC

puffing, hungry athletes. Dick never played sport, he did not enjoy an academic curriculum, he was always the different triplet. He left early and returned to the family carrying business in Maleny. Dick longed for the day to turn 17 and start his truck driving career.

The triplets worked in the family business (Neilen's Transport) for a few years after their education. Tom & Harry continued to play sport, badminton, tennis, squash around the district while Dick started driving the day he turned 17 and Joe Spooner issued him with his driver's licence.

In the late 1960's Tom went to Sydney for 5 years and worked with David Jones, a security firm, then he lived in New Zealand for some years. In 1975 Tom & Harry decided to buy a house together in Newmarket and they still live there today. Tom worked for NB Love's as a foreman for 22 years and during this time he travelled overseas extensively and collected art, antiques and paintings. He's very proud of his extensive collection of beautiful art work.

Dick offside in his parent's transport business until he was old enough to get his driver's licence and in no time he drove interstate with his older brothers, Bruce & Ian. He married Jill Payne and they had 6 children. After leaving the family business, Dick had a variety of jobs and the family shifted about including Redbank, Blackwater, Innisfail, Mapleton, Kenilworth and eventually Beerwah. He drove for Marrs Transport from Nambour for many years. As Dick's life progressed, he enjoyed his drink more and he collected many drinking friends along the way. He lived his 9 lives many times over. Alcohol eventually took over his life. He passed away in 1997 aged 51, from a heart attack and he's buried at the Witta Cemetery alongside his parents and 2 older brothers. He's very fondly remembered by his family, teachers, classmates & colleagues as a larrikin and this is just how Dick would like to be remembered. If you're out at the Witta Cemetery, don't forget to have a drink with Dick.

Dick has 5 surviving children and 5 grandchildren.

Did you hear the joke about the fellow who had a drink with Tom, Dick & Harry and now he's looking for a John?

Harry worked in Neilen's shop & office in Maple St in Maleny with Tom for some years, then he went to New Zealand, then to London on a working holiday for 3 years. When he returned he worked in Brisbane with Myers in the Valley. He & Tom bought the house together at Newmarket which is their home today. He worked in security for some years, then he became a warehouse manager, he held a variety of jobs with various companies over the years. He's had many trips to India & Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Vietnam collecting art and antiques during his travels. On several occasions he's been away for 12 months at a time, mostly in India, his favourite destination. He and Tom are now both retired, their Newmarket home is like Central Station with visitors all day and their tea pot is never cold.

