

Lions Welcome Dinner Presentation

by Desley Malone

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This evening my presentation is about someone who has put Maleny in the history books, a famous sportsperson. He was a rugby union player who represented Australia, as well as an Australian cricketer. He's named in the history books as one of only two Australian Rugby and Cricket Dual Internationals.

Otto Ernest Nothling

Otto's Grandfather, Martin Julius Nothling migrated with his family from Prussia in 1880 and took up land at Teutoberg, now Witta, in 1887. His 3 adult sons took up sizeable land holdings in the same area. Otto Ernest Nothling was the sixth child of the eldest son, Carl and was born at Teutoberg in 1900. Otto grew up on the family's dairy farm and started school at the Teutoberg Provisional School in 1906.

As a lad, Otto excelled at cricket, rugby union football and athletics. He won a scholarship to the Brisbane Grammar School and in 1918 was named the champion athlete and champion of the football team. He topped the school batting average in cricket and was a GPS shot putt champion. He entered St Andrew's College, University of Sydney in 1926 to study medicine, where he distinguished himself as an athlete, breaking records in javelin throwing and shot-putting and represented the university at cricket & rugby. Of splendid physique and 6 ft 3 ins (191 cm) tall, Otto could run 100 yards in even time.

He was an outstanding Rugby full-back for New South Wales. He played three times against the visiting South Africans, ten times against New Zealand and six times against visiting Maori teams. His position was mostly fullback, and he became a great drawcard for spectators with his tackling and line kicking. At only 24 years of age, he retired from rugby to concentrate on cricket. He was voted as one of the 10 top Wallabies of all time.

Cricket was his love and it was here that his sporting greatness became apparent. His test career is the stuff of which legends are made. He was a right-hand batsman and a right-arm fast-medium bowler. His first class debut was in 1922-23, and he played in 21 matches, scoring 882 runs at an average of 24, his highest score being 121.

England came to Australia on the 1928-29 Ashes tour, and a young Don Bradman got 18 and 1, and England won. For the first and only time in his career, Bradman was dropped, and Otto Nothling came on in his place. He made 8 and was run out for 44. However England had won the match again, and Bradman was recalled.

Otto played five times for New South Wales. After returning to Queensland in 1926, he represented the State in twelve Sheffield Shield matches, including three as captain. In 1928, he was selected as opening batsman in the second test side, he took five wickets for 78 against English players who were some of the best.

From 1930 Otto concentrated on his medical practice in Maryborough, as the grip of the depression took hold. In 1932 he married Mildred Horsburgh in Maryborough and they had two children.

As war loomed in the late 1930s, Dr Otto Nothling enlisted for service and was appointed major of the Australian Army Medical Corps in 1940. He served in Greece & Crete and his appointment was terminated in 1943 because of injury.

In 1949 he obtained a diploma in dermatological medicine and was the first skin specialist appointed to the Brisbane Children's Hospital.

Otto's many interests included farming. He had a farm at Cambroon (between Conondale & Kenilworth) and visited the region on weekends. He always stopped for a rum and milk and a yarn with his former school friends at the Maleny Hotel.

One of these stories recounts that after Otto had left the district, a new bowler in Maleny made his intentions known, he was "gunna teach the Nothling bloke a lesson."

Word spread and everyone went to the Witta Sports Ground to see that cricket match.

Otto's first shot saw the ball end up close to the Witta Cemetery, which is a mighty hit, and the second ball went even further.

Before the third delivery a loud call came out from the crowd, "Is the lesson over yet?"

Survived by his wife, son & daughter, he died of hypertensive heart disease in 1965 at Chelmer in Brisbane aged 65 and was cremated.

Martin Nothling, Otto's son established the Otto Nothling Memorial Prize in his father's honour to encourage Brisbane Grammar School students to follow his father's example of achievement in academic and extracurricular pursuits.



Otto Nothling in Australian uniform before the 1928 test against England. Picture State Library of South Australia

Let's remember Otto Ernest Nothling as an exceptional person, Maleny's Dual International Rugby and Cricket Champion, someone we're proud to remember.

ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA

SECOND TEST MATCH -- SYDNEY

DECEMBER 14TH TO 20TH, 1928

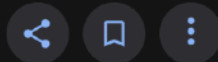


W. M. WOODFULL, W. H. PONSFORD, H. IRONMONGER, D. J. BLACKIE, O. E. NOTHLING, H. L. HENDRY,
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Dr Otto Nothing
1917 | GPS 100



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Dr Otto Nothing, Brisbane Grammar School,
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Johnny Taylor

The other cricket and rugby dual international is Johnny Taylor. He was born in 1895, 5 years before Otto and attended St Andrews College and became a dentist. He served with the First Australian Imperial Force as an artillery gunner in WW1 and at the conclusion of the war was selected to be part of the Australian Imperial Forces cricket team which played 28 first class matches in Britain, South Africa and Australia.

Cricket career

He played in 20 Tests between 1920 and 1926 and held the Australian 10th wicket partnership record with Arthur Mailey, set in Sydney in 1924/25 against England until broken by Phil Hughes and Ashton Agar on 11 July 2013.

Rugby union career

He also played two rugby union tests for the Wallabies against the New Zealand Maoris in 1922.

Desley Malone
Maleny Historical Memories