

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Where young friends meet: Sisters Lauren and Ebony Place (second from left) pictured at the London Olympics with Cobden's Lisa Gardner and Matt Unwin who were enjoying an extended overseas stay.

Ebony Place

Age: 25. **Family:** Parents, Debbie and Peter, siblings, Adam, Sarah and Lauren.

Since leaving Cobden Technical School:

Completed in one year a dental assistant traineeship in Camperdown. Worked in Warrnambool at the Lady Bay Dental Clinic. Began a Bachelor of Education (Physical Education) course in 2006 at the University of Ballarat. Currently teaching Year 12 PE, Year 10 Further Maths, Year 8 Maths and Years 7/8/9 PE and Health at Montmorency Secondary College in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

Notable achievements: Received several scholarships and awards during her four years at university including the opportunity to do teaching rounds at Kings College (Worcester, UK). Invited to do an honours program and received several academic excellence letters

from the University of Ballarat vice-chancellor. On graduation, awarded the University Medal - given to one graduate who excelled academically while being involved in all aspects of university life.

Recent highlight: This year, Ebony and her sister Lauren toured Scandinavia, enjoyed the London Olympics and then visited Ireland. Saw the final rehearsal of the sensational Games opening ceremony, watched soccer, basketball including the Aussie-China match and athletics - 100 metres heats involving Usain Bolt and the 400 metres which featured 'blade runner' Oscar Pistorius. Atmosphere around London and at Olympic Park was indescribable. Definitely a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

What next? Planning a move to Germany in 2013. Lovely people and a great culture. Looking forward to learning a new language.

Andrew Smith

Age: 34. **Parents:** Russell (farmer) and Helen (Cobden Sewing Centre)

Now: Hoppers Crossing with my girlfriend Zena and our two dogs.



Education: Cobden Primary and Technical Schools (Year 12 in 1996), Deakin University, Warrnambool (Bachelor of Science - Fisheries Management and Aquaculture), RMIT University, Melbourne (currently studying Masters of Applied Science - Geospatial Information)

Story so far: "I worked in the aquaculture industry with abalone, crayfish and barramundi for several years and also managed fishing tackle stores throughout Melbourne. Three years ago, I took up a job as a sales representative for Frogleys Offshore selling fishing tackle and have now returned to study at RMIT. Geospatial information is the science and study of anything with a physical location. I hope to move into the sustainable power generation industry."

Cobden: "A tight-knit farming community known for its friendliness and its social aspect."

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE THE COBDEN OUT OF "PIES"

Tony "Pies" Malone has been everywhere and done everything . . . well, almost!

The Poppa Smurf with the mischievous grin knows south western Victoria like the back of his hand, and work and holidays have taken him to far-flung places like New Zealand, Darwin, Perth, Gosford, Port Hedland, Kangaroo Island, the Birdsville Track and everywhere in-between.

Among other jobs (and in no particular order), "Pies" has worked as a baker, a builder, a driver, an excavator, a borer, a barman and a back-hoe operator . . . with his father Dinny, with Laurie Green, with Alcoa in Portland, at the animal health laboratory in Geelong, with Mick Unwin and the shire, with Delaneys and Kennas at Mortlake, on the power-line to Alcoa, with Bonlac/Fonterra, at the Warrnambool May Racing Carnival, and finally with CopRice.

"Pies" has even starred in a movie - "Quigley" which was partly-filmed in Warrnambool - and, not too long ago, he featured on the popular Sunday morning ABC radio show, "Australia All Over with Macca".

While he has never let the grass grow under his feet, he remains adamant that Cobden is his base - it's where Tony "Pies" Malone grew up . . . it's his home!

Born in 1940, he lived in a home built by his parents at 74 Walker Street. Although no great scholar, young "Bugsy" Malone survived and actually enjoyed, his school days at Cobden primary and Camperdown high schools. He remembers being taken to his first day of school by a friend and neighbour Lynette Orton who was to become Mrs John Blake.



In 1990, Tony "Pies" Malone appeared as an extra in "Quigley Down Under" which starred Tom Selleck.

At the time, Tony's father, Dinny, worked as a bread-cart driver for Wellman's Bakery and it was the three sons of Mr Wellman who were his minders at primary school. "I was a bit of a fox terrier at school so I needed three bulldogs to look after me," he said with a glint in his eyes.

Tony loved cubs and scouts but one incident, in particular, brought him undone. He had been told he needed to have his tonsils extracted, an operation he wanted no part of. "I'll run away from home first," he warned his parents. About this time, he came off his bike during a scout bike race, fell asleep after having two "tetanus" shots and woke up minus his tonsils! Good work, Dr A H Barrett! Not sure the good doctor would get away with such a deed today!

Showing great initiative as youngsters, Tony and a mate Daryl Clarke took to collecting beer bottles to raise enough money to attend a scout jamboree. That quality of taking every opportunity has won him many friends over the years. "If I reckon I can do it, then I'll do it," he says.

Tony left school at 15 to take up a baking/pastrycook apprenticeship in his father's business which was located on the current fish and chip shop site. That business was sold in 1956 to Warden and Blackley who continued to employ Tony until 1961 when Dinny Malone opened a new bakery in a shop formerly owned by Jack and Molly Egan - the current Cobden Bakery.

A favourite Wellman Bakery memory is the day the bread was left on the racks in the breadroom to cool before it was delivered. The door was left open and Frank Northeast's chooks got in and picked the bottom rows off.

"To save our backsides, we delivered the bread to the district and left the bread boxes open. The birds got the blame for attacking the bread," Tony recalls.

The new Malone Bakery was situated next to the Cobden Theatre (now Cobden Kitchens and Joinery) so the shop became a popular seven-day-a-week meeting place. There were regular dances, movies were shown two or three times a week and touring artists put on occasional concerts in the theatre.

Tony remembers some big parties over the road at "Rock'n Roll" Stewart's panel beating shop. One night, father Dinny got wild with the loud Springtime in the Rockies music and threw rocks on the roof. He complained bitterly to his family next morning - little did he know that his son Tony was at the party enjoying the entertainment!

About this time, Tony joined Apex and the fire brigade . . . and the nickname "Pies" was born. "I was the one who could bring hot pies and other refreshments to the brigade meetings, and the Apexians soon gave me the job of social director," he smiled.

His community spirit was again evident when he worked with the Cobden Pony Club to help raise \$1000 for the Royal Children's Hospital at a bonfire on the block over the road from McQuinn's Plumbers. "That was the year the RCH Appeal reached \$1 million for the first time. We ran wheelbarrow races and the winners won a Kelso wheelbarrow!" he said.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Pies" has always been interested in cars, trucks and machinery. His advice to young people is to get their "tickets" in driving and operating machinery. "You'll never go hungry," he said.

It is no surprise to learn that "Pies" has attended numerous SWAP meetings, participated in (two) variety bashes, been part of the "100 Years of the T-Model Ford Rally" at Echuca and already completed two "Golden Oldy Rallies" - with another one coming up in this area next year.

Cobden and district people look for "Pies" to prepare something special for the annual CopRice Spring Festival Parade. It all began with his famous double decker bus and continued as a swaggy accompanied by Sarge Hart and a blue heeler in one of Harold Lamb's buggies.

Last year, "Pies" and his buddies presented as Underbelly gangsters and, this year, they had a Friesian (with a calf at foot waiting outside Cobden AB for a service) in the back of Ken Armstrong's 1928 A-Model. A constant flow of prizes rewards his creativity.

"Pies" takes great pleasure in mentoring young people and helping mates where he can - whether it's helping "Knocker" Norris out of a bog on the mower, or driving people about. He has good citizen and good neighbour awards to prove what a big-heart he has for a little bloke!

"Pies" is truly a character of Cobden - one of the real personalities. Lois, who has been a great support to Tony over the past 35 years will vouch for that! They are a great pair who obviously enjoy each other's company!



"Pies" with the lovely Lois.

COBDEN CALENDAR

Thursday 29th November: Cobden Pre-Christmas Late Night Shopping. 5pm - 8pm. Support our local businesses.

Friday 30th November: Community Bank/Rotary Club Business Awards, 6.30pm for 7pm start, Civic Hall.

Cobden Football Netball Club AGM, 7.30pm, Sports Club.

Saturday 1st December: Stirlo's Sausage Sizzle 9.30am - 11.30am for Rotary Relay for Life.

Monday 3rd December: Town Zoning and Planning meeting, 7pm, Civic Hall. All welcome.

Thursday 6th December: Hampden Specialist School Award Presentations, 1pm, John's Shed.

Saturday 8th December: Connecting Cobden Broadcast - 9am to 12 noon. Curdie Arcade with Garry Ross, Drew Semmens and other guests.

Stirlo's Sausage Sizzle 9.30am - 11.30am for South Western District Restoration Group.

Monday 10th December: Cobden Recreation Reserve AGM, 7.30pm, Sports Club.

Thursday 13th December: Former Cat and television personality Bill Brownless in Cobden - at the Sports Club. Inquiries: Cameron Beaton and Brendan Hickey (Cobden Cricket Club).

Saturday 15th December: Stirlo's Sausage Sizzle 9.30am - 11.30am for Cobden Volleyball Association.

Sunday 16th December: Carols by Candlelight, Quota Club, Civic Hall.

Monday 17th December: Cobden Primary School Graduation Ceremony, 7.30pm, Civic Hall.

Wednesday 19th December: Cobden Technical School Presentation Evening, 7.30pm, Civic Hall.

Friday 21st December: Community Bank/Progressing Cobden Christmas in Curdie Street. Co-ordinated by Cobden Business Network. Late afternoon.

Saturday 22nd December: Stirlo's Sausage Sizzle for local organisations 9.30am - 11.30am.

Monday 31st December: Cobden Rotary New Year's Eve Celebrations - Racecourse Reserve.

WELCOME TO CONNECTING COBDEN, a one-page feature produced by Progressing Cobden's Organisations and Volunteers Action Group.

With the support of Western District Newspapers Pty Ltd, the Connecting Cobden page will appear in the Cobden Timboon Coast Times every three weeks. It will include news about the district's personalities, both past and present, its organisations and its events. Contributions of articles and photographs from the community are encouraged.

We are also committed to a three-weekly Cobden and district calendar so let us know if you want your event listed. Our contact details are: kelvin@swllen.net.au (or 5595 1700) and barbaracowley@bigpond.com (or 5595 4243). Your feedback is always welcome.