

The backstory that Ned and Jim grew up with

This is a short document written by Meg for Ned & Jim, to summarise the backstory as she understood it, about John's life before they met.

Dad's father was in the British Army, and was stationed in India when he was born. Dad then lived in India until he was seven and sent to England for schooling at Winchester College, one of England's best schools. Had severe asthma when young, ran away from Winchester when he was 16 and joined the British army. He served in France but was wounded with shrapnel and sent to convalesce back in England.

He then stowed away on a boat and went to New Zealand then Australia. In 1962, while on Warrawagine Station, 300 miles east of Port Headland, Dad had a bad accident. Standing on a cliff above a waterhole, taking aim with his gun at a dingo drinking, he slipped on loose gravel and fell some metres onto the rocks, rupturing his mid leg and spleen.

He stayed there for 2 days, but realised he was bleeding internally and managed to drive the 70 miles through bush back to the homestead. The Royal Flying Doctor Service took him to Port Headland Hospital and onto St John of God Hospital in Perth. He recovered from this.

Dr Le Soeuf at the hospital told him investigations had shown, apart from the injuries, he had something in his kidneys that was a hereditary condition and not serious. He had regular health checks that were all OK until late 1965. Dr. Oxe in Wittenoom, Western Australia, said his blood pressure was very high and sent him to Perth. He saw Dr. Fortune, he did a number of tests and said it was a false alarm. Dad had had a bad time when he had his tonsils out as a child and was always apprehensive seeing doctors, dentists and being in medical environments. So he thought that explained his high blood pressure when Dr. Oxe examined him. His health was quite OK apart from occasional

headaches. His Stoke was quite unexpected, but he had been very tired all day. He had been putting the fence up across the Yarney River, where floods had washed it away. This was heavy work in running water, so his tiredness was to be expected. He passed away a few days later.