

# THE CROFT CHRONICLE

April 2014

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Greetings,

Thank you for your Christmas cards and also get-well cards for Joan. It is always great to hear from friends and relations. We again apologise for the long delay in replying and hope you will understand the circumstances. We trust you had an enjoyable Christmas and wish you and yours a healthy, happy, safe and prosperous 2014.

John keeps reasonably well but at present pain in the calf of his left leg when he walks. He had a by-pass on his right leg five years ago, so looks like another operation for him. He celebrated his 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 22<sup>nd</sup> January at home with a few friends and family. He keeps active in the garden.

Over the last year or so Joan has had a lot of medical problems. In February last year, her right hand was operated on for Carpel Tunnel. During May she was not well and in June she was taken to hospital by ambulance where she was diagnosed with a blood infection. She was immediately given antibiotics and spent ten days in hospital of which two were in Intensive Care. We nearly lost her.

She then saw a gynaecologist who recommended a biopsy, the result of which revealed she had cancer. She underwent an operation in July to remove several lumps but during this procedure they discovered the cancer had spread to the lymph glands in both hips. A more extensive operation followed in August and they removed the glands. She had a bag attached to each thigh into which the fluid drained. Firstly, Joan was in hospital for sixteen days then she was back and forth into hospital. Six weeks of radiotherapy followed as well as once-a-week chemotherapy. This really knocked her.

Joan spent her 76<sup>th</sup> birthday (18<sup>th</sup> October) in hospital and was still there on Christmas Day. She became very depressed. In four months, she had spent seventy days in hospital. We brought her home on New Year's Eve and in the three months since then, she is slowly showing signs of improvement. She is sleeping better, gets up each morning and gets dressed, eating better but is suffering from Chronic Fatigue. This is a feeling of severe tiredness after surgery and treatment. Most people will regain their

normal energy levels between six months and a year. However, for some, it can take longer. A district Nurse comes every day to change dressings etc.

Our eldest daughter Suzanne, has been an angel looking after her mother whilst in and out of hospital, supplying her each day with cut-up fruit and other things she needs also washing clothes, cooking meals etc. I couldn't have managed without her. She still has to run her own house looking after Ross and their two children, Kahala (12) and Paige (19). Suzanne also has to have an operation, a total knee replacement which is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> May.

We have nine grandchildren. The eldest Danielle (26) was married on 11<sup>th</sup> January. She and Dim spent ten days in Singapore for their honeymoon. Danielle's sister, Melissa was the Maid of Honour and Best woman was Dim's sister, Marianna.

We lost Joan's sister Pamela on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, aged 86. She came with her four children to live in Australia in the 1970's. Previously, Pam had lived in India, England, Canada and Thailand. →  
We will miss her.

Two of John's first cousins passed on this year. John Godfry (86) and Alwyn Freestone (85). Also the world has lost two great leaders, Margaret Thatcher and Nelson Mandella. It is inconceivable that Nelson Mandella spent 27 years in prison before being released. He was a remarkable man who held no bitterness towards his captors and then became President of the Country. In addition, we heard of the death of a wonderful actress, Eleanor Parker who played the Baroness in Sound of Music and Shirley Temple who, we all remember, was famous for her child movies.



*In Loving Memory of*

*Pamela Moira Latchford-Hawkin*

*28 December 1927 – 29 January 2014*

In Australia we had extremely hot weather in January and February with temperatures in the mid 40's. There were bush fires in every State with loss of life, homes, bushland and animals. In contrast in Queensland, they had floods again. We learned that Europe and the USA, experienced severely cold conditions, the coldest in 20 years. In Melbourne, it sometimes happens that we have four seasons in one day. This, we can handle, but definitely not the conditions as experienced in the Northern Hemisphere.



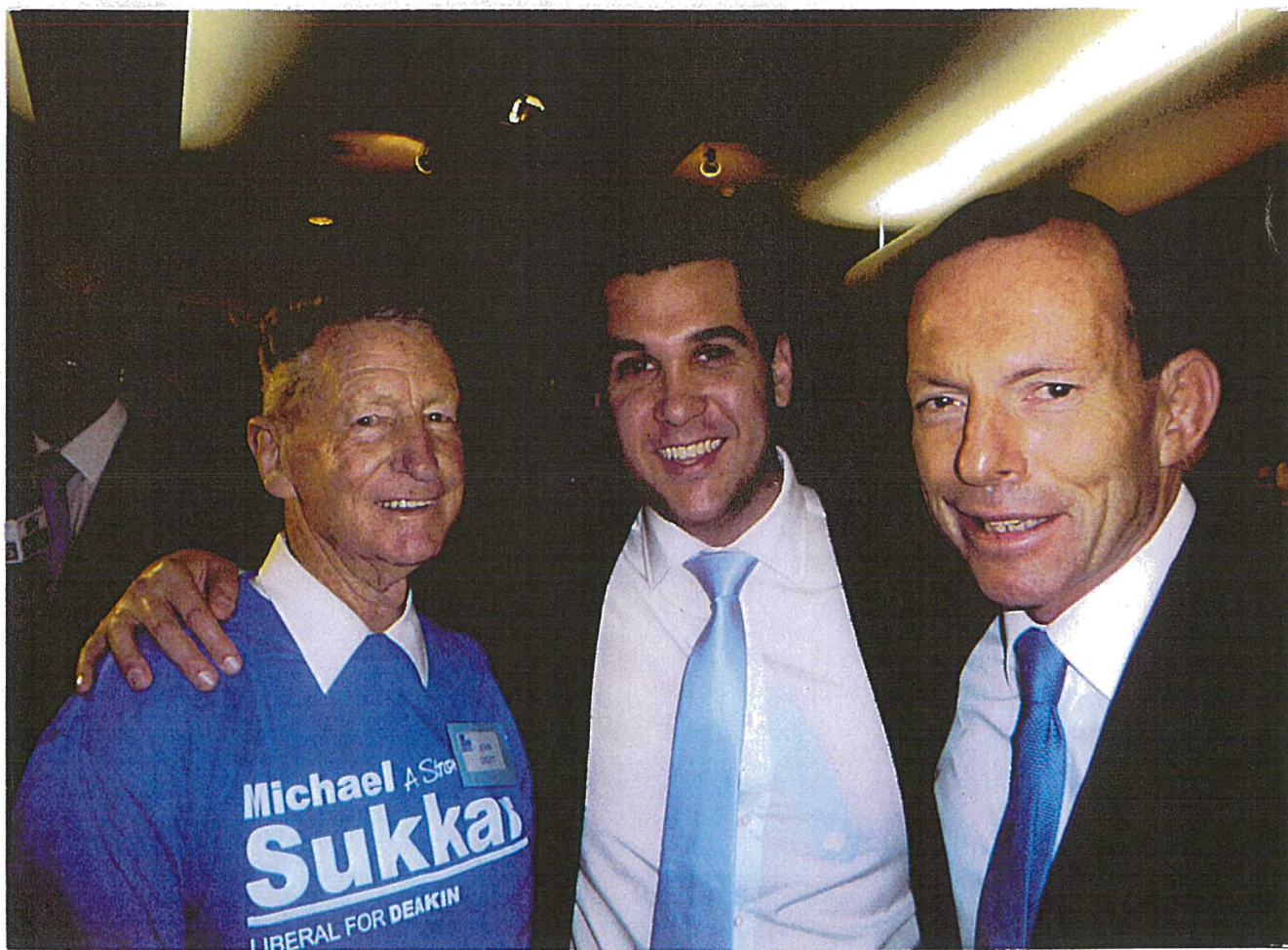
Chaos exists in various parts of the world with riots in Egypt, Syria, Thailand and trouble in the Ukraine with Russia taking control of Crimea. The first time a Country has taken land from another Country since the Second World War.

In Australia in 2013 we had a Federal Election resulting in a change of Government. What a job the new Prime Minister, Tony Abbott has inherited. His task is to get the Country back on track, pay back the \$600 Billion debt that the Labor Party created and save the \$10 Billion Interest per year that this Country has to pay out. This would be better spent on our hospitals, schools and infrastructure.

In the 1950's, John travelled from England to Canada on a ship called the Carinthia. He met a family on board who was emigrating to Canada, Barbara Pollard and her three young children, Andrew, Jeremy and Bridget. Barbara's husband was already in Canada. Now, nearly sixty years later, we had a visit from Andrew. He is a Professor in Kingston, Canada and was in Australia lecturing at Melbourne University. What a great thrill it was to meet him again after so many years.

It would be great to meet up again with our overseas friends. We think of you often and until then, please keep in touch and let us know if you intend to visit Down Under.

Love to all,



**JOHN CROFT**

**MICHAEL SUKKAR MP**  
Member for Deakin

**TONY ABBOTT**  
Prime Minister of Australia

John worked hard for the Election of Michael Sukkar during the Federal Election Campaign





**GRANDDAUGHTER – DANIELLE CROFT**



**JOHN with DIMITRIOS AND DANIELLE**



**JOHN CROFT with daughters JEANETTE (L) & SUZANNE (R)**





THE WEDDING OF  
DIMITRIOS CHRISTOFIS  
And  
DANIELLE CROFT  
SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2014  
Photo with  
JEANETTE & HER SONS  
CHRISTOPHER (L)  
BENJAMIN (R)



BRIDE & GROOM  
With  
SUZANNE & ROSS &  
THEIR TWO DAUGHTERS  
KAHALA (L) PAIGE (R)



BRIDE & GROOM  
With  
JEANETTE, JOHN,  
SUZANNE  
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW  
LYNNE & JOHN JNR.