



# 40+ year reunion

Joy, Gratitude, Serenity, Interest, Hope, Pride, Amusement, Inspiration, Awe, Love and Warmth, Excitement, Anticipation —all indescribable sentiments of a surprise reunion of family friendship of youngsters growing up in Pudupet. The Collins and Dubiers—neighbours, relatives, best friends and teenage pranksters.

An opportunity that was never to be missed, a surprise reunion after over 40+ years with the Collins & Dubiers, Mark Dubier in particular who now resides in Perth, Western Australia was nothing but sensational. For the four of them, Keith, Mark, Elvis and Barry recalling their younger years, attending the same school and social events, the pranks and teasing had us in continuous laughter.

The Collins and Dubiers were neighbours at 35-36 Harris Road, Pudupet. There were many stories to be told, recalling of flying kites on the terrace; the many pound parties held; music and laughter; recalling the introduction of their future spouse to the parents whilst siblings covered their tracks, trips to Kovalam, missing the connecting bus and making excuses for arriving late. Age had no barrier, the four of them were young again.

Joining the group for the day were the spouses, who listened tentatively, painting a picture in their mind of the life of their spouses as youngsters.

Whilst growing up at Harris Road, Pudupet, both the Collins



Barry Collins, Keith Collins, Mark Dubier & Elvis Collins



NEIGHBOURLY LOVE !

Lauren Rafferty, Angel D'Silva, Barry Collins, Mark Dubier, Elvis Collins, Redver Dubier and Marian Collins

and Dubiers knew they were neighbours and addressing the elders as Aunty and Uncle was done out of respect. Little did they realise, and thanks to Collins Connect did the reality set in that not only were they neighbours, but they were truly related to each other as well. Not just the bond and friendship of being neighbours but now reinforcing the bond of being cousins too !!

## A snap view of a simple life.

ADELAIDE COLLINS > ELIZABETH GLADYS COLLINS > GORDON BORTHWICK

**GORDON BORTHWICK** is the grandson of Adelaide Collins, the son of Elizabeth Gladys (nee Fernandez) and Harold Malcolm Borthwick and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> eldest of six siblings: Yvonne, Gordon, Zita, Avril, Anthony and Noel.

Gordon Borthwick was born on 14 November 1934 in Bangalore and completed his education at St. Bede's Anglo Indian High School, Santhome, Madras. When he completed High school in 1952 Gordon entered the workforce in June 1953 as a trainee in the Quality Control Department of the formerly known 'Eveready Batteries' Madras, India later known as Union Carbide.

*Eveready Industries India Ltd. (EILL), formerly Union Carbide India Limited, EILL started its operation in India in 1905. The first dry cell batteries were imported from the US and sold in the major cities of the country. These batteries were primarily used in imported torches. In 1939, the company set up its first battery plant in Kolkata. This was followed by another battery manufacturing plant in Chennai in the year 1952.*

Having lost his father Harold Borthwick at a very early age, Gordon was compelled to take the first job that came his way. Together with his oldest sister Yvonne, it became necessary to help his widowed mother. Yvonne worked as a Sales attendant at Spencer's Madras which in the 1940's was considered one of the biggest and most expensive shopping malls in Madras.

Gordon's mother Elizabeth Gladys was a fabulous seamstress who was employed by Americans, Germans and Europeans in dress making and sewing home decors which was in great demand. Affectionately known as Gladys, she worked long hours and wages were not enough to make ends meet. As a widow she had six children to raise and persevered in providing each of them with an educated upbringing. Both the eldest children sacrificed the idea of a degree to support their mother and young siblings.

At the beginning of his career, Gordon struggled being 19 years of age and just out of High School, it was no mean feat. Starting off as a trainee at Eveready Batteries was just the start of a long illustrious career for Gordon. With honesty, perseverance, and punctuality, in 1965 Gordon was promoted to a Head Inspector of the Quality Control Department. In 1967 was subsequently promoted to as the Production Foreman at Eveready Batteries.

On the completion of 25 years of service in 1978 Gordon was awarded a silver medal and a gold wristwatch in appreciation of his achievements.

Facing many graduates entering the workplace was not a deterrent for Gordon. He acknowledged employees who had a higher education than him, showing no partiality or discrimination to anyone who was less fortunate. His honesty and dedication to the company earned him the position of Production Superintendent, now in charge of supplying the



*Gladys, Maureen, Gordon, Clemy & Yvonne Ireland,  
Zita & Avril Borthwick*

Indian Defence Force, designing, and producing batteries to meet their demand.

Gordon's life was at its peak. Married to Maureen D'Sylva (granddaughter of Victor Collins) and with a family of four children, Gordon's life was now complete. The family resided in Tambaram, on the outskirts of Madras. Life was good.

In 1990 Gordon was diagnosed with Angina which subsequently had many complications in the years to follow. With ill health, Gordon decided to opt for voluntary retirement much against his wishes. Being away from his children, Gordon and his wife decided to pack up house and their life in India and join their children in Australia, migrating in 1995. Today, they are extremely happy and content with their children, Maureen's siblings and many loved ones around them. Gordon's siblings are scattered around the globe residing in Germany, United Kingdom and India.

The ancestry lineage of Adelaide Collins and Elizabeth Gladys Collins continue to unite for many celebrations and occasions and are quite proactive with Collins Connect.

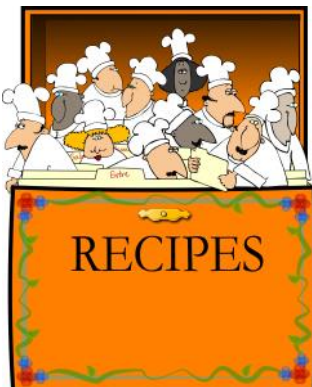
Should you wish to contact Gordon, please direct your query to [collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com](mailto:collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com).

**Collins Connect hopes to spread awareness of the historical lineage of Collins family connections for the benefit of our future generations.**





Painting by our very own talented Collins Connect family member—**OTTO HARRIS**. Otto spends much of his leisure time doing painting. Unfortunately Otto does not sell his paintings but rather does it for his satisfaction and pleasure.



## [ RECIPES—to share? ]

Have you got a recipe to share, a family tradition of recipes of Mumma's famous bobo chicken curry or jungle pilau?

Lets start building the Collins Family Traditional recipes that we can post to the Collins Connect website...

EDITOR—Karen Collins

CO-EDITOR—Corrine Collins

### **Want to help?**

If you would like to contribute to the Collins Connect newsletters, we encourage you to get in contact with any team member.