

## **John Belko**

John Belko was son of Maria and Bronislaw Belko who were Polish nations.

Bronislaw Belko was a farmworker who was born in 1917 in Koziębudy Poland. He left for Australia from Napoli on the Castel Bianco in 1949. His destination was Sydney and he was sent to the Reception and Training Centre in Bathurst NSW.

He was working for the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Authority in 1949. In 1951 he was at Altona Street Kensington and moved to Charles Street St Albans in 1954. He was working with the Victorian Railways.

Bronislaw became known as Bruna.

Maria Belko was born in Poland in 1920.

Regina Belko was born in 1943 in Poland.

Jan (John) Belko was born in 1946 in Germany.

In 1958 Bronislaw was applying for naturalisation, and received declaration for John Edward Stevens, Harold Edward Easton, and Police Constable Vivian Albert Porter who verified that Belko "is known to me and is a person of good repute".

In 1959 the family was at Charles Street St Albans and Bronislaw was applying for naturalisation, The Keilor Shire President, Ian McNab, certified that Belko had renounced his former allegiance and took the Oath of Allegiance to Her Majesty the Queen.

Maria Belko obtained her naturalisation in 1965.

Helina (Regina?) Belko was born in 1940 and started at St Albans primary in 1954 and did well in winning the under-15 80-yard race at the state schools sport meeting. and She went to Sunshine Tech in 1955.

In 1956 Regina Belko was in Form 1A at St Albans High School with classmate Switlane Bohudski.

John Belko was born in 1946 started at St Albans primary and went to Sacred Heart primary in 1955

In 1963 John Belko was in Form 3 and in the football team with colleagues Misha Dejanovic, Henry Goralski, Radenko Jankovic, Graeme Kennedy, Peter Szarko, Joe Attard, Stefan Czyz, Gerhard Ruffa, Harry Schulz, and Herbie Pryhota. John Belko was like a sheepdog in the way he used to round up stray footballers trying to avoid a shower.

Peter Karol was a classmate who remembers him well:

"I started high school in 1961, but after about 6 months the family moved to Newport because my mother had started running a shop out there. Business was not very good, so we ended up coming back to St Albans and I re-enrolled at the high school in 1962, joining Form 2B. This was the year I teamed up with Johnny Belko.

Johnny Belko struck me as being a bit of an outcast as no one would sit with him in the 2B classroom, so I decided to join him. He was only a short guy, but he was tough - you didn't want to mess with Johnny Belko. One of the things I liked about him was that he wasn't afraid of standing up for himself whatever his size. One day I was getting picked on by one of the school toughs and when Belko saw what was happening he came to my protection. He got stuck into this guy and beat the crap out of him. No one ever touched me at school after that. I think the message must have got out: if you mess

with Peter Karol, you mess with Johnny Belko. I thought we made a good brains and brawn team, because I would help him with some of the school work.

Johnny left school after 1963 and trained as a butcher. He had the butcher shop in Main Road East near the Tin Shed for a while, and I think he ended up running three butcher shops at one stage. I don't know what he's doing at present, but I wish him well, because was a good-hearted person for all his apparent rough manner."

John Belko became a butcher.

In 1972 Bronislaw Belko, Maria, John and Wanda Jenny Belko were at 6 Charles Street.

in 1980 John and Wanda Belko were at Turfan Close in Keilor Downs.

In 1996 Belko was at 126 Kings Road St Albans, possibly married to Wendy (Wanda?). He was facing bankruptcy or debtors petition.

Bronislaw Belko died in 1996.

Maria Belko died in 2005.

John Belko died in July 2023.

Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Mr John Belko will be offered at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 4 Winifred St St Albans on MONDAY (July 17, 2023) at 12:30pm.

Following the Mass the cortage will proceed to Keilor Cemetery for the Burial Service.

Rosary will be recited in the Chapel of Tribute Funeral Services 1/29-39 Westwood Drive Ravenhall on SUNDAY EVENING (July 16, 2023) at 7:30pm.



