

## TOM SCARFF: COMMERCIAL SCIENCES TEACHER, 1960s



Thomas Gerard Scarff was born in Ballarat to Thomas Jeremiah Scarff jnr (1906-1964) and Grace Olive Bailey (1912-1981). The Scarff family heritage goes back to 1832 in Carlow, Ireland; William Scarff emigrated to Victoria and married Mary Power in 1857; they were in Ballarat by 1859. The Bailey family heritage goes back to 1817 and George Bailey in Yarmouth, Hampshire, England; George emigrated about 1840 and married Ann Hazelby in Launceston; they moved to Ballarat in the 1860s.

Thomas Jeremiah Scarff snr (Tom's grandfather) was a well-known grazier of Millbrook, near Gordon, who died in 1941. His son, Thomas Jeremiah Scarff jnr (Tom's father), was a wood merchant in the 1930s and trading regulations must have been tough in Ballarat as he was charged for delivering wood at 2pm on a Saturday:

*"Thomas Scarff jun., wood merchant, was charged in the city court on Tuesday with having carted wood after 1:30 on the afternoon of Saturday, October 10. James A McNeil, wood merchant, stated that he saw Scarff at a customer's house at 5 minutes past 2 o'clock, and said, 'This is a bit over the odds.' The defendant said that he had been delayed owing to an accident, his horse having taken fright at a motor truck, and that as a matter of fact he had delivered the wood at 1:15, and had remained talking to his customer. He called evidence to support his statement. The case was dismissed."*

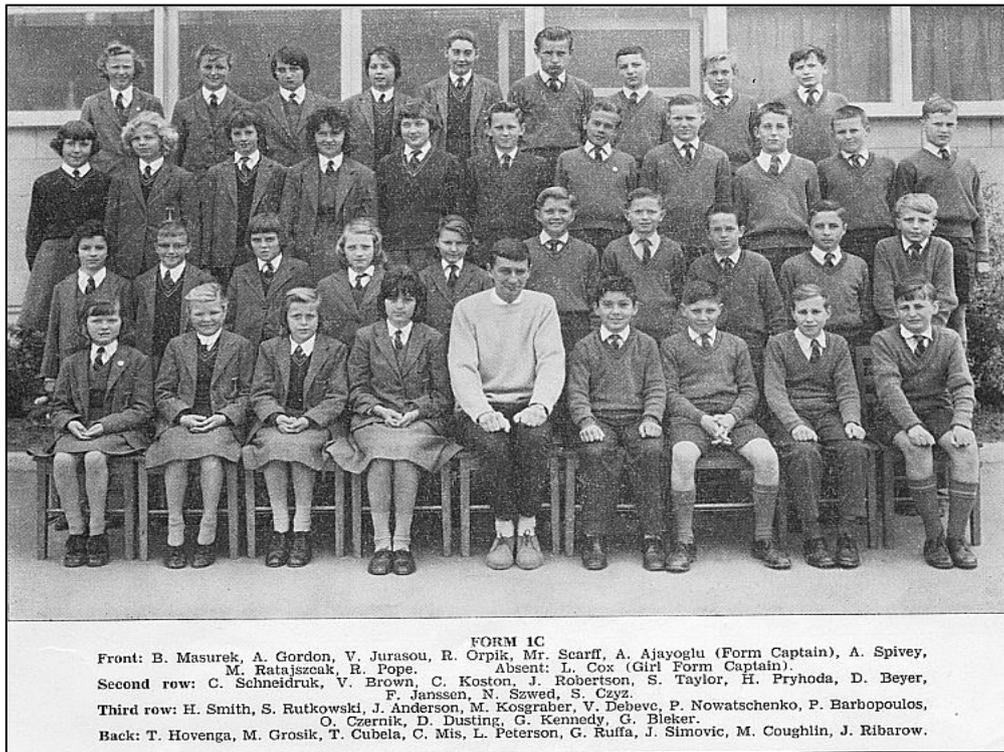
Thomas Jeremiah Scarff jnr married Grace Olive Bailey in 1936. They established their home in Rodier Street Ballarat and raised six children: Susan Marie, Brian, Daryll, Jillian, Richard, and Thomas (our St Albans teacher).

The sons attended Ballarat's St Patrick Catholic College for boys and Thomas did rather well in his Matriculation year of 1954:

*"Thomas Scarff is a College Prefect. He is the son of Mr. Thomas Scarff, of Ballarat East, who attended St. Pat's about 1916. His uncle, Dr. W. Scarff, also attended St. Pat's. Tom has two other brothers attending College - Brian is in Leaving and Darryl in Second Year. He is studying for his Matriculation and he holds an executive position in the College Section of the Holy Name Society, Ballarat East. He is a keen golfer, likes tennis and he rowed No. 3 in one of the*

*College junior crews. Tom is a Sergeant in our Cadet Corps." (College Chronicle S.P.C. Ballarat September 1954)*

By 1958 Thomas Scarff was teaching in Ballarat, possibly in the primary school as he had attained his Trained Primary Teacher Certificate. He started at St Albans High School in 1961 with qualifications listed as T.P.T.C. and Uni Subs 2nd Hon (Education). He continued his academic studies while working and completed his Bachelor of Arts qualifications at Melbourne University in 1967.



Tom Scarff and Form 1C, 1961.

There is little information about his history at the school as few annual magazines were produced in his era. In 1961 he was the Form Teacher of Class 1C. He taught in the "commercial sciences stream" and stood out because of his height and friendly manner with students. Joan Butler recalled that:

*"I was teaching mainly Forms 5 and 6, to kids who had already made it fairly well through the school system. I remember there being large classes. I had the girls in the commercial stream for English - we used to call them "Scarffies' girls" because he used to kid with them. Worland was another one who used to kid along with them. The girls loved it."*

Tom Scarff taught at St Albans High School until 1965 or perhaps 1966, as he was not on staff in 1967. People remember that he moved back to Ballarat where his family was located.

Tom Scarff married Carmel Marie who was also a teacher. They were living in Camberwell in the early 1960s and moved to Ballarat by the early 1970s. In later years they were recorded as being at Mt. Helen, which was a fast-growing southern suburb of Ballarat.



Tom Scarff and teaching staff 1965.

---

Article written by Joseph Ribarow.

Photograph reproduction by Nick Szwed.