

# January 2026 Newsletter

[www.silvermemories.com.au](http://www.silvermemories.com.au)

**Silver**   
**MEMORIES**  
MUSIC RECONNECTING LIVES

## Happy New Year!



From New Year's Day through to the last day of the year, we wish you all the best for 2026!

There are several significant dates in January with the **1<sup>st</sup> of January** also commemorating the **Federation of Australia which occurred in 1901**.

On the **26<sup>th</sup> of January 1788**, the first fleet of 11 ships, commanded by Captain Arthur Phillip established the first permanent British penal colony in Australia at Sydney Cove.

Prior to Federation, the first assembly of the **Federal Council** took place on **25<sup>th</sup> January 1886** in Hobart, Tasmania and consisted of representatives of the self-governing colonies of Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria, and the Crown Colonies of Western Australia and Fiji were involved.

On **22<sup>nd</sup> of January 1899**, leaders of six Australian colonies met in Melbourne to discuss confederation.



Grade Two Class, Drouin State School, Victoria 1944  
National Library of Australia

## Back to School

By the end of January, school children will be in class, often continuing through 13 years of education. This isn't always the case and wasn't often the case for many adults. Depending on our age and where we grew up, our school experience may have been vastly different.

If you went to school prior to the 1960s you probably didn't wear shoes to school. Even in the 1960s, many people remember very well the lack of shoes worn at many public schools across Australia. Also, prior to the 1960s in states outside of Victoria, you probably finished school before you were 15 years old. In many cases, particularly older children might have left school to work and help their families.

Until 1962, if you wanted to go to secondary school in Queensland you had to pass a test to gain entry! Then in 1965, Queensland followed other states making it compulsory for children to stay in school until they were 15 years old.

There have been technical changes such as the national rollout of computers to all schools in 1983 and by the 1990s typewriters were no longer used in schools. By the early 90s three-quarters of Australian students were all staying in school through to year 12.

Nonetheless, parents will have likely prepared more than 2000 school lunches for each child through their schooling as well as managed the good or bad results and behaviour reported by teachers.

Soon, lunchboxes will be at the ready again and there will be hope that all the reports are good!

**"THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES"**

## Silver Memories BLOG

"Happy Motoring" was a catchphrase recognised by most Australians in the early 1950s.



Everyone has unique memories from early experiences in the car and cars have changed so much over the years. From driving without seatbelts to now having airbags, cruise control and assisted driving, almost all aspects of a family drive have changed.

To read more about motoring in the old days, visit the Silver Memories website in the articles section or click on the link below if you are reading via a screen:

### Happy Motoring

## Famous Australians



(Photo courtesy of Eva Rinaldi)

**Ita Buttrose OBE AC** was born in Sydney on 17 January 1942.

Ita completed her secondary education at the age of 15 and began working as a copy girl for ***The Australian Women's Weekly***. She then became a cadet journalist for ***The Daily Telegraph*** and was appointed the women's editor at 23 years of age.

In 1971, Ita became the founding editor of ***Cleo*** and was appointed as editor of ***The Australian Women's Weekly*** in 1975. In 1981, She took on the role of **editor-in-chief** of the ***Daily Telegraph*** and ***Sunday Telegraph*** and had a weekly radio program and regular TV appearances.

Ita was **Australian of the Year** in 2013 and hosted TV show **Studio 10** 2013-2016. She was **Chair of the ABC** 2019-2024.

## The Sentimental Bloke

**Songs from the musical, The Sentimental Bloke, will be broadcast on Thursday, 15 January at 2pm (AEST), 3pm (AEDT) & 2.30pm (ACDT).**

The Sentimental Bloke is a 1961 Australian musical by Albert Arlen, Nancy Brown and Lloyd Thomson based on Songs of a Sentimental Bloke by C.J. Dennis. It is one of the most successful Australian musicals of the 20th century. The musical has also been adapted for television and ballet.

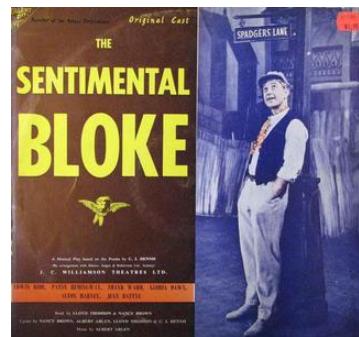
## The Year That Was

Broadcast Thursdays at 10am (AEST), 11am (AEDT) and 10.30am (ACDT), ***The Year That Was*** presents an excellent opportunity to reminisce about past happenings from a specific year. We remember the following years:

[1942 on Jan 1](#)  
[1977 on Jan 8](#)  
[1952 on Jan 15](#)  
[1960 on Jan 22](#)  
[1969 on Jan 29](#)  
[1956 on Feb 5](#)  
[1970 on Feb 12](#)  
[1973 on Feb 19](#)  
[1955 on Feb 26](#)  
[1974 on Mar 5](#)  
[1978 on Mar 12](#)  
[1967 on Mar 19](#)  
[1961 on Mar 26](#)

Activity Session plans for the programs are available from the Silver Memories website.

There are a variety of programs available on the Silver Memories App as well.



***Funny Girl*** will be the featured musical to be broadcast on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm (AEST), 3pm (AEDT), and 2.30pm (ACDT), 19 February.

***Cinderella*** will be broadcast on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm (AEST) and 3pm (AEDT), and 2.30pm (ACDT) 19 March.