

Alexander John Reid



Personal details

Alexander (Alex) John Reid was born on 14 September 1916 in Quorn, South Australia.

Alexander married Rosa Mary Petersen on 16 September 1944 in Adelaide, South Australia.

Alexander died on 1 July 1992 in Bundaberg, Queensland and was buried in the Bundaberg General Cemetery.

Alexander is possibly the Farina's greatest sportsman. Rob Olston in his book *Farina from Gibbers to Ghost Town*, notes the following comments made by Tom Kruse.

"Possibly Farina's greatest sportsman was A J Reid who in 1940, running off 8 ½ yards, won the prestigious Stawell Gift by inches. Tom Kruse recalls that although he was recorded in the program as from Port Augusta, he was a Farina boy living at the time at Copley. Reid had earlier won the Glenelg Commemoration Gift and at 23, the Ballarat Courier believed "has wonder prospects" but "will improve with better arm action".

Alexander spent his younger years living in Farina with his parents.

Family

Alexander (Alex) John Reid was the son of John Jacob Reid and Marcella Maud Ferguson.

John was born on 18 April 1889 in Thargomindah, Queensland and died on 20 May 1957 in Moorook, South Australia. John was the son of Michael Reid (1863-1924) and Sarah Russell (1868-1943).

Marcella Maud Ferguson was born on 6 June 1890 in Beltana, South Australia and died on 30 October 1968 in Loxton, South Australia. Her parents were Alexander Cameron Ferguson and Catherine Smedley Shaw.

Alexander and Marcella are both buried in the Old Barmera Cemetery near Berri in South Australia.

Siblings

Earle Cameron Reid was born on 10 November 1928 in Davenport, South Australia. Earle married Elizabeth Marie (Betty) Doyle in 1953 in South Australia. Earle died on 14 September 2014 in Adelaide, South Australia. Betty was born on 17 March 1928 and died on 1 August 2010 in Adelaide, South Australia.

Biography

Alexander (Alex) John Reid was born on 14 September 1916 in Quorn, South Australia. He was the son of John Jacob Reid and Marcella Maud Ferguson.

Alexander was a great athlete and his biggest sporting achievement was winning the Stawell Cup in 1940. The following article records this achievement.

News (Adelaide, SA: 1923 - 1954) / Mon 25 Mar 1940 / Page 7 / A. Reid (S.A.) Wins Stawell Gift;



ALEX REID (Port Augusta), winner of the Stawell Gift this afternoon. This picture of Reid was taken as he was removing colors after winning the eighth heat in brilliant fashion on Saturday.

A. Reid (S.A.) Wins Stawell Gift; J. Smith (W.A.) 2nd

STAWELL, Monday.

A. J. Reid (Port Augusta) won the 2500 Stawell Gift this afternoon, beating Jim Smith (Western Australia), favorite for the event, by inches, with Ray Spargo (Victoria) third. Reid won the Ray Stewards at Glenelg three months ago.

Reid's time today was 12 3-16 sec. He finished into a very strong wind, but this run was equal to three-eighths of a yard outside event.

More than 20,000 onlookers were jayed up with excitement as the five finalists went to the start.

At 30 yards, Hawkins and North-east were in charge, but at this stage Reid became well balanced, and started to get into his stride properly.

At 80 yards, Hawkins led Smith by 1 m., with Reid flying past Northwest and Spargo. The race was in doubt with 20 yards to go, but Reid, pushing in a magnificent burst, overtook Smith, and just gained the victory by inches in one of the most dramatic finishes for years.

Only inches behind Smith came Spargo, with Hawkins, the early favorite, and Northwest about three-quarters of a yard away.

The winner was hastily cheered as the trainer, Morris Bishop, winner of the 1935 Stawell Gift, escorted him off the ground.

Thrilling Semi-Finals

North-east just won the first semi-final by inches from Martin, with N. Patmore (Tas.) inches away third.

The favorite, Smith, was flat out so won the second semi-final by a yard from Buxton. He took charge at 75 yards and registered 12 3-16 sec. The wind was proving troublesome to the runners.

The greatest thrill of the semi-finals was provided in the third heat, when Reid had scored by inches from Murray with Kruger third in 12 1-16. Twenty yards from the tape, Guiney was fighting frantically to hold his lead, but Reid gained the victory with a wonderful kick.

Hawkins, the early favorite, who fell from grace on Saturday, was restored to popularity when he won the fourth semi-final by a yard from Andrews with Mird Inches away third. Hawkins went ahead from Andrews in the last 13 yards.

Spargo, the league footballer, showed tenacity in winning the fifth semi-final from Bird and White, going to the front in the last 15 yards.

After the semi-finals, Smith remained favorite, with Reid, Hawkins, Spargo and Northwest favored in that order.

In the first semi-final of the 75 yards handicap, Reid, off 3 1/2 yds., just failed by a foot to overtake R. McDonnell (W.A.), who won in 12 3-16 sec.

The final of the Wimmera Handicap of 100 yards resulted in an easy win by five yards for L. M. Thornley (W.A.), from C. G. Ross (S.A., 42 yds.).

Stawell Gift

SEMI-FINALS

First—H. Harrison (S.A.) 12 3-16 sec. E. Martin (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. R. McDonnell (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. N. D. Burns (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. M. D. Charles (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.

Second—A. Reid (Port Augusta, S.A.) 12 3-16 sec. J. Smith (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. G. Guiney (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. H. Guiney (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. P. Andrews (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. J. Buxton (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.

Third—H. Hawkins (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. N. Patmore (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. M. D. Charles (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.

Fourth—R. Spargo (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. L. M. Thornley (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec. C. G. Ross (S.A.) 12 3-16 sec.

FINAL

A. J. Reid (S.A.) 12 3-16 sec.
J. Smith (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.
R. Spargo (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.
H. Hawkins (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.
N. Patmore (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.
M. D. Charles (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.
G. Guiney (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.
P. Andrews (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.
J. Buxton (W.A.) 12 3-16 sec.

Pt. Augusta Excited

PORT AUGUSTA, Monday.

There was scenes of enthusiasm in Port Augusta this afternoon when it was learned that A. Reid had won the Stawell Gift.

One of the most excited men in the town was Mr. Bill Hill, who trained Reid for his victory in the Ray Stewards in December.

Mr. Hill said that Reid's determination was probably a vital factor in his win. Reid had only won small handicap races before his victory at Glenelg. He had only taken running sessions for three years, said Mr. Hill.

"Every credit is due to Morris Bishop, who put Reid through his final training," said Mr. Hill.

Born at Quorn 23 years ago, Reid was educated at Copley.

The Port Augusta newspapers are planning a great welcome for Reid when he returns shortly.

In the same year that he won the Stawell Cup he enlisted in World War Two.

Alexander enlisted on 25 June 1940 in Adelaide, South Australia. He served overseas in the Middle East. Alexander returned to Australia and was discharged in 1945 after 1,823 days of service.

Alexander married Rosa Mary Petersen. They announced their engagement in August 1944 and were married on 16 September 1944 in South Australia. Alexander and Rosa had one child.

Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954) / Thu 10 Aug 1944 / Page 14

PETERSEN—REID.—The engagement is announced of Rosa Mary, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Petersen, Ardrossan, to Alexander John (A.I.F., ret.), eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Reid, Moorook.

Rosa was born on 17 May 1917 in Ardrossan in South Australia.



Rosa Reid

Alexander died on 1 July 1992 in Bundaberg, Queensland and was buried on 3 July 1992 in the Bundaberg General Cemetery.



Alexander Reid's military headstone.



Rosa died on 23 February 2003 in Yeppoon and was buried in the Bundaberg General Cemetery.

Rosa Reid's headstone.