

BRUCE RONALD DAVEY



DAVEY Bruce Ronald 7878 (1961–67) RS
Davey Builder Blacktown; Prep, Bur, Dal,
Cdt. ATC. FTCL. LTCL. ATCL. 1973 Music
Teacher 1981 TKS Prep Head of Music.
1982 Principal Music Studio. KSM Dec
1999. KSM Dec 2000. Dec'd 17/08/1999
[4.02]

Born	6 July 1949	Auburn, NSW
Died	17 August 1999	Baulkham Hills

Of all the '67ers, Bruce Ronald Davey's love of music and his passionate urge to pass that on to the young may have endowed his old school with the most enduring legacies.

Bruce's father, Ronald Sydney Davey, a builder from Merrylands, married Cassilis-born Camillus Mary Emma Murphy, at Parramatta in 1944, just before Ronald, a Leading Aircraftman, was discharged from the RAAF after WW2.

Bruce was raised in the Blacktown area, attending the Prep at Gowan Brae and then the senior school as a day boy in Dalmas House. It was here, first on the piano and then on the organ, under Keith Asboe's tuition, that his exceptional musical talent blossomed.

John Gambrill was a friend throughout school and remembers Bruce as a whiz piano player, who would sometimes entertain his friends in the assembly hall out of school hours. John also recalls Bruce was a keen sportsman playing tennis, cricket, rugby and was in the rifle club and they often ventured out to the Sydney Stadium to watch the wrestling.



Bruce as part of the Band at Passing Out Parade, 1967
(on drums, rear, centre)

While still at school Bruce started playing the organ for weddings and other Church services at Blacktown Presbyterian and he continued to play the organ at other Churches. In the late 1990s he played on alternative Sundays at St Columba's Presbyterian and St Matthew's Uniting, Baulkham Hills, where he was also a Church Member and Elder.

On leaving school, Bruce worked as a teller in the Commonwealth Bank from 1968 to 1971, before taking the challenge to follow his heart and devote his time to music. He attended the Sydney Conservatorium of Music from 1972 to 1976 as a piano student under Isador Goodman, 'a life-changing experience'. During this time Bruce gained his Associate and Licentiate Teaching Diplomas from Trinity College, London. His studies, however, were interrupted by a serious motor bike accident which left him with a permanently damaged elbow. In 1977 he sat the exam with a doctor's certificate and became a Fellow of Trinity College.

Bruce commenced teaching the piano in 1972 while he was studying and continued to teach until his death – a period of 28 years. He played the piano at various places around Sydney including Durham Park Reception Centre at Castle Hill. He taught Music at the Christian Community High School, Regents Park, and Holy Family High School, Marayong.

He was appointed Director of Music at The King's School Preparatory School in 1981.

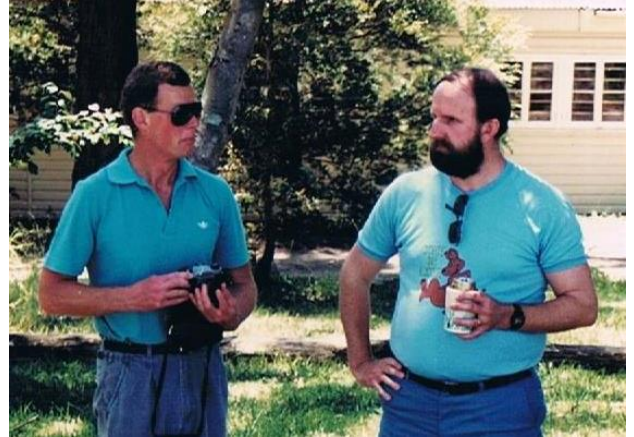
In 1982 Bruce commenced teaching piano and full theory full-time in his studio at home. His wit and enthusiastic passion for all things musical is a treasured legacy for all the young musicians he inspired.

Bruce married June Elizabeth Blackburn at the School Chapel in 1978. They subsequently had three children – Anne, Megan and Stephen who is an Old Boy (2000 to 2005).

John Gambrell recalls that they lost touch for several years, and then Bruce rang him out of the blue to suggest they arrange regular lunches, and to include others from the year. Unfortunately, they only had a few before Bruce died. He collapsed and died of a heart attack at home on 17 August 1999 just a couple of hours after visiting Peter Yeend at the School.

However, Bruce will live on in the thoughts of his family, his many friends and in the talent of his piano students.

Bruce with Basil Simmons in 1987 at the
20th Reunion, at the Doyle Grounds.
(photo by David Payne)



Contributors: June Davey, John Gambrell, Rodney Hammett, David Payne, Mac Gudgeon