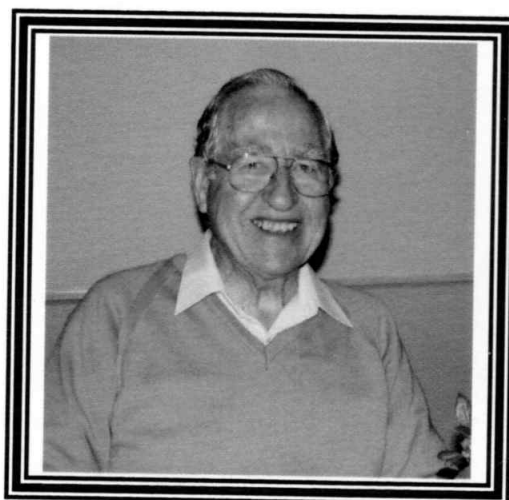




Philip Stanley Cooper

6th November 1925 – 18th February 2013



**MONDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2013
11:00AM
Christ Church Cathedral
Church St Newcastle NSW**



In the following pages you will find extracts from Philip's own story, written by him a few years ago. We hope you enjoy reading about his life as he experienced it.

THE HAPPY LIFE OF PHILIP STANLEY COOPER

CHAPTER 1 – MY EARLY YEARS

On 10th January 1925, my parents, Stanley William Cooper and Mary Philippa Dann were married at Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle. They planned to build a new home at 26 Swan Street, Newcastle and until it was built, they lived in my Grandfather Cooper's holiday house, "Repton" in Brighton Avenue Toronto at what is now No.144. I was born in this house on 6th November 1925 and was baptized on 22nd November 1925 in the Toronto Anglican Church, almost opposite where I was born.



Repton in 2005 re-furbished

While we were still living at Toronto, I had my first birthday and a close friend of my maternal grandfather, whose name was Charles Bacon and who owned the Hotel Toronto gave me a gold sovereign for my birthday. I still have this sovereign which has become a family heirloom. Charles Bacon became the Commodore of the Royal Motor Yacht Club at Toronto and my grandfather, Edward Dann was the Vice-Commodore. When I was a little older, I have memories of very pleasant outings on Lake Macquarie in the commodore's motor ferry.

My Grandfather Cooper had another old house in Brighton Avenue. This house was named "The Rest" and because it was old, it did not have electricity connected nor a sewerage connection. The lights were kerosene lamps and the kitchen stove was wood fired. The bathroom had a chip-heater. The toilet was a small building in the back yard with a toilet pan, which was changed twice per week by a night-soil remover. At times there were red-back spiders under the toilet seat which were dangerous and had to be removed.

On 22nd June 1928 my brother, Mervyn Kenneth was born at "The Rest" in Brighton Avenue, Toronto. Mervyn is my only sibling.

I have memories of the Great Depression such as walking to the Arnott's biscuit factory in Cooks Hill where, for a shilling, they filled a pillowcase for me with 'broken biscuits', some of which I would eat on the way back home. I also remember seeing long queues of people at the door of the Town Hall getting their dole.

In January 1931, I commenced my schooling in Kindergarten at Cook's Hill Primary School where I met my longest term friend, Bob Low. He lived in Corlette Street, Cook's Hill and we visited each other's homes from time to time. He will be referred to later in this story.

I walked to and from school down Swan Street, across Darby Street and along Laman Street which had a bridge over the old railway line from Glebe Junction to one of the wharves at Newcastle Harbour.

Because my father was a Civil Engineer and was associated with dams for water storage, I used to play in our backyard by building tiny concrete dams across the surface drains and built in a

small plug hole to allow them to be emptied. Another game which both Mervyn and I enjoyed was using a home-made wooden sleigh to go down a sloping path called "The Goat Track" on the other side of Swan Street from up near the southern end of Wolfe Street. We also had a billy-cart which we could use on streets which did not have many cars in those days.

At the end of 1936, when I was in 6th Class at Primary School, we did an examination to determine whether we would go to a Selective High School or not. I achieved this selection and in 1937 started at Newcastle Boys' High School at Waratah.

My high school years were a very comprehensive education and at the end of 3rd year we sat for the Intermediate Certificate, after which most continued on to 5th year, at the end of which we sat for the Leaving Certificate. This was the requirement for entry into Tertiary Education. There was no university in Newcastle in those days so I enrolled in the Electrical Engineering course at the Newcastle Technical College.

When I was 12 years old, I had used my savings to buy a pushbike and I used it to ride to Carey Bay via New Lambton Heights. In those days, the road at new Lambton Heights was not tar sealed and was just dirt. It was a difficult long ride but I enjoyed the visits to my friend's home. Bike riding became a special interest of mine and I used to ride for long distances. On one occasion a friend and I rode our bikes up the Hunter Valley to Dungog and back. Also during these years, I was interested in chemistry and Mervyn and I used to go by train to Sydney to buy chemicals. Mervyn used to make a miniature explosive chemical which I remember that once, while we were jogging across Civic Park on the way to the school train, some of the material, which he had in his pocket exploded and burned his coat.

In my early high school years, I became interested in electrical technology and made a crystal radio receiver as a start. Later, in 1947, I made a large electronic valve radio/ record player, which I installed in a large wooden piece of furniture in my parents lounge room. After moving to Anne Parade, New Lambton, I built another radio receiver/record player in a special wooden enclosure which I built onto a wall in our new lounge room.

In 1939, my parents took Mervyn and myself to Oberon to stay with my mother's brother Frank Dann and his family. One evening, when we were listening to the radio, it was announced that because the Nazis had invaded Poland, Britain declared war on Germany and Australia did the same. Thus, when I was thirteen, the Second World War commenced. Because of the danger of possible air raids by the Japanese, my brother and I built an air raid shelter in my paternal grandparent's garage which was accessible through the gate in the dividing fence. In 1942, after the Japanese miniature submarines attacked Sydney harbor, the mother ship shelled Newcastle and the noise of the shells plus the sound of the cannon fire at Fort Scratchley was very frightening.

In 1945, before the end of the war, Mervyn and I went to Jenolan Caves, during my annual leave, for a few days and I took my bike with me. Merv went home from Jenolan Caves and I rode my bike to Oberon where I stayed for a week with my girlfriend Pat and her family at a farm outside Oberon.

CHAPTER 2 – MY CAREER

I finished my Leaving Certificate exam on Friday 28th November 1941 and commenced work on Monday 1st December 1941. My father had spoken to Mr. Guy Albutt, the Electrical Engineer and Manager of Newcastle City Council, Electric Supply Department (Nesca), who lived next door but one to us in Swan Street. Because of the shortage of workers, due to many having enlisted in the armed forces, he offered to allow me to start as an Apprentice Electrical Fitter, which I did. The working hours were from 7:30am to 5:00pm. I commenced work in the Machine Shop at the "Queen Street Works" and became involved in the manufacture of many different types of equipment. Bob Low had also commenced as an apprentice earlier in 1941 and, because he went to a different high school, our earlier friendship was renewed. In my second year, another apprentice started. He was Arthur Mordue, who also became a good friend and some years later he left Nesca to join the ANZ Bank. He later became a travel agent in the bank and arranged a number of overseas trips that Pat and I started in 1973. The junior apprentices had extra things to do, one of which was to operate a loud steam whistle attached to the boilers, to indicate starting and finishing times during the day. Later on, when air raids were likely from the Japanese, this whistle was used as an air raid warning, instead of sirens. To replace the whistle as a starting and finishing time indicator, a long piece of railway line was suspended outside the Machine Shop and I was one of the apprentices who used a sledge hammer to hit the rail as a loud bell. Also because of the danger from air raids, we apprentices had to cut out pieces of gauze fabric and glue them to all of the windows in our building. Three of us were also sent

to Nesca House, the administration building in King Street to do the same for the windows there. In 1943, because the Navy had difficulties in obtaining equipment from overseas, the Machine Shop was given the job of manufacturing special motor-generator sets for the Navy. This required new techniques but was very successful.

Three months after the completion of my apprenticeship as Electrical Fitter, I was transferred to the Protection Section to undertake a 6 months training period as an Electrical General Tester under the supervision of the Protection Engineer, Mr. Wilfred Newton, who had a significant effect on my future as an engineer.

12 th May 1944	Joined Institution of Engineers
December 1947	Completed my Diploma in Electrical Engineering with Credit
1948	Became full member of Institution of Engineers
5 th June 1948	Appointed to the staff as an Assistant Engineer
January, 1951	Received a Certificate for Protection Engineering.
20 th August 1952	Became directly responsible to the Superintendent of the Electrical Division
1 st February 1954	Received the classification of Protection Engineer.
May 1955	Received the NSW Local Government Electrical Engineer's Certificate.
December 1955	Chartered Engineer membership attained with Institution of Engineers
7 th December 1964	Appointed as Assistant Electrical Superintendent, responsible for the Electrical Construction, Metering and Protection Sections
1968 – 1969	Studied Post Grad Diploma in Industrial Engineering at the University
March 1970	Presented with Post Graduate Diploma in Industrial Engineering
1971	Invited to lecture part time in the subject Engineering Economics both for sub-graduate students and post-graduate students.
14 th July, 1973	Appointed as Superintendent of the whole Electrical Division.
1 st February, 1979	Appointed Deputy Chief Engineer which took effect from 16 th April 1979
7 th July, 1982	Appointed as Chief Engineer, which took effect on 29 th December 1982
3 rd January 1986	I retired at age 60

CHAPTER 3 – MY MUSICAL EXPERIENCES

My parents and grandparents were keen members of the congregation at Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle. At the end of 1934 I joined the Cathedral Choir and sang at two services, 11:00am and 7:15pm every Sunday. The Organist and Master of the Choristers was Mr. Thomas Massey who was a very capable musician. Once a year, in the Christmas school holidays he took members of the boy's choir to Toronto where we camped for 3 or 4 days, midweek, beside the Toronto Hotel. One year, because of my knowledge of the area, I went with a few choir boys to the waterfront and hired a rowing boat which we rowed cross to Bolton Point and back. At the end of 1938, when I turned 13, my voice broke and I left the choir.

Earlier in my life, because my father was a keen pianist, he sent me to learn the piano from Natasha Ranclaud at her house in Merewether.

In 1947 William Rutledge was appointed as Organist and Choirmaster at the Cathedral and he immediately set about revitalizing the music at the Cathedral and in the City of Newcastle. He formed the Newcastle Mozart Society which my wife and I both joined. Bill Rutledge also invited me to re-join the Cathedral Choir, which I did, as a bass singer. Unfortunately, in 1950, because of pressure on him by Dean Blow, he resigned as did the entire choir.

In approximately 1942, I went to my first symphony concert with my cousin Eris Coughlan at the Sydney Town Hall. Also, at about the same time, I started going to Sydney Symphony Orchestra Concerts in Newcastle, with my parents. Then, in 1943, I went with my girlfriend, Patricia Derkenne, to another concert by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney town Hall. This was a very special concert as it consisted of Beethoven's 1st and 9th symphonies. It was on a weekday evening and we returned in what was then called the Paper Train, arriving back in Newcastle at about 6:00am. Pat and I had a very enjoyable time, even on the return journey, when we kissed each other for the first time.

Apart from the piano, I had a keen interest in the cello and in the mid 1960's I started a 3 year course at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music to learn to play the cello. This was very enjoyable and I still have the cello which I used at that time.

In 1996, when Philip Matthias was Organist and Choirmaster at the Cathedral, I re-joined the choir. I also made good friends, particularly with Jack Marett who was a tenor. We sang some wonderful church music and on 2nd November 1999, being All Souls Day, we sang the wonderful Requiem Mass by Gabriel Fauré. Because this was also one of my father's favorite pieces of music and on this day it was the date of his 100th birthday, I donated 40 copies of the music to the choir and invited a large number of friends and relatives to attend the service. In mid-1996, I became the Treasurer of the choir and assisted Philip Matthias as a member of the Music Executive. I also became a member of a new organization "The Friends of Newcastle Cathedral Music" and became Treasurer and Membership Secretary. At the beginning of 2004, because of our move to the retirement village at Bolton Point, I resigned from the choir, which I regretted having to do.

In 2004, because of my musical experiences, I was asked to lead a choir in this retirement village to sing carols at the annual Christmas Dinner. I have now done that in 2004, 2005 and 2006. I found it to be rather demanding but very enjoyable.

In 2006, as part of the celebration of the Centenary of Newcastle High, Newcastle Boys High and Newcastle Girls High schools, Pat and I joined a choir to sing at a function in The City Hall and another in the Cathedral.

CHAPTER 4 – MY MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

In 1942, I was a member of the Young Peoples Fellowship at Christ Church Cathedral and in 1944 another member was Patricia Derkenne with whom I fell in love and thus she became my girl friend. We had a great time going out together, including our first attendance together at a symphony concert at Sydney Town Hall, as I mentioned in Chapter 3. The fellowship also met occasionally at my parents' home and my father gave them musical experiences on his piano. On 6th November 1946, my 21st birthday was celebrated at the Great Northern Hotel in Scott Street Newcastle and at this function, Patricia and I announced our engagement.

We were married in the Cathedral on 7th August 1948, the service being conducted by Robert Mawson. For our honeymoon, we traveled to Sydney by train for an overnight stay at a hotel close to Central Station then we traveled by train and bus to Jenolan Caves, one of our favorite places to visit. On our return, we stayed overnight at the Carrington Hotel in Katoomba.

After our honeymoon, we lived in a boarding house room in Zaara Street, Newcastle East. About a year later we found this to be unpleasant and moved into Pat's parents' home then after a few months into my parents' home. During this time a new home was being built at 4 Ann Parade New Lambton on a block of land that my father had given us for a wedding gift. I had designed the house but, because it started being built only 4 years after the end of World War II, there were many delays due to shortage of materials. We moved into it in 1951.

Our first child, Peter Grant Cooper was born on 20th June. On 20th March 1955, our daughter Penelope Anne Cooper was born.

In February, 1957, at the age of 4½, Peter started school at New Lambton Public School Kindergarten. Penny also started there in early 1960.

On 7th May 1959, our second son, Bruce Alexander Cooper was born. Bruce also started school at the New Lambton Public School Kindergarten in early 1965.

In 1973, we celebrated our silver wedding anniversary by having a wonderful party in the basement of our home at Grandview Road.

In 1988, two years after my retirement, we celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary at Penny and Peter Gibbs home in East Maitland. It was a wonderful party with many of our long time friends there, as well as family.

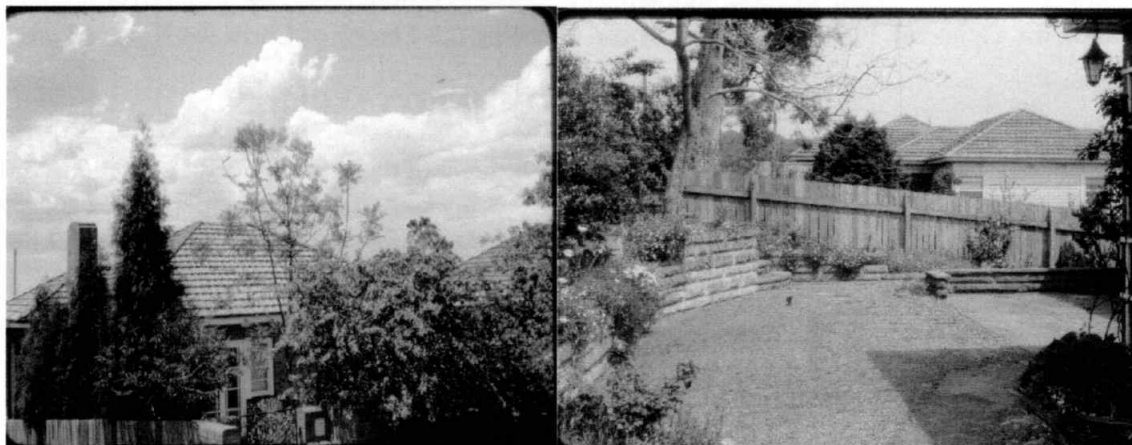
In 1998, after our 15th overseas trip, we celebrated our golden wedding anniversary at "Rose Cottage" at Brunkerville, west of Toronto. It was only family members at this party but it was a great celebration.

CHAPTER 5-OUR HOMES

OUR FIRST HOME

In July 1948, my father, Stanley William Cooper, purchased a block of land at 4 Ann Parade, New Lambton at the cost of £180. Pat and I were married next month and he gave this block of land to us as a wedding present.

I designed the house to be built on this block and obtained quotes for its construction in December 1948. Because of my having an electrician's license, I carried out the whole of the electrical installation work. The house was finished and we moved into it in early 1951. In the front yard, I built a stone retaining wall and a stone patio with a side wall. The stone used for these projects was sandstone from a quarry near Gosford. We lived in this home until September 1963.



Front of 4 Ann Parade

Retaining wall & patio

OUR SECOND HOME

We bought a block of land in Grandview Road, New Lambton heights. I designed a 3 bedroom house and it was built in 1964. As with our previous home, I installed all of the electrical wiring and appliances.

In May 1985, we bought an old cottage on the lake foreshore at 49 Bay Road, Bolton Point. We used it as a weekender and for get-togethers with our friends. Our family also used it, particularly Bruce and his family. It was a very pleasant location.

Our Grandview Road home was a great house but, after I retired in February 1986, Pat and I were living alone in it and decided to look for a house in the Toronto area.

OUR THIRD HOME

...eventually we found a very suitable one at 53 Laycock Street, Kilaben Bay on the foreshore reserve. We bought it in June, 1990. We greatly enjoyed living there.

One of the great occasions at this home was in early 1991, when, following the marriage of Peter and Louise at Christ Church Cathedral, the reception was held at our home.

OUR FOURTH HOME

...we bought a house on a level base at 7 Smokebush Place, Garden Suburb. Because there were no stairs as well as a level backyard, it was easier for us to get around, as we became older. Also, within easy walking distance of this home were the homes of two couples who were old friends of ours. They were Joy and Allan Crofts and Betty and Norman Cann.

OUR FIFTH HOME

In December 2003, we acquired a unit in the retirement village at Bolton Point and we moved in early 2004. There were many benefits from this move, even though there were also many difficulties in making the move.

CHAPTER 6 – MY CONNECTIONS WITH THE CHURCH

In Chapter 3, I have stated that in late 1938 I left the Cathedral Choir because my voice broke. I then commenced acting as a "server" to assist in the Eucharists at the Cathedral. Many years later I also assisted our family friend, the Rev Robert Mawson who ran the Seaman's Mission organisation in Wickham. It was Robert Mawson who married me to Pat in 1948. In 1951, after moving to our new home in Anne Parade new Lambton, Pat and I joined the congregation at All Saints Parish Church,

New Lambton. In 1964, after our move to Grandview Road, I became a member of the Vestry at St. Chad's Church, New Lambton Heights. I stayed on as a member of the Vestry for 5 years. In 1999, whilst I was a member of the Cathedral Choir, I was elected to the Cathedral Council, of which I remained a member for several years. In 1993 I was invited to join a new organization called The Friends of Christ Church Cathedral music, which I did. In 1994, I became Treasurer and Membership Secretary of this organization. In 2004, following our move to Bolton Point, we gave up on attending services at the Cathedral. In 2005, we commenced attending the Church of Christ the King at Toronto.

CHAPTER 8 – MY COMMUNITY SERVICE

In early 1959, I was invited by the Area Commissioner of the Boys Scouts Association, Mr. Stan McCrum, to become a District Commissioner, despite my lack of scouting experience. I accepted this request and on 22nd August, I attended a Preliminary Training Course at Glenrock Lagoon. I then commenced my connection with the Central Newcastle District by attending Scouter meetings and District Executive meetings.

I became very involved with the running of the Boy Scouts Association in my District. I regularly visited the 7 scout groups in the District.

We had an annual District Camp for all scouts in the District to attend and at one of them, held at Wangi Point Park, we invited a local VIP to attend a celebratory dinner. On this occasion it was the great artist Sir William Dobell so Pat and I sat beside him and had a very good and interesting conversation with him.

At the end of 1974, because Pat and I were to travel to Europe for six months in early 1975, I resigned from the Boy Scouts Association.

In November 1973, I was invited by Aubrey Donaldson to join the Rotary Club of Newcastle. Ray Patrick was already a member and he recommended that I accept the invitation, which I did. I was inducted into the Club in February 1974. I took on the job of Secretary of the Club.

CHAPTER 10 – MY RETIREMENT YEARS

I retired on 3rd January, 1986, 2 months after my 60th birthday. Because Pat had had a keen interest in pottery for many years, and because I had been involved in firing her pots, I decided to do a course in pottery at the Newcastle TAFE. Pat also decided to do this course, even though she had done a course previously. The course was very enjoyable for both of us and pottery became my main interest for many years. We had set up equipment at home, including, originally an electric kiln, plus, later, a gas kiln. We had two potter's wheels and many tools to use.

CHAPTER 10 – OUR OVERSEAS TRAVEL BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS

No.1. 1973 - New Zealand with Ray and Audrey Patrick

No.2. February 1975 - 6 months in Europe. We celebrated Pat's 50th birthday by going out to dinner with Mary McPartlin at Robert Carrier's restaurant in NE London.

No.3. 1976 - we went with my father and son Bruce, to Fiji

No.4. 1977 - New Caledonia, New Hebrides (now Vanuatu)

No.5. 1979 – Amsterdam, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Italy, Belgium, England

No.6. 1981 – London, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Switzerland, Italy and France, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland. We met Peter, Elisabeth and baby Kristy on this trip.

No.7. 1984 - we shared a large part of this trip with Ted and Anne Lewis. Pat and I went to Canada then flew to Amsterdam where we met Ted and Anne. France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Southern France Pompeii, Sorrento and Capri, Assisi

No.8. 1987 - a large part was shared again with Ted and Anne Lewis. Singapore, Egypt, Guernsey, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, England, Scotland,

No.9. 1989 - Norfolk Island with Peter and Marie King.

No.10. 1989 - to the USA with our eldest son Peter . LA, Yosemite National Park. Tijuana, Grand Canyon, Washington D.C., New York, San Francisco.

No.11. 1993 - I went with Mervyn to Western Canada, Washington State of the USA, London and Egypt. After returning to London, I flew to Hong Kong where I met Pat and a group of friends. The time that Merv and I spent in Egypt was wonderful and I visited a number of places that I hadn't been to in 1987.

No.12. 1994 - France with our friends David and Barbara Elkin. Isle of Wight, Oxford (to join a canal cruise).

No.13. 1995 - Vancouver with Bob and Bev Low - joined a cruise on S.S.Universe up the coast of Canada to Alaska, Salt Lake City, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Napa Valley, San Francisco

No.14. 1996 - Pottery Tour in Greece and Turkey. Strasbourg, Alsace, Burgundy, Dijon, where we met Ted and Anne Lewis. St. Florentin where we obtained a barge to spend a week going up the Burgundy Canal to Montbard.

No.15. 1998 – London, Prague, Norway. We met Bob and Bev again in Norway, then Finland, Russia.

No.16. 2002 - we visited the UK with Penny

No.17. 2005 Tour of Eastern Europe by private train.

In 2007 Phil and Pat returned to Norfolk Island. They enjoyed it so much that they went back with Penny in 2008, making a total of 19 trips overseas. Phil was always aware of how very fortunate he was, and this brief memoir reflects the richness of his happy life.



