

# John Green - Life Sketch



John Henry Green was born into an Adventist family in Lahore, India in 1938. He was born 2 months premature with cerebral palsy. His mother Coralie was a Matron in the British Army Hospitals in India.

His father Harry was in the army and post war became an accountant.



John's brother David was born in 1943 and in 1945 John's parents divorced and his father moved to England. Coralie being a single mother sent John to Vincent Hill Boarding School (VHS) in Missouri up in the Himalayan mountains. Off to school was a little boy with leg callipers.





VHS was a hill station and snow bound in winter. So getting between the dorms and classes was quite difficult. When it came to sport activities at school John would enter every event even though he would come last. All students were required to work and John was no exception. He worked in

the kitchen, laundry and did cleaning.

His brother David came to join him at VHS at the tender age of four. John, only nine, was responsible for caring for David. When the bell rang for meal times the children had a very limited time to run up the hill before the dining hall doors were locked. As you can imagine for John getting up the hill would be a challenge. Try adding four year old David who would throw a tantrum and lie on the ground. John would try to drag him but sometimes they would miss out on meals.



India was partitioned into Pakistan and India in 1948 and during the holidays the boys would need to travel over the border between the two countries. On one occasion their mother forgot to give the boys their passports and both boys ended up in jail overnight until their passports arrived on the next plane. John described this as the most terrifying experience.

David changed to a school closer to home, while John was privileged to stay on at Vincent Hill until it closed permanently.

In 1955, John commenced a Business degree at Spicer College. In 1959, his final year, he met Anita and a beautiful relationship started. As India was now independent from England, his family wanted to move to England – but John decided the warmth of Australia would suit him better.



So in 1960 he migrated to Australia. Travelling by ship on the SS Orion.

While back in the 1960's disabled people were not employed. However the Lord opened the door for him to work in BHP as a clerk. John went to TAFE after work to study all over again. During his early years John shared a desk with John Prescott who in future years became the GM of BHP.

His big break came at work when there was a computer meltdown of the accounting system. Days later the big bosses came to see what was happening and found staff running around, backward and forward to John. They asked "Who is and why are everyone going to the young man in the corner?" The reply was, John Green from the audit department he is the only one who understands the problems and how to fix them. So the Bosses sacked the others and put John in charge.

Proving what a determined character he was, John went on to get another Bachelors degree and also his CPA.



In 1962 John miraculously survived a motor bike accident after coal dust blew into his eyes while riding his motorbike. In those days helmets were not worn. He hit the back of a stationary car, somersaulted over the top of the car and landed on his feet in front of the car!. The poor driver couldn't believe his eyes. God was certainly looking out for John as he had over all the years.



In 1962 his mother Coralie and brother David moved to Australia where the family was reunited.



In 1964 Anita followed John to Australia and



started working at the San as a secretary. Anita would later study nursing knowing that she would need nursing skills to care for John.



John would travel from Newcastle by motorbike to visit Anita. This would take 3 hours on the old Pacific Highway. What do you think would make a man travel this distance?



I think it was this good looking nurse!



1965 they were engaged



John and Anita married in 1966 at Hamilton SDA Church Notice the suits did not fit – this is because there were two John Green’s being married that weekend. The two best men pictured here are Brian Doak and Cedric Greive Both are here today with more stories to tell.



Gordon was born in 1969.



15 months later I (Roger) came along.

Sadly in 1973 John's mother Coralie passed away and she was buried here at Avondale Cemetery.

In 1979 John had major problems with his upper spine and was recommended to have a lobectomy (partial removal of the brain) to relieve his pain. Thankfully John decided on a second opinion and travelled to Loma Linda, USA and London and was advised against having that type of risky surgery.



In 1984 John was awarded with his MBA from the University of Newcastle

John was a pioneering computer wiz. So we children grew up with computers. I remember him coming home extremely excited one day. Saying I have something for the computer that will revolutionise the world. "Great Dad, is it a game?" No Son, it's a spreadsheet. A few weeks ago he was talking about getting a computer upgrade.

In 1989 John's brother David passed away and in the same year John had to undergo a spinal laminectomy. Post op he used a walking frame and lost the use of the left side of his body. Not easy when you are left handed. BHP installed ramps and cheque signing machines. As far as BHP were concerned nothing had changed for John. Within six months John recovered and was driving again and had a new lease on life.

In 1991 BHP had a major restructure of its Newcastle Division and 1,200 employees were retrenched including his boss and several colleagues. However, God had a new Adventure planned for John and BHP offered him a new position in the Melbourne Head office. He enjoyed the time he had there and travelled overseas and interstate for the company.

The company gave him a send off on his retirement having served the company for 38 years.



On his last day they made him dressup in this outfit  
As he was off to the Gold Coast for a new lifestyle and  
hair style.



1998 John became a grandparent to twins  
Chasen and Shayli.

Then the grandchildren just kept on coming with

Jaiden



Levi



Chantelle



In 2004 John developed heart failure and had an aortic heart valve replacement.

2006 was a major turning point in John's health. While in England helping a sick relative, John had a minor stroke which he never recovered from.

In 2007 John was told unless he had more spinal surgery, he would end up paralysed. He had another Laminectomy operation. The operation was unsuccessful and caused more damage. His greatest fear of being paralysed had occurred. Anita began full time care of John. The house was turned into a hospital with railing, hoists, ramps and wheelchairs. It was amazing how she was able to look after John. It was backbreaking, and she needed to be a weightlifter.

In 2010 after three years of caring for John, Anita required back surgery, so John went into respite care that turned into a permanent arrangement at a high care facility close to home on the Gold Coast. It was hard for John and Anita to be apart, but she would faithfully visit him every day.

2016 John and Anita decided to move to Cooranbong and John moved into Avondale House where he was shown more than just nursing care, he was

shown love, dignity and respect. John was very happy there and finally could get some vegetarian food.

A couple of months ago John had a mini stroke.

21 December 2018, after 2 wonderful years at Avondale House, John went into a peaceful sleep, surrounded by his family. John will rise from this sleep when Jesus returns, not only with a new body, but maybe even a set of wings. I can't wait for that day! When, we can all be together once again.

On a personal note, our family would love to thank all the staff at Avondale House for their care and love shown to John. Their professionalism and dedication were second to none.

As a family we acknowledge God's leading in John's life and the many blessings that have been bestowed upon him. For his long life, loving family, academic achievements and 38 years of employment, we thank God for all John was able to do. We thank Him for the adventurous and prosperous life he lived.

John's legacy was his kindness and perseverance.

He was humble, highly intelligent and inspirational.

John said the best thing to happen in his life was..... "Anita"

And I will leave you with his motto in life

Which is..... "**Never.....** ever..... give up"

For the [Life in Pictures](#) and the [Full Chapel Service](#)

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