

## **Bardoel Family**

### **William Bardoel**

Emigrated from Holland in 1953

Died November 1987 aged 55

Was a watchmaker, became a builder.

Bardoel Constructions Pty Ltd

### **Jetske Bardoel**

Wife of William

### **Sons**

Peter, Chris and Albert

# Dutch-born watchmaker's building career ran like clockwork

By ALICE ARCHER

**W**ILLIAM Bardoel's natural flair for design was not discovered until he built his own home and was inundated with compliments from strangers and general offers from prospective buyers.

The Dutch-born watchmaker arrived in Australia in 1950 with no English, little money and a few worldly possessions. He had a strong will to succeed however, and bought a small farm in Queensland where he lived and worked until he was wooed to Melbourne by the promise of great fortune as the city prepared for the 1956 Olympic Games.

Building was the new boom industry and William, quick to grab a piece of the action, loaded up his truck and made a fair living delivering building materials. This was his first taste of the industry and he liked it, so much so he built his own house at Aspendale.

Although he was very proud of his work, he could never have imagined it was to be the launching pad for a new and successful career as a builder. His design was different from anything anyone had seen in the bayside suburbs and the locals loved it.

So William established a building company, employing three of his six sons as apprentice carpenters. He was the first to build cluster housing in the area and is well known for his development, Chelbara, in the 1970s.

When in 1987, his sons

Peter, Chris and Albert took over the business and continued introducing the local industry to design features and materials from around the world. They have also continued their father's pioneering work in medium-density housing.

The Bardoel brothers of Bardoel Homes have travelled the world in search of new ideas, although according to Peter, there is always a bit of "Bardoel freestyle" in every project. They have returned from Europe with a swag of great ideas they got from travels in the "primitives parts" of northern Italy, Spain and France. They have taken the best ideas and adapted them locally, winning a host of accolades for their efforts.

Between 1991 and 1993, they have won three major Housing Industry Association (HIA) awards and this year, their Mediterranean-style villa in Beach Road, Beaumaris, has been named a finalist in the HIA's best small-lot development and best medium-density design categories.

Peter Bardoel said some features had been adapted to suit the local market, but most of the details were exact replicas of "what you would see over there". The rendered finish is made using the same method the Italians and Spanish used 400 years ago, made from a blend of rich-colored sand and cement, so the color is natural and does not need to be painted.

Peter said it looks even better as it ages. The Rome-profile terra cotta roof tiles were imported from Italy and the limestone used around the arches

and as fence caps was hauled across the Nullarbor from Perth. Wrought iron balustrade is true to the theme and handmade bricks are used to string courses and corbelling under the eaves.

Consistent with the theme of simplicity, Shugg sashless, double-hung windows have been chosen and are framed in Western red cedar, which Peter says weathers well in a salty environment.

The natural and earthy Bavour is continued inside, which is equally charming. Interest is derived from contrasting textures such as polished timber and raw terra cotta.

The living rooms have been laid with stained and polished Tasmanian oak floorboards, custom cut at twice the usual width and bordered by dog footprint, and hand-made terra cotta tiles which were imported from Mexico.

Other features of interest include rag-washed walls, beaten timber doors and heavily detailed wrought-iron stair rails. The Bardoels often recycle timber from old ruins and use it to make kitchen benches or doors.

Peter believes Mediterranean features go well with the beach and are "very compatible" with the bayside suburbs. He gets calls from people who pass his Beach Road project and like what they see.

The Bardoel brothers are off to northern Italy in October for the Sale 96 exhibition in Bologna, where they will pick up more ideas and trends.

# To Dad, with all our love

By JOY GORDON

FRIDAY, June 14, would have been William J. Bardoel's 59th birthday.

His widow, six sons and daughters-in-law spent the afternoon mingling with guests in a marquee at the William J. Bardoel Park in Kingston Drive, Dingley. His nine grandchildren ran around the playground.

William Bardoel died of cancer in December 1987 aged 55 — part way through building the 50-acre Kingston Rise estate on the south of Centre Dandenong Rd, Dingley.

But his spirit will be kept alive in the 1.014ha park which his family developed on the estate and handed over to Springvale Council on June 14.

And his vision for Dingley will be carried through by his widow Jetske and six sons William, John, Paul, Albert, Peter and Chris, who have continued the family land development company Kingston Rise Pty Ltd. All are company directors and John is also company solicitor.

In addition, Paul sells family-owned land through his company Kingston Real Estate and the three youngest sons Albert, Peter and Chris build homes on the estate as the Bardoel Construction Company.

All but two members of the family will live in



JETSKE Bardoel looks over the park developed and named in memory of her husband.

Pictures: SUSAN WINDMILLER

neighboring houses overlooking the park.

As developers, the family gave Springvale Council the park as its compulsory public open space contribution. But contributed land does not have to be developed, as the Bardoels did at their own cost.

The park, with an aerated lake, walk bridge, paths, lights, trees, automatic sprinkling system, rose garden and playground, cost nearly \$200,000 to develop.

Springvale Council, in its contribution to the park, will pay the family \$35,000 over five years.

William J. Bardoel spent the last 20 years of his life developing tranquil, landscaped housing estates in Chelsea, Cheltenham and the yet-to-be-completed Kingston Rise estate — so his family thought it only fitting to develop a peaceful parkland in his memory.

But, as his eldest son William said at the hand over: "Dad didn't spend much time in parks — he was too busy working. Parks are for leisure, recreation, and he didn't do much of that, either."

"But I searched my mind to try to rationalise this predicament and I thought, well, Dad might look at it this way: 'It took a lot of hard work to make this park, it will take a lot of hard work to keep the park. This is good.'

"My father will find some peace and tranquility in seeing this park wherever he is."

William J. Bardoel emigrated from Holland in 1953. Failing eyesight put an end to his career as a watchmaker, and he later became a builder.

He built his first house in Aspendale — for his family — and went on to

develop 1400 homes in the district encompassing Chelsea, Aspendale, Mordialloc, Mentone, Cheltenham and Dingley, including 504 units at Chelbara Village in Baxter Av, Chelsea, and 107 units at Warribar Village in Centre Dandenong Rd, Cheltenham.

The Kingston Rise Estate, which is two-thirds complete, will have more than 200 homes.

William J. Bardoel's family described him as a "man of enormous energy" who "could see op-

portunity where others could not".

He was "courageous and determined", a "hard and tough businessman, often uncompromising and difficult to deal with" — yet "a man of his word and a man of honor".

Three days before William J. Bardoel died, Springvale Council sent him a letter recording its "appreciation" of his contribution to the "development and character of this city".

"No family developer has made such an outstanding contribution for many years, at least," it read.

"Your untimely illness has ... deprived council of the time to plan a fitting form of recognition."

The Kingston Rise estate was named after Dr Ronald Kingston, who was born there and originally owned the land.

"I think Bill loved Dingley and he always wanted to build something so forever he could be proud of Dingley," Dr Kingston said at the hand over.

"This park will be perpetually a reminder of Bill Bardoel. This is beautiful. Surely no man could require a better memorial than that. He was a great Dutchman, a better Australian."

Mrs Jetske Bardoel said the naming of the park after her husband was "a great honor, but a lovely birthday present".



JETSKE Bardoel with sons (from left) John, Albert, William, Paul, Peter and Chris.



FROM left: Peter, Jetske, Chris and Albert Bardoeel . . . keen to develop a park in memory of husband and father, William Bardoeel.

# Family plans to develop park

**WILLIAM** Bardoeel was a man with immense drive and vision.

Emigrating from Holland in 1953 as a watchmaker, he was the man behind the development of aesthetic cluster housing estates in Chelsea, Cheltenham and the yet-to-be-completed Kingston Rise project in Dingley — not to mention many smaller constructions.

All the estates have been creatively designed, offering house and land packages with beautifully landscaped gardens.

Mr Bardoeel died in November 1987, aged 55, but his spirit will be kept alive in the tranquil environment he created and by the proposed W. J. Bardoeel Memorial Park, to be developed in Kingston Drive, Dingley.

Three of Mr Bardoeel's six sons, Albert, Peter and Chris, have continued the family business, the Bardoeel Group of Companies.

The 1.014ha parkland is the company's public open space contribution to Springvale Council, which must be made by

By JOY GORDON

all major developers.

Contributed land, however, does not have to be developed, as the Bardoeel family has offered to do at minimal cost to council.

Mrs Jetske Bardoeel, who decided to develop the park in memory of her husband, has been closely involved with the design.

In addition to the usual regrading, grassing, paths, tree planting and playground equipment, the proposed reserve would include a feature lake, bridge, rose garden and picnic area.

Surrounded by units,

it would provide passive recreation for more than 300 residential properties on the completed Kingston Rise estate, as well as properties in the established Village Drive estate abutting the development.

Albert, Peter and Chris have offered to build the park to a high standard and maintain it for the first 12 months, asking that council provide a full-time maintenance gardener after that and only reimburse the amount of money it would normally spend on the development of such an area.

At its meeting last week, council approved the proposed develop-

ment in principle, subject to minor modifications such as the lake position and possible inclusion of a public electric barbecue.

Council will also consider reimbursing the company \$35,000 over a period of five years, and consider funding a maintenance gardener.

An application will be made to the State Government's place names committee to formally recognise the reserve as the "W. J. Bardoeel Memorial Park".

Developing the W. J. Bardoeel Memorial Park is going to hold special significance for many people.

**BUSINESS**

# Family has history of building fine homes

**BUILDING** is in the blood of brothers Peter, Albert and Christopher Bardoel.

This skilled trio is the guiding force behind Bardoel Constructions Pty Ltd in Dingley.

The Bardoel family has been established as a home builder in the Dingley area for over 30 years.

Its achievements include building more than 200 homes on the Kingston Rise Estate.

Bardoel Constructions has been successful in building homes in Melbourne's south eastern suburbs, winning a HIA Top Homes award in 1991.

The business, at 47

Kingston Drive, specialises in home design and construction.

Peter says their workload is divided between building traditional homes and constructing medium density homes.

They also specialise in replacing old houses with luxury homes.

### Award

Bardoel Constructions is said to believe in creating homes that are tailor built to the customer's needs, and no two of its homes are the same inside or out.

Its success continued when it won the HIA Top Homes award in the Medium Density Private category on October 23 this year.

Its new home at Arthur St, Sandringham, took out the prize. Peter says the two-storey property was radical design.

From the street, the two dwellings are said to present a united front.

One unit comprises three bedrooms, the other has two.

The judges were said to comment that the duplex approach reflected the growing community demands for accommodation on small lots in established suburbs.

The judges were also impressed by the successful blending of art deco and Federation styles.

Not bad for a company which started entering just four years ago and was runners up in 1990.

Bardoel Constructions is currently building an indoor swimming centre in Chelsea Heights for Olympic swimmer Toby Haenan.

Peter says residents are excited about this facility as the area is lacking in a swimming centre.

The aim is to finish the project in late January next year, co-ordinating with the start of school.

The Bardoel brothers plan to expand their business into the Mentone, Moorabbin and Parkdale areas.

For more information, phone 551-5533.



**BROTHERS Albert, Peter and Chris Bardoel of Bardoel Constructions.**

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# Surviving deep w

**Peter Bardoel knows the agony and ecstasy of sport. TERESA MURPHY reports**

**PARKDALE'S** Peter Bardoel knows pain: he's swum the 33km-wide English Channel, attempted to cross New Zealand's treacherous Cook Strait and braves Port Phillip bay in mid-winter without a wetsuit.

He has known the extreme highs of endurance sport, and some debilitating lows, even suffering clinical depression in 2004.

But it's all been worth it, he says. Through all the agony, he has emerged the stronger for it - he is, in his own words, a changed man.

Mr Bardoel is now looking forward to carrying the Queen's Baton in Parkdale on March 2, one of 20 Kingston residents chosen for the honour.

The 45-year-old Dingley-based builder has lived in Mordialloc and Parkdale all his life, one of six sports-mad boys.

Twelve years ago, with a growing family of his own, he took up swimming to keep fit. But it was not long before his competitive nature yearned for a challenge.

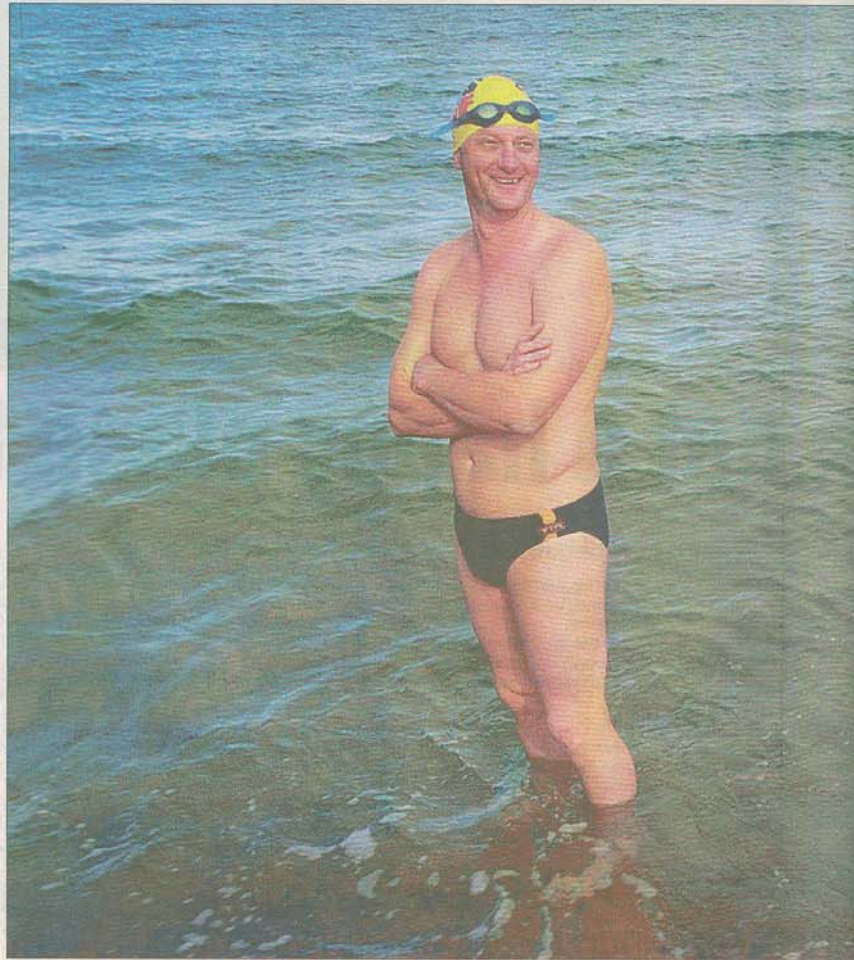
He competed in the AUSSI Masters, then in open-water 1.2km to 5km swims in Port Phillip and the Rottnest Channel swim in Western Australia.

Six years ago he joined the Brighton-based Icebergs, who swim in mid-winter at least four times a week. Sans wetsuit.

Then a larger challenge loomed, the Everest for open-water swimmers: the English Channel.

Mr Bardoel asked friends to join him in a double-crossing relay of the English Channel in 2001. Five accepted, including his brother, Albert, and they achieved their marathon crossing in July, with a time of 10:11 one way and 10:48 back with no rest in between.

"It was a pretty scary stretch of water - turbulent, 7m tides, ships



**Marathon swimmer Peter Bardoel is enjoying a new balance in life.**

and hovercraft, nets, seaweed, oil spills," Mr Bardoel said.

"But it was an unbelievable experience. I just had to go back."

Back in Melbourne, his intense training regime made gaining weight difficult.

English Channel swimmers only wear bathers, cap and goggles and grease up with lanoline, so the extra blubber is vital. Mr Bardoel needed at least an extra 13kg.

"I had to spend a week in Holland beforehand to fatten up," he said.

At 2pm on July 27, 2002, Mr Bardoel began his solo crossing.

Although the channel is 33km across, Mr Bardoel swam 53km because of the tides.

He did it in a time of 12hr 25min (the average is 13 hours) at 68 strokes a minute, a total of 50,000 strokes. The record is 7hr 3min.

Mr Bardoel, who lost 4kg in the crossing, was the 29th Australian to swim the channel. To date 777 people have swum it solo.

He was back yet again in 2003, this time in two support swims for friends and his brother, Albert, who crossed it in 14hr 45min.

Then it was time to take stock. "It

dominates your life, I wanted balance," he said.

In 2004, Mr Bardoel suffered his first, "and only", bout of depression.

"It's bloody horrible. Nobody can possibly understand it unless they've been through it," he said.

"It was the quickest recovery ever because I just had to get out of that dark place.

"But you learn so much from it - when you re-emerge from such depths, life has a whole new meaning."

Thanks to medication and a car-