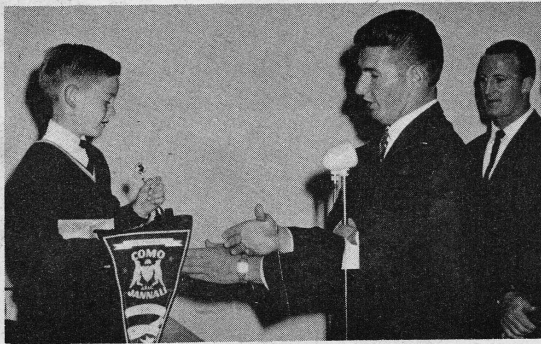


THE GRAEME LANGLANDS STORY



G R A E M E
Frank Langlands was a skinny kid born in the days when World War I was swinging in the balance — and no one knew quite what the future held.

Wollongong hasn't spawned such a son since the enigmatic Norman Gunston came along recently to keep the name of the 'Gong high in the headlines.



Graeme Langlands has attended hundreds of presentations to junior football teams. Here he makes one to a youngster from Como. Johnny Raper is in the background.

Chang, favorite son of everyone who calls himself a St. George fan, first saw the light of day on September 2, 1941.

He was born to Zell and Bill Langlands who were then living at Corrimal Street, Wollongong, deep in the heart of Rugby League

territory, with the tang of the Port Kembla steelworks in the air.

He was an ordinary kid. A pushing, shoving short-back-and-sides kid who didn't do what he was told and loved a scrap better than anything.

No one knew then that

EXCLUSIVE
by
Philip Jenkins

young Graeme was to sustain the most amazing record a Rugby League player has ever boasted since the game creaked off the mark back in 1908.

But even as a marble-playing, socks-around-the-ankles kid Chang showed the first signs of his love for Rugby League, the game that was to shape and dictate his life.

As a kid he would zip along the Wollongong streets side-stepping people as they strolled by. The Langlands side-step, a Rugby League marvel for more than a dozen years, was born.

Once he side-stepped too far in a Wollongong Park, hit a pole and knocked himself out.



Chang first played League when he was about eight. His first memories of League are of running on at half-time with junior teams during big match breaks and giving the mob something to watch while they waited for the stars to come back on.

The young Chang raged around Wollongong like most kids his age. He went to school there — Wollongong primary and then Wollongong tech with a brief sojourn at a Sydney college sandwiched in the middle.



At Wollongong tech he studied through to the intermediate certificate, and then headed out into the world.

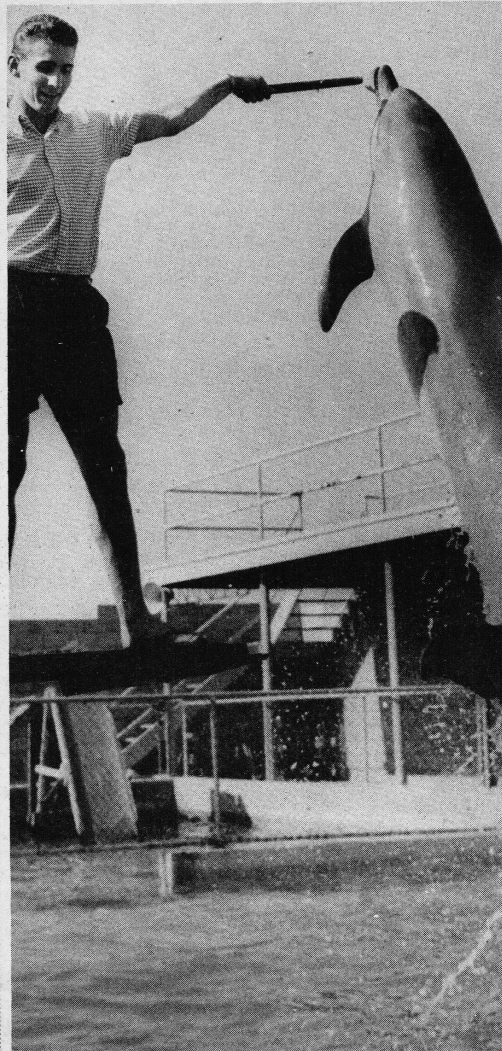
Panel beating was the trade he settled on. For £3/5/- when he started, and £5 when he finished, the young Chang learned the business of knocking cars back into shape.

Asked about it now, he says wistfully: "If it wasn't for football I'd probably still be a panelbeater in Wollongong. Probably right now I'd be standing in a pub down there having a couple of beers."

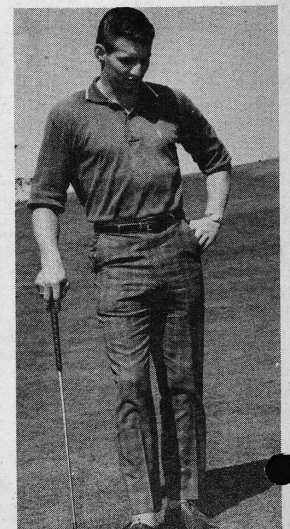
Langlands' tools of trade now lie somewhere deep at the bottom of Wollongong harbour.

They landed there the day he decided Rugby League was going to be his life.

Chang mixed a busy sporting life with his early days in the business world



Chang feeding the dolphin on a holiday to the Gold Coast which is one of his favourite resorts.



Chang the golfer. What about the haircut?

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