

Stari ata – The Grandad

Here, “*stari ata*”, the tailor and farmer in Slovenia, brought Anna, his second wife, and Mirko, their son, to live. *Stari ata* was still my mate and I often asked him questions about his life, which he always refused to answer. I knew he missed his winery and was never happier when given a painting of his house surrounded by his vineyard for his birthday. Oddly even with all that happened in Slovenia between them, it was my mother who took her stepmother for treatment and helped every time she needed it. Mum didn’t do it for her, but she said, she did it for her father, and when she asked for her biological mother’s wedding ring he declined.

Unfortunately he got gangrene in his right foot from a horse bite in Slovenia. This caused him eventually to lose his right leg, and when gangrene set in his left foot, he gave up. So at 74 he passed away in rehab in Seaford Melbourne. His burial service was in our Slovenian church St. Cyril and Methodius in Melbourne and he is buried in Keilor cemetery alongside his wife Anna.