

Ernie Ehlert

1882 - 1947

World Champion Axeman

Born on July 3, 1892, in Conondale, Queensland, Ernie Ehlert made his mark as a world champion axeman and a dedicated dairy farmer. He married Jessie Marion Watts in 1932 in Taree, New South Wales. In 1947, at the age of 55, he proudly earned the title of World's Champion Axeman at the prestigious carnival in Ulverstone, Tasmania.

He took up dairy farming in Conondale and continued competing in handicap wood chopping events until his death on December 28, 1947.

His legacy lives on in the hearts of many.

Here's to a true Conondale champion!



Ernie Ehlert, born at Conondale, aged about 17 years. His brother "Firdy" is standing on his right. Ernie became world champion axeman in 1927. This was cut on a 15 inch standing block and the time was not beaten until 20 years later. Ernie once cut a 12 inch standing block in 18 seconds in Newcastle, N.S.W. This photograph was taken when Ernie won the Junior Championship at the Brisbane Exhibition (under 18). A few minutes later he chopped in the men's event and won Champion of Queensland. His nephew Bob English, born and raised in Conondale also was once known as Queensland's greatest axeman. Original photograph: Roy Rirl.