

Louis & Elsie Elias

This couple had a long life together. The story of their lives has been told by Elsie from notes during the latter stages of her life.

Elia (later Louis) George Elias was born in Northern Greece on 25 December 1922 and came to Australia aged 15, on his own, in 1937. He disembarked in Brisbane and the Greek Club looked after him and organised for him to board a train for Mount Isa, where he met his father. He was employed at the town garage and signed up to serve a 5 year motor mechanic apprenticeship. After the completion of his apprenticeship, Louis enlisted with the RAAF in 1943 and served in Borneo and New Guinea. He was discharged in 1946 and returned to Brisbane where he set up a small motor mechanic's workshop in Charlotte Street.

Elsie May Kadel was born in Brisbane on 30 December 1926. She was educated at the local convent and her first job was in an accountant's office where she worked and studied to become a qualified accountant.



Louis and Elsie met and married in 1948 and had a very happy marriage and life together for almost 60 years. They had no children.

They spent the first 15 years of their marriage in Brisbane where they owned and operated a successful motor repair shop in Caswell Street. They looked around for somewhere to buy and bought a farm at Kalbar, on the Scenic Rim.

Then they were successful in winning a "Brigalow Lands Fitzroy Basin Development Scheme" land ballot in 1963 in the Dawson Valley. It was west of Rockhampton and Moura. 12,400 acres. They called their property "Yanina". Their access road had not yet been built, the block hadn't been surveyed. They had no telephone or electricity.

Their years in the Brigalow from 1963 to 1988 were those of drought, fires, road constructions, water problems, lack of funding for breeding cattle, drought and fires again. In the first week of 1988, Louis

suggested that it was time to retire.

They retired to Maleny, to Mountain View Rd, then as Louis's health deteriorated, they moved to a unit at Erowol. After Louis passed, Elsie moved to a unit at Caloundra and finally to Arcare at Maroochydore.

Louis passed in 2008 aged 85 years and 12 years later, Elsie, aged 94 passed. Both are buried side by side, in the Witta Cemetery.

Many charities and organisations will remain indebted to the hard work and determination of Louis & Elsie. Several groups in Maleny were benefactors in Elsie's will including the Maleny Hospital Auxiliary, Maleny Arts & Crafts, St John's Community Care, the Anglican Parish and the Maleny Cultural & Historical Society.



Louis and Elsie at the Cattlemans Dinner, Rockhampton 1980's.

Collated by Desley Malone
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