

A celebration of our Father

## **Alan Edward Lawley**

**15 January 1923 - 30 May 2009**

Only son of Ernest and Minnie Lawley, brother to Evelyn Lawley & Val Beausang

Val's earliest recollection of our Dad is on her first day of going to school in Maleny. Whilst walking down to the barn, dad was waiting with the pony to give her a 'double up' with him to school.

Dad was a keen Boy Scout and went away on many camping trips including the Jamboree in Sydney in 1939.

Dad left school early when he was about 13-14yo to help on the farm. To further his education, he enrolled in a couple of correspondence courses for English and Motor Mechanics, lessons which continued when he entered the Air force.

Alan joined the Royal Australian Air Force from Maleny enlisting at 3 Recruit Centre Brisbane on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1943. On completion of training to become a fitter mechanic, he was posted to No 3 Wireless and Gunnery Schools, Maryborough. After Maryborough he was posted to Adelaide, then onto Gorrie in the Northern Territory 490 kms south of Darwin. He then went to Communications Unit at Bachelor, 100 km south of Darwin. It was during this time in the Northern Territory that Alan was out on the road not far from Darwin, when the Japanese bombed that city. Fortunately for him and his mates, they were out of town. Alan celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on his way home from Darwin. He was compassionately discharged from the RAAF in 1945 and returned home to look after his father and help his family run the farm, "Arley" at Reesville. Alan's father had bred a beautiful herd of AIS dairy cattle. He was having great successes with showing his cattle and milk production records.

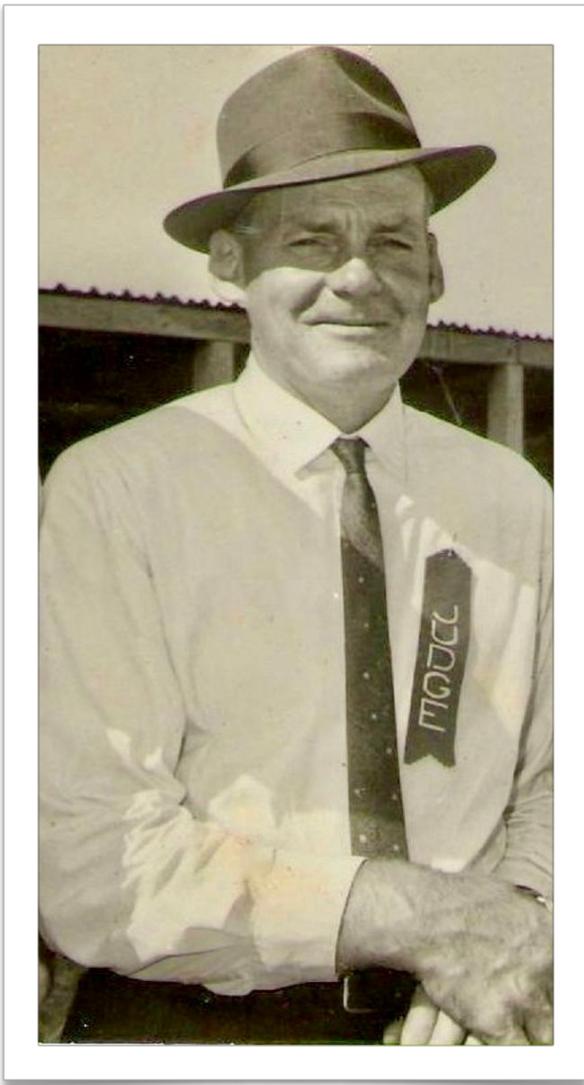


Harry Williamson, a shopkeeper and newly settled in Maleny town, had purchased the local drapery store. Harry had a beautiful young daughter named Jessie, and Dad took a keen interest in her. They married in 1949, and lived with his parents while their house was built. They gave birth to five exceptionally beautiful children, Robyn, Janette, Edward, Greg and Margaret.

Dad carried on with his father's work of breeding Illawarra cattle. He was a pioneering young farmer, and always keen to try something new, much to the horror of his peers.

As a young boy growing up, I witnessed how Dad had a special bond with each dog he had and they would respond to his every wish. He would train them to muster his cattle and have fun with them in many very humorous ways.

My Dad's passion was Breeding and Showing cattle. He loved his cattle, and loved the time spent with other cattlemen.



He was a Queensland Illawarra Branch Committeeman for more than 20 years, and Publicity Officer for more than 10. He served on the Classification, Management and Inspections Committees of the Illawarra Queensland Branch. He was also on the panel of Royal Show judges for many years, and had officiated at Sydney, Adelaide and Perth Royal Shows, Kiama twice, Shepparton and innumerable country shows.

Dad had a lifetime association with the Illawarra breed and involvement in the AIS society affairs. He was elected Federal President of the Society in 1971. He completed a three year term. At the Brisbane Exhibition in the year 2000, he was presented with a Life Membership of the Illawarra Cattle Society of Australia

As a young boy, I recall he always seemed to be going to meetings. He took an active role in his community.

He was a foundation member of the Maleny branch of the Queensland Dairyman's Organisation and was branch president for three

years. He has been a Wide Bay District councillor of the QDO and district Vice-President for several years and proxy State Councillor for Wide Bay.

He served on the Maleny Show committee for more than 20 years.

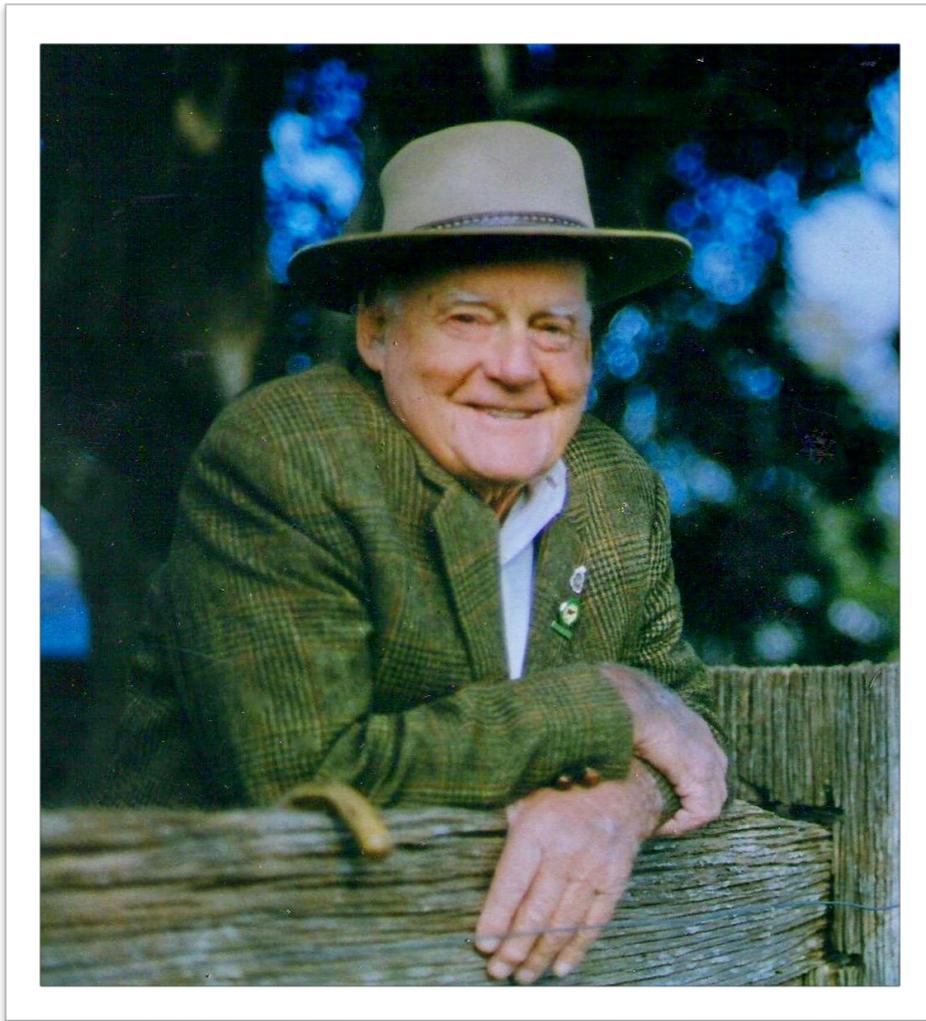
He was a member of the Maleny Rotary Club, Maleny P&C, President for several years and committee member, a Member of the Odd Fellows Lodge and an Active member of Maleny Masonic Lodge.

A very active Member of the Maleny RSL. He was secretary in 1946, then treasurer in 1947, 48, & 49. He was then president 1950, 51 and 52.

Trustee of the RSL Maleny sub branch until incorporation in 2002.

All throughout Dad's life he had been troubled with chronic asthma. He would come home from showing at the Brisbane exhibition exhausted and spend weeks recovering in hospital. It would put enormous workload on his mother, sister and wife Jessie, who were left to operate the farm. We nearly lost him to asthma when he was in his forties and Mum was told to prepare herself to carry on alone. We were told he wouldn't live past 48yo. Well you should never say things like that to my father. I have never known a more determined man than him. He turned 86 last January.

Dad, affectionately known as Pa, absolutely adored all his grandchildren. When they would drop in for a visit, it was the highlight of his week. He would talk about it for days. He always gave them 100 % of his attention and took an interest in their lives.



He always knew what part of the world they were in at any given time and he had a special relationship with each and every one of them. He never compared or judged, was just so proud of all their achievements and loved them unconditionally.

Through the Masonic lodge Dad and his mate Hank Drent formed a committee, and together set out fundraising to help various organisations throughout the community. They made a great team, never argued, set a plan in action and went about completing the task. Both were recognised for their fundraising work at the Australia Day Awards in 2007.

Unfortunately, as we get older, we need more help and care to get by. We would like to thank our dad's good mate Hank, he has been a great friend. For several years now, Hank would call in to see dad at home every morning. Make him a cup tea, sometimes breakfast. He would help with any chores around the house and keep him company.

We would also like to thank the Blue Care staff who cared for dad at home, I know many of you struck up good friendships with him. To the Meals on Wheels volunteers and the Friendship Group for the outings, and all the volunteers who took him to the doctors, dropped him off, and picked him up. Our thanks go to you all.

To the Dr's and nurses who always gave him good care, the family thanks you. To the Maleny Show Society, for all your help during this past week, thank you.

Our eternal gratitude to his grandson Mark, who, for the last couple of years, has called in every afternoon, making sure his Pa had his evening meal. Dad needed that care, he was visually impaired, and the pair of them worked out a routine. His good health the last year is testament to that.

You have all made it possible for him to have his wish of being able to spend his last years, and weeks at home. You gave him the dignity he truly deserved.

How wonderful it is to see so many people here today joining us in celebrating our Dad's life. The family, thanks you all for coming.

Dad's coffin was raised on the shoulders of his six grandsons,

Mark and Peter Webster, Adam, Jason, Michael and Daniel Lawley and marched military style to the Black Vintage Dodge Hearse.

Eulogy by Ed Lawley