

Thank you all for joining us in this celebration of the life of
Neville WATSON

- **What a bundle of mischief he was** - Born Killarney QLD on 21 January 1929
- He lived on the family farm at Dalman – near Kilarney with brother Doug and sisters Dawn, Thelma and Glenda.
- He rode horses 8 miles to school each day after milking 87 cows from 4 years old – or so he said – what did all the rest of the family do while he was doing this **mmmmmmmm??**
- He caught rabbits with Doug and sold them for pocket money,
- His Dad bought a pineapple/citrus farm at Montville in 1944 - he reckoned it was the hardest work he**EVER** did!
- Eight months later his dad, Walter, bought a business in Maleny **which eventually became** known as "Watsons Garage"" **and the only** transport operator **in the Maleny** area.
- As the war was raging, Nev was forced to begin his bus driving career at 15 years of age.
- He still managed to get up to a lot of mischief. He often played tennis or cards in Landsborough while waiting for the train to arrive. On many occasions **however** he spent **his** time at the Landsborough Hotel and **often** got "the chat" from his MUM Chrissy.
- There was petrol rationing and people had no way of getting to picture theatres, public transport, dances, beach parties etc so he was kept very busy driving the buses and taxis.
- On St Patrick's Day 1951, Nev married the love of his life – Glad Larney and they went on to have 3 WONDERFUL children! He now has 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.
- WL Watson and Sons Maleny, held a Mail contract (Landsborough/ Maleny) 1944 – 1980 a record term according to the Postmaster General.
- In addition they had haulage contracts with the Maleny Butter factory, taking butter to the railway station in Landsborough. He was up at 4 am to load 8 ton of 56 lb boxes of butter per day.
- Fresh food, beer and any farm produce was carted and delivered to shops and farms in the region. Pubs in Landsborough, Maleny and Mapleton got their grog supplies via Watsons.
- In 1962 the petrol bowsers were installed at the garage and a mechanical/panel beating/spray painting service started.
- In 1965 molasses carting started; Nev drove over 1 million kms in 10 years covering areas between Bundaberg, St George and Lismore.

- **After a few years Doug also joined him in the molasses business but they sold their trucks in 1990 and "retired", rather than drive Mum crazy being home all the time he sunk his enormous energy into the Maleny Bowls Club and spent most hours of the day there.**
- **He worked tirelessly as a volunteer barman, and was also provider/ green keeper/PR man/ barbeque organiser and he was Patron of the Maleny club for 15 years.**
- **He was President 3 times (1985, 1997,1998) and had numerous trips around Qld and Northern NSW region on past presidents' tours. He and his mates had many a great time on these jaunts - Laurie Packer remained one of his best friends and they had many great stories to share. In the year 2000, Dad was very proud to be state runner up in the Men's fours at Bundaberg especially when he was staying with us in Bargara at the time so he had 2 adoring Grandsons to show off to.**
- **Fishing was a passion and he was the luckiest fisherman around. He was often pulling in heaps of big ones and the other mates in his boat would be catching nothing, so he would swap spots/ lines/bait etc but still managed to keep pulling them in. He taught his children and grandchildren to fish and was very patient with us all. He used to put the worm on the hook for us 'cos it was too goopy', also take the fish off the hook and even clean them but gave us the credit for the catch! I have just SO many wonderful fishing memories of times that I shared with my Dad!**
- **Referred to by many, as "Mayor of Maleny" he spent a lot of time wandering the streets to make sure everything was running smoothly and ensuring every lady he encountered got a "hug to brighten up day".**
- **He greeted all the gentlemen he passed with a cheery "Hello Captain/ Sunshine/ or Curly" and always had something cheeky to say to everyone. He was never good with names but never forgot a face so if someone asked who he was talking to he used to say "Charlie Grey balls"**
- **He was a tireless worker for the Show society for 30 years. Every year he was painting, cleaning and organising others to make sure the show was a success. He insisted that all jobs had to be done to the best standard or else he made them do it again! A job worth doing is worth doing well was one of his mottos. He ran the bar for most of these years and made some really great friends who appreciated his dedication. When he was in ICU after he had his first aneurism problem all he could think of was the Maleny Show and whether anyone had ordered the beer and sorted out the cold room and if the drinks would**

be looked after and be cold enough. He was extremely chuffed when he was given a badge and a lifetime member award to show his efforts were valued.

- Neville was a bit of a devil when the **new** bus shelter was being built and was always up there giving them advice or just **some good natured jibes**. They quite enjoyed his off beat sense of humour and **looked forward to** his visits.
- He always looked forward to running into his council worker mates, and had plenty of work suggestions for them, which always gave them a bit of a chuckle.
- When he became unwell, he still went for his walks to spread his sunshine around the town whenever he was able – even if it meant taking lots of time-outs– He refused to give in to his weakening body.
- Even though he knew he was on borrowed time, he decided to give his all to the community as he had always done. He even wanted to go to **help** sort out **any** Show **issues** in his last few weeks and be a part of it all.

Dad there is a huge empty place in my world now that you are gone and I know you will be in my thoughts and heart forever! I am sure this will be the same for everyone here. Love u lots xxx

by Sherry (Watson) O'Brien