



Bessie Humphreys (Nee Dixon)

Born 1916

Until 1931 Bessie Dixon lived with her grandmother in Bangalow as her mother suffered from ill-health. However, she did recover by her late 30's. At 15 years of age, Bessie came to Conondale, where she kept house for her father and brother.

Bessie's father had cleared land and planted bananas, but frost killed the plants in the first year and the family was without an income for three years.

Bessie remembers that neighbours sent over a gramophone and records and visited. There were school picnics and dances in the butter factory and at Conondale Hall. They went on the truck or rode the pony. Swimming in the creek was a weekend pastime. Many children walked to school at Conondale from Elaman Creek.

Bessie's father grew vegetables and they kept house cows, chooks and ducks. Her father made butter, which Bessie hated.

Church played a big part in Bessie's life. She attended every Sunday when she was at Bangalow. It was a rest day for everyone and she was not even allowed to sew.

Bessie was taught to knit by her grandmother and to crochet by her aunt. She also learnt dressmaking and did a lot of sewing. She also made a lot of preserves.

The community gave Bessie a kitchen tea before she married, but early in her married life Bessie's house burned down and everything was lost. However, the community rallied again and gave a benefit dance as well as a lot of gifts.

Bessie and John had two children but in 1946 Bessie lost her daughter to diphtheria.

For a long time Bessie and her husband milked by hand, but in time her husband got severe arthritis and handed the farm to their son. Now, in 2005, Bessie still lives in her home on Upper Cedar Creek Road.

Bessie's Quilt:

Bessie's quilt depicts aspects of her life right up to the present time – the dances and the gramophone, preserves, the dairy, sewing, building the home she still occupies in Upper Cedar Creek Road and knitting trauma teddies which she still donates to the children of the Philippines and the church. The strips of fabric denote green scrub, timber, birds and snakes, rocks, fire, platypus, wallabies, bananas and bracken fern. The quilt is put together in the attic window design as her mother spent so much time looking out of the window from hospital and home. It is bordered in blues for the sadness in Bessie's life, but Bessie's voice and attitude to life today are just so vibrant that she truly is a pioneer survivor.

In Loving Memory of

Bessie Eileen Humpherys



3 March 1916 - 9 January 2012
St. George's Anglican Church Maleny
Friday 13th January 2012
Rev. Ingrid Busk

Rev. Ingrid Busk
August 13th January 2015
St. George's Anglican Church Maleny



John and Dell

1942 - 2014

Humphreys

Children: Neville & Deirdre

John grew up on the farm in Cedar Creek Rd where his parents had settled years earlier. Here they had a dairy and grew bananas. John initially went to school at Elaman Ck School for the first half of his school life. He then changed to Conondale as they were not happy with his attendance at Elaman Ck school. John says that he had to ride a pushbike to and from Conondale school even though there was a bus going past. He was not eligible to go on the bus as rules did not permit a child to be taken past the closest school.

John had a younger sister, Jeanie, but sadly she died of Diphtheria at the age of four years.

John Jnr helped on the farm and later went to work for a time at Clermont. Eventually severe arthritis prevented John Snr from being able to run the farm, and the farm was handed over to their son.

Dell Jordan had grown up on a dairy farm at Kidaman Creek. She married John Jnr and they built their house on the farm. Not long after that they gave up dairying.

John started driving the milk truck, first for Ron Watt about 1966, and later for Percy Hassall. He continued this until he retired.

Dell worked for a time at the Conondale Store before having her children. Dell held the position of secretary of the P&C for many years. In approx. 1982 Dell started as the cleaner at the school and continued that work for a long time. She also spent several

years child-minding the children of local people and she enjoyed this task very much.

As well as cleaning, Dell became famous for the beautiful fruit cakes she made and iced. Any time a celebratory cake was needed, Dell could be counted on to provide one, both for the school and other people privately. She was renowned both for her cake making, and for icing them so beautifully.

Dell has made cakes for the school for around 30 years, and made a mammoth Centenary cake - made up of four normal sized cakes, to mark the Centenary of Conondale School 2014.

These days John and Dell are both dedicated members of a local Hibiscus club and spend their time growing many varieties of the flower. They travel regularly to meetings and to display their plants.

John is also a very keen member of the Old Leyland P76 Owners Car Club along with his their son Neville. John owns one P76, but Neville has three cars in very good condition and the family enjoys the club activities together.

Both John's parents have passed away, but John and Dell still live on the original Humphreys' farm where he was born. They also have their daughter Deirdre and her husband and their two young children living on the farm in John's parents house. Grand daughter Lillyanna now attends Conondale School.

*In Loving Memory of
Della Jasmine Humpherys*



3 March 1942 - 8 March 2014

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