

# **EVAN GREY EVANS AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN THE DAIRY INDUSTRY IN THE MALENY DISTRICT**

*History provided by Dorothy McClintock (nee Evans)*

Evan Grey Evans was born on the Pattemore property at North Maleny on 2nd February, 1915, but the family moved to Eumundi in 1917.

However the story goes back much further as Evan was from a long line of dairy farmers and pioneers of the industry in the Illawarra District south of Sydney. His ancestors lived around Kiama and Dapto.

Evan Robert Evans - paternal great grandfather of Evan  
Evan Roberts Evans - paternal grandfather of Evan  
Evan John (Jack) Evans - Evan's father

William Grey - maternal great grandfather  
George Grey - maternal grandfather of Evan  
Mabel Ethel Florence Grey who married Evan John (Jack) Evans - Evan's parents.

These men were among the Founders of the Australian Illawarra Shorthorn (AIS) breed of dairy cattle, and some of them were Founders of Dairy Co-operatives in the Kiama Area.

Evan's parents moved from Kiama to the Richmond River area in northern NSW before arriving in the Maleny area.

Evan's mother (Mabel Ethel Florence) was the Foundation President of the Maleny Branch of the Country Women's Association (C.W.A.).

Evan John Evans - father of Evan - purchased the farm on Mountain View Road in 1925. He ceiled and lined the house before the family moved from Eumundi in 1926 on Evan's eleventh birthday. They named the property "Araluen".

Evan married Laura Wiley in 1939 at which time he was leasing the Gardener property at North Maleny. During the war he had to help on the home farm as well because his brother Harold had enlisted. In 1943 he purchased his father's farm and subsequently established "Lauraven" AIS Stud, the name being a combination of their names (Laura and Evan). They had five children born between 1940 and 1952 (Dorothy Helen, Elaine Margaret - lived only 4 months, Evan John, Raymond Wiley and Neil Victor))

The stud was started in 1944 from the well established "Arley" stud of Lawley family fame when he purchased his foundation sire, Arley Statesman 32nd



The Evans family at "Lauraven". Evan John (Jack) Evans (centre), Evan & Laura Evans, Dorothy with Christine (left), John (kneeling), Neil and Ray (right) - circa 1966.

and 4 heifers. He also bought 2 heifers from the Daley Stud "Cedargrove" and one from the Heading Stud "Wilga Plains".

This resulted in the line of "Lauraven Mermaids" who proved themselves, especially in butterfat competitions at Maleny and Nambour Shows and even at the Brisbane Exhibition. Lauraven Mermaid earned a Lifetime Register of Merit.

At the 1957 Maleny Show Mermaid broke the ground record which had stood for 25 years with 2.71 lb butterfat in 24 hours. She won the prize for most milk - 68 lb in 24 hours.

In 1957 one of his cows broke a 20 year-old ground butterfat record. Evan produced a cow to take the record a second time. This record was 3.3% of butterfat over 24 hours which still stood in 1980.

Arley Statesman 32nd was sold in 1951, but Evan had such faith in his foundation sire that he bought him back at 14 years of age about 1958.

Evan was also involved along with other farmers in the introduction of artificial insemination and supplied suitable sires to the AI Centre at Woodford.

Evan supplied cream to the Maleny Co-op for many years, but an opportunity arose to supply fresh milk to the Caboolture Factory when they began sending tankers up to collect the milk.

An integral part of dairying in those days was pig farming and Evan bred Large White pigs which were fed the separated milk. This aspect of the farming ceased when he started supplying whole milk.

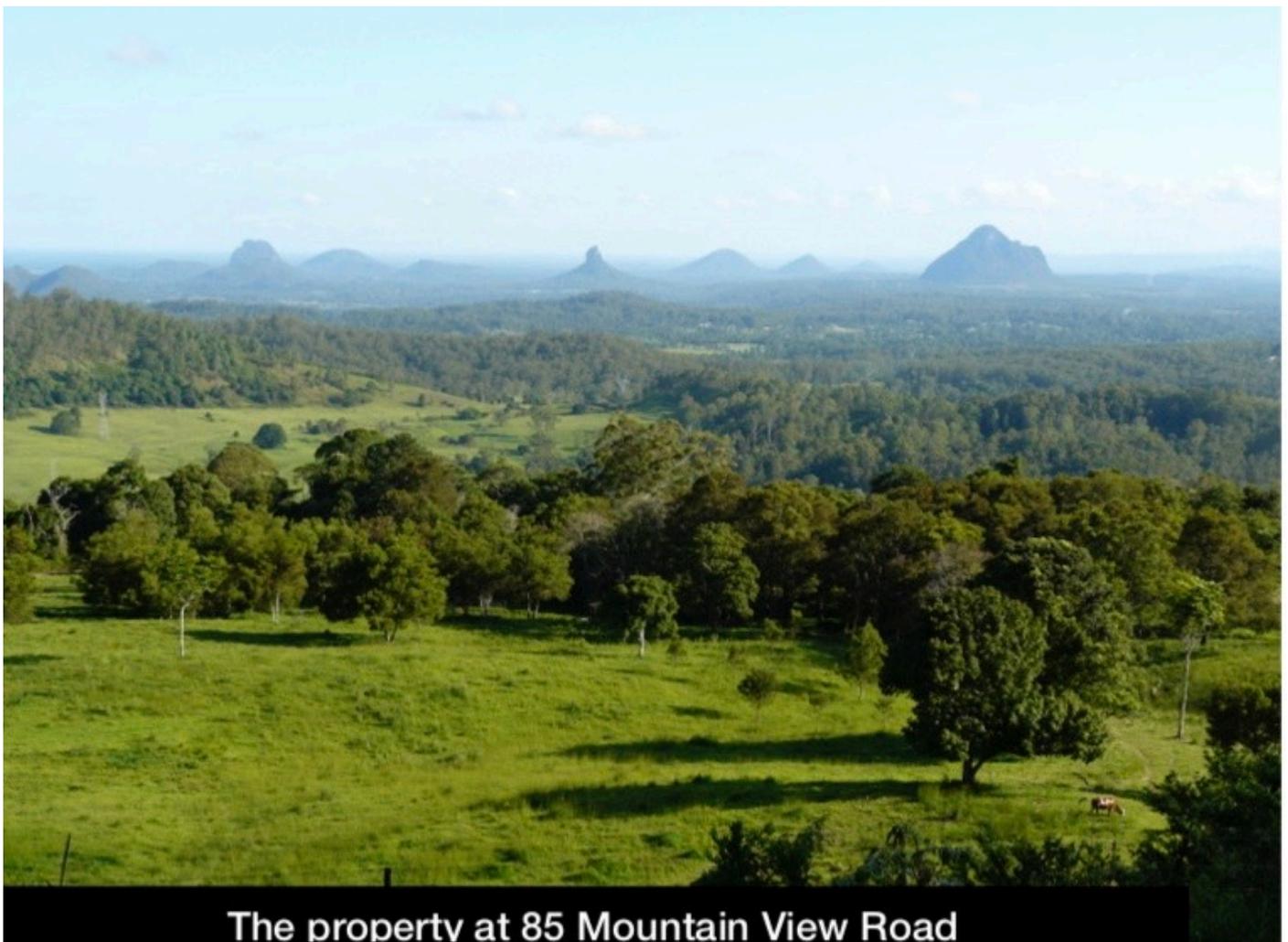
In the early stages they also had 9 acres of citrus fruit and then for many years they had poultry - marketing eggs and raising day-old chickens - the pullets to replace the laying hens as they past their prime and the cockerels for the Christmas market.

The original farm was only 50 acres which proved insufficient for the growing herd. So further land was purchased from neighbouring properties (Alcorns on the left and Sharrys on the right).



Looking up the track from outside the house fence at Lauraven.

He also purchased a property at Bridge Creek which was used as a dry paddock and for young heifers.



**The property at 85 Mountain View Road**

Evan also owned 26 acres one mile further down Mountain View Road past Mary Cairncross Park with stunning views of the Glasshouse Mountains. This is next door to where his parents (Jack & Ethel) lived when they left the farm until after Ethel's death in 1949. Jack subsequently lived in Caloundra until his death in 1967. This property is still in the Evans family as it is now owned by Lesley Evans (widow of Evan's oldest son John who passed away in 2012). Lesley has two sons, Mitchell and Lachlan.

Evan's second son Raymond purchased the home property and took over in 1980. He continued farming there until he sold it in 2006.

This property has been transformed into an exquisite Equine Property and Equestrian Centre.

Dorothy (Evans) McClintock  
December 2020