

STORY OF HARRY MALCHER'S LIFE

Born in Sydney in 1925 Harry moved with his Austrian parents Franz and Hedwig and sister Trude to the Solomon Islands where Franz ran a timber plantation. He spent his first seven years in this tropical paradise, which is perhaps where he got his love of animals and the outdoors.

In 1932 they came back though Sydney and walked across the newly opened Sydney Harbour Bridge before settling in Zirl, then a village just outside Innsbruck, now a suburb of the Tyrolean city.

In 1943, at age 18, he joined the Luftwaffe, learning to fly gliders before being sent to the Russian front when the German forces ran out of planes and needed more foot soldiers. At the end of the war he escaped from the Russians and ended up in an American prisoner of war camp - a much safer option in those days.

Eventually he returned to his family in Innsbruck, then in 1946 he moved to Australia. His Uncle Puntl lived in Sydney and helped him through the complexities of being an Australian with an Austrian passport who had just fought for the enemy in *WWII*, allowing him to settle in Sydney.

Harry spent many years in the snowy mountains, helping to build what is now Thredbo, opening up the ski fields to Australians and the many Europeans who settled here after the war. He completed his degree as a bricklayer and builder, and set himself up as a self-employed builder for the next 50 years.



In 1960 he met Helen Mason, and they married 6 months later, in April 1961. He built their house in East Lindfield, and over the next few years, three children were born, Vicki, Alex and Chris.

Harry, Helen and the kids lived in that house for 53 years, until 2016, when they moved to Maleny on the Sunshine Coast to be closer to his daughter Alex Fullerton and her family at their pineapple farm in Beerwah.

Harry passed the time with stamp collecting and bird feeding, and later enjoyed the Maleny Men's Shed. He and Helen were big fans of Inspector Rex and loved skiing, dogs, wine and chocolate, not necessarily in that order.

After 95 magnificent years, with 3 children, 4 grandchildren, 5 step-grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, and everyone's dogs, Harry will be sadly missed.

Alex Fullerton