

A Celebration of the life of...



WALTER (WALLY) HERBERT SINCLAIR

6th January 1921 – 26th July 2007



QX 27691

Wally's Story

Walter Herbert Sinclair was born in Nambour on the 6th January 1921, the third son of William and Ardoine Sinclair (nee Rose). The family of three sons and three daughters lived at Landsborough where their father operated a bullock team.

In 1929 when Wally was 8 years old, Ardoine died having her seventh child. Grandma Sinclair took the three boys, Bob, Nugget and Wally to live with her in Maleny on the family farm at Sinclair Lane. Grandma Rose took the three girls, Vera, Daphne and Edna to live at Mooloolah. The children grew up apart, although they did keep in contact, the boys riding their horses to see the girls. These visits were well received by the girls and in particular by Edna.



Wally started school at Landsborough and then went to Maleny

State School. When Grandma Sinclair died, the boys went to live with their uncle, Tom Sinclair and his wife Queenie. The boys milked the cows before and after school, often in trouble for being late to school and were kept in after school and then in trouble for being late home. They rode their horses to and from school and there is a tale told of them riding down the main street standing upright on their horses. When they left school they continued to work for some years on their uncle's farm. Wally and Nugget also worked with their father for a time.



In 1941, Wally joined the Defence Forces and was sent to Townsville. His father would not give permission for him to join the A.I.F. When he turned 21, he changed over to the A.I.F. and proudly became part of the 2nd/15th Battalion, 9th Division. After his discharge from the army, he returned to Maleny and worked on the building of the R.S.L. Hall. Later, he went cane cutting. In 1948, he joined the P.M.G. Department – known to the

local kids as Paddy McGinty's Goats – now Telstra. After some years as a linesman he became a Cable Jointer and on his

retirement was Acting Foreman.

In 1951, he married Roslyn Giles, a nursing sister at the Maleny Soldiers' Hospital. He bought land in Cherry Street for 75 pounds and did most of the building himself. Children Marion, Colin and Helen arrived.

Wally was a keen sportsman and represented Maleny in First Grade football, tennis and cricket and won trophies for his sporting achievements. He was never coached in sport and always believed the sporting field was a great leveller. He played against Aub Cork in the tennis finals for the boys under 14 titles. Together with Roy Greinke, he set a record opening cricket partnership of 264 runs, not out. A club record that still stands today.

Wally combined his romantic skills with his football talents. After a night out with Ros, he would stop at the Catholic Church corner and fireman style carry Ros up to the Nurses' Quarters. He was also a strong swimmer and in the 1960's was called upon to rescue George Gibson from the flooded Mary River. He also tried his hand as a driving instructor. With many an argument, he taught Ros to drive as well as the three kids. Later in life, he was an avid sports spectator and spent many enjoyable hours watching sport on TV.

Holidays were another part of Wally's life. There were regular camping trips with the Fritz and Watson families. After his retirement in 1982, he spent a lot of time travelling with Ros and friends Colin (Jack) and Thelma Fritz. In the 1980's, "Fart About



Tours" started. This consisted of Wally and Ros, Jack and Thelma, Nugget and others travelling to Cape York, The Kimberleys, The Birdsville Track and many other spots. His retirement allowed Wally to spend time helping his son, Colin in the

workshop. He became the goffer; he swept, he made pick-ups and deliveries, he drilled and he cut the metals. Wally was often called upon to assist with renovations and repairs at his children's homes.

He never missed an ANZAC service, but he never marched on ANZAC day. Wally believed he'd done all his foot marching during the war. He always made sure he enjoyed himself on this day.

Wally loved life but was not a religious man. He admired the work of the "Salvos" and supported their good deeds. Wally led a good life

and never owed anyone money and quietly did many good turns.

His grandchildren, Heidi, Hayley and Hollie, Reece and Jack, gave him much pleasure and he was always interested in their lives and achievements.

In the last few years, Wally's health had deteriorated. In 2005, the Cherry Street house was sold and Wally and Ros moved to a unit at Ben Bryce Park. His health improved somewhat after the move. He started a small garden, read books by Bryce Courtenay and he was content to sit on the balcony, watch the cows in the nearby paddock and listen to the Obi.

To those in the 2nd/15th, Wally was known as "Bull". To some in the community, he was known as "Togans". To those closest to him, he was known as "The Old Fella", "Father" and "Poppy". Special names were given to Wally and he in turn gave special names to those close to him. There was "The Old Girl", "Bridget", "The Lad", "Madam" and "The Blond Bomber". To receive a nickname from Wally was a sign of deep affection and regard. He also had a few favourite sayings and many heard him regularly say "Swing from the hips, Aussie".

Wally is much loved by his wife Ros, his children Marion, Colin, Helen and his grandchildren Heidi, Hayley, Hollie, Reece and Jack.

