



**MARGARET MARY WILD**

30 OCTOBER 1922 - 4 MAY 2022

Margaret Mary Wild 99 years 6mths was also known as Bonnie nicknamed by her Father as he thought she was a bonnie wee thing.

She is Wife of Laurie {deceased}, a sister to Jim, Julia, Beth, Jo, Beryl (all deceased) and Clarice. They had a very strong family bond.

Mother and Mother-in-law of Brian, Rene and Lorna (deceased), Meralyn and Wayne (deceased) Kayrene and Bob, Graeme (deceased) and Sharyn, Rodney and Kerry, Ian and Fiona. Gran to 18 Grand children, Great Gran to 37 plus 1 to come and Great Great Gran of 9 soon to be 13, Aunty Margaret to some, Aunty Bonnie to others, sister-in-law to Ivan Wild and a friend to many.

Margaret's life has been blessed with basically good health, hard work, filled with laughter, surrounded by family and kids (lots of kids).

The love of reading was evident throughout her life. As children we grew up with books piled high beside her bed, in the bathroom, and in every other room in the house and another stash in the outside loo. This was her quiet place.

She loved to write, do crosswords, always kept a diary and recorded her history. So much of what is said today has been referenced by her.

Mum was born at "Ellersley Farm" at Booroom near Calliope. She is the daughter of Alexander (Sandy) Hinds and Julia Hinds (nee English) and the tapestry of her life is woven with the English Families here on the Blackall Range.

She attended Booroom School at the age of 4, to keep the numbers up and to prevent the school from closing. In 1926 their house burnt down and they lost many of their possessions. Mum's parents then purchased a mixed dairy farm at Ubobo.

Mum said "Ubobo, a soldiers settlement had no school when we arrived. My father joined the Ubobo School Building Committee which vigorously petitioned the Education Department and finally in 1927 Ubobo State School was opened."

Their family life at Ubobo in the Boyne Valley was hard work and to make a living was tough. However these years are fondly remembered by Mum and her sisters. They rode a horse to school often with 3 or 4 on the back.

Mum could have gone to High School at age 12 but her Mother felt she was too young to private board in Brisbane so she repeated Scholarship. At the age of 13 she was enrolled at Brisbane State High School where she attended for 4 yrs. She excelled at school and became a School Prefect. She was an excellent hockey player.

Mum said it must have been a real struggle for her parents to finance her secondary education in Brisbane. She shall be, forever grateful for the sacrifices her Mother and eldest sister Julia made, so that the rest of the family could be educated.

Mum's Father died in 1938. This was Mum's senior year at school and this caused further hardship for the family. She went on to study at Teacher's Training College and her first appointment was to Miriam Vale State School and then the next year to Commissioner's Flat School near Peachester.

Margaret



It was a one teacher school with classes from Preparatory to Year 8. It was wartime and Mum remembers “we had to dig slit trenches and practice air raid drills and it was also our patriotic duty to grow vegetables for the war effort. I was also directed from ‘on high’ (Government Department) to canvas all residences in the district recording the number of bedrooms, if there was a bathroom and the number of people residing. I assume this exercise was in case children needed to be evacuated from Brisbane”.

Mum could still name all students in a school photo of that year and was proud that she was fondly remembered by her students. One of those students was her brother-in-law Ivan Wild .

Now the new phase of life begins, as it was here that Mum met Laurie Wild and the rather large Wild Family. It was not the usual courtship as one of Mum’s outings was to go chasing brumbies with Dad and his sister Elsie. They married in

1943. They first resided at “Ashdown” (where Kayrene & Bob live) which was a Dairy that Laurie and his brother Reg had purchased. Mum and Dad continued to dairy until Reg was discharged from the Army and then they bought their property at Bald Knob over the goat track (where Rod and Kerry live).

Mum said “looking back I feel we must have been as game as meat ants to start such an undertaking because all we had was a large overdraft, youthful enthusiasm and faith in our ability to work hard. There was no electricity, only a wood stove to cook on, wood fired copper boiler to do the washing and kerosene lamps for lighting”.

In those early days cream was sent to Caboolture Co-op Butter Factory and separated milk was fed to calves and pigs. The cream was taken to the roadside by horse and slide to be picked up by Carrier Percy Mewett.

Dad never owned a truck in those early years and would drive weaner calves to another property at Donnybrook. He could be gone for a week and Mum was left to run the farm with her young family.

Mum said "invariably Murphy's Law kicked in on these occasions. Anything that could go wrong, would go wrong". Two words she detested in the English language were "shoulda and order" which was Dad's advice on his return home, to avoid these disasters.

The installation of electricity in Bald Knob area in 1948 made a big difference to their lives both in the Dairy and the house. For the older Maleny residents the contractors were Dave Hankinson and his offsider Wally Davidson.

Mum's first washing machine was a "Lightburn" which looked like a cement mixer. *As kids we would play in the washing machine bowl, against Mum's wishes. One day we put Graeme in the bowl with the power on and he was spinning around and around. Mum yells out as she comes marching out to the wash house "what are you kids doing?". We all took off and left poor Graeme going around and around and around. Lucky it wasn't the spinner.*

About this same time they purchased the first truck, a Blitz which was converted into a cattle truck and so the story of trucks continues today with Wild's Livestock and Wild Water.

They increased their land holdings where Ian & Fi live, where Graeme and Sharyn lived and then in 1970 they bought "The Park" at Coochin Creek which they had leased since the mid 1950's. In the very early years they would attend dances in the Bald Knob Hall which was at the top of Rod's roadway.

All the Wild children attended Maleny School. We travelled by Dick Larney's school bus and Mum gave him permission to clip us under the ear if we misbehaved while on the bus.

Mum was always community involved, especially the School Tuckshop Group. The Bald Knob/Mount Mellum Group of ladies were the best cooks and enjoyed their time spent together and there was much laughter. It was reported by the Principal that they were loud and distracted the students upstairs and Mum may have been the main culprit.

She was a great sewer making all our clothes, knitting jumpers, crocheting as well as needlework. She was a great cook and could make a wonderful meal from any leftovers. She would rarely follow a recipe.

When Meralyn was first married, she asked Mum for her scone recipe. Here it is: *About 6 fistfuls Self Raising Flour, 1 dollop of butter, a splash or 2 of milk, pinch of salt and a good sprinkle of sugar.* They were the best scones.

In later years, with her wonderful friend Robyn Simpson, she started judging the cooking at the CWA branch, divisional and State levels and at local Shows. Some years later, her sister-in-law Bev Wild joined her.

Mum and Dad were heavily involved with the Maleny Show since the first Show after the war in 1949. Mum's contribution was always with the catering and was still involved into her 90's and is a Life Member of the Maleny Show Society.

She loved being involved with the Peachester History Group and this stimulated many stories, along with friendships. She was always welcomed warmly and treated with great respect - *for which we thank you.*

As kids our life was filled with adventures around the farm, farm work, horse riding, sport, playing backyard cricket, with the dog as the wicket keeper. This love of sport and country has certainly been passed down through all the generations.

We also travelled to the local Horse Sports when Dad was competing. This was often with Mum and Dad's life-long friends John and Jill Mawhinney. Always a picnic lunch was taken in the boot of the car which consisted of goodies that Mum had baked days before.

Mum had many, sterling qualities. She was articulate, a woman with eclectic interests as she would read anything, listen to everything and converse widely on any subject. She had sensible advice. *If you needed good advice, go to Mum. If you needed clarification on a matter, go to Mum.* She always had a joke and was there for us, especially when a new baby was born. The greatest lessons we have learnt are respect, family is important, to help one another, work ethic and enjoy what you have in life and be happy.

Mum didn't learn to drive officially until in her 50's even though she was often called upon to drive the truck when mustering at "The Park" at Coochin Creek, as Dad would jump the horses out at the gate and leave Mum to drive the truck into the house. When she did obtain her licence she returned to teaching as a supply teacher at the nearby local schools. She was happy to be back in the teaching environment and with this upgrade of curriculum knowledge she made time for tutoring the Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. It was always a special afternoon tea and they would finish up with a game of Rummy or Scrabble. She always played to the rules, no matter who she played. If there was no one to play against, her left hand would play her right hand, hence always a winner.

Mum and Dad moved to "The Park" to retire and here they were very happy. All the family, kids and grandkids and many of their friends spent holidays and weekends at this magical place where we could swim, fish, go crabbing, row the boat, go on nature walks and wildlife spotting and even do some work sometimes.

The water activities could be viewed from the deck chairs on the veranda of the cottage only a couple of metres from the banks of Coochin Creek.

She had a beautiful garden and became quite self-sufficient with the veggie garden. This property also ran beef cattle so they were far from retired.

Every other day they would travel back to Bald Knob to either look after Grandkids, Dad to drive a truck, check cattle and Mum to be a post when blocking cattle.

A lot of times they would return home with at least one of the Grandkids for a sleepover. The Grandkids all have beautiful memories of love, fun and happiness of time spent with Gran.

Mum and Dad did find time to travel overseas several times and Mum cherished these memories. They also would do trips to visit family throughout the Country.

Whilst "The Park" was beautiful it was isolated and had no electricity only a diesel generator. So in 1994 the time came for them to sell and move back to Maleny. This time they were townies in Walkers Drive. This gave them the opportunity to join Maleny Senior Citizens Club.

Sadly, Dad passed away suddenly after only being there for twelve months. This was a huge shock for Mum as she and Dad were always a couple.



Mum with the determination and strength like her own Mother carried on as the matriarch of the family for another 26 years living on her own.

She created a beautiful garden and a relaxing patio area with potted plants where she spent many hours.

Along with family it would be the friendship, love and support from the Members of the Senior Citz that helped her to cope. She went on their many and varied trips travelling all over Australia and played Rummy and Scrabble with a group of ladies, each week. She joined Line Dancing, swimming and did water aerobics, and was very independent.

As a family we often came together on mustering days and special occasions. Mum would always be there looking after the youngest child, in the corner of the cattle yards. She never lost her love of cattle and horses. She had a keen eye for quality cattle, horses and even dogs and her knowledge in these spheres was always appreciated. She enjoyed watching the younger generations ride.

She encouraged new Mums in the family to hand their babies over to other family members and have a little time to themselves. Her greatest joy was when a new baby came to meet her.

All children received a book for their birthday, and it was always appropriate for their likes and interests. She was always interested and proud of their achievements and made them feel special.

So Gran from us to you here is the message we gave to you on your 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and it still stands:

*“There are certain rare and special people in the world who give of themselves in ways that just can’t be ignored. In our lives, you are of those people. You’ve nourished our spirit, empowered and guided us and filled empty spaces we didn’t know we had, with your kindness and caring. You’ve reached out time after time, to give us encouragement and unconditional acceptance. So now it just feels natural to acknowledge your warmth, generosity and humour. What touches us most is that you’ve done all this not because you had to but because you wanted to and for this we are grateful.”*

Gran rest in peace and forever loved.



Margaret & Kayrene 2015

Eulogy from Kayrene Corkin  
Collated by Desley Malone  
Maleny Historical Memories