

Frank Woods

*Thanksgiving Service for the Life
of
Frank Woods*



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Hinterland loses a country gentleman

THE hinterland has said farewell to a member of the pioneer Woods family at a moving funeral service for Francis (Frank) James Woods who died last Sunday at the Maleny Hospital.

He was 86 years old.

He leaves behind his wife of 45 years - Florence, seven daughters - Margaret, Libby, Ruth, Barbara, Janet, Ellenor and Alice, son - Francis and 15 grandchildren, with another due in September.

Born at the original Maleny Hospital where the ambulance station now stands, Frank rarely left his beloved hinterland.

Notable exceptions were attending the Sydney Royal Easter Show and the Brisbane Ekka.

In 2004, Florence persuaded Frank to go on an adventure and visit daughter Libby and her husband Peter serving in the RAAF in the Northern Territory.

It was a memorable trip and Florence recalls as they stood looking at the awe-inspiring rock of Uluru, Frank turned to her and said, "Not a patch on the Glasshouse Mountains", a view Frank enjoyed from his living room table every day of his life.

As a member of one of Maleny's pioneering dairy families, Frank grew up in the locally-milled timber farmhouse in Mountain View Road that his father Johnston built for his wife Annie not long after settling in the area in 1917.

Frank and Florence raised their eight children in that same farmhouse, running the dairy farm there until October 1999 before going into grazing.

All went to school at Maleny, and as another son of a pioneer family, Harvey Bryce said, "all the Woods kids ended up in good jobs, and they've been a credit to Frank and Florence and this community".

Revealed at the funeral service



Maleny identity Frank Woods will be missed.

was the fact Frank met Florence in a Brisbane lift.

He was making one of his rare visits to Brisbane, to Redcomb House in Roma Street, then home of the Poultry Farmer's Co-op and source of grain and stock feed.

Florence worked there as an assistant to the accountant.

Frank's life, besides Florence and his children, was his farm.

Frank was one of the only farmers in the area to hold a drover's licence.

Frank's father was a councillor with the former Landsborough Shire and therefore he was able to keep well abreast of the activities of the region.

He was involved in the gifting of the unique Mary Cairncross Scenic Rainforest Reserve by Bessie Thynne to the council in lieu of rates and levies.

Frank was an active member of the Presbyterian Church in Cedar Street ever since he was a young boy.

In 1977 he switched to the Uniting Church because there were

more children in the congregation.

Florence believes her daughters have all married men like their father.

"Compassionate, caring and gentle men with strong religious beliefs," she says.

In addition to all his achievements, Frank Woods was a noted horseman.

For a man of few words, and a true country gentleman, Frank Woods was always first to assist anyone in need.

"Frank never said much," says Florence.

"But in the last few days I have had calls from people telling me they were so grateful to Frank who gave them their first job when they moved here."

"He cared for the community, and was always there to help those in genuine need," says Florence.

Florence and the children wish to thank everyone, particularly the staff at Maleny Hospital, for their care and consideration throughout Frank's illness and passing.

- Pauline Clayton