

APPENDIX

ESPOSITO by Don and Sue Esposito

The Esposito story begins in Mammola Reggio Calabria. Salvatore and Maria (nee Zangari) started their family there before heading to Biloela in 1927.

Salvatore arrived alone to establish a place for his family, then Maria joined him settling firstly in Raidon with sons, Frank and Phillip. They later moved to Mt Murchison and cleared the brigalow to create a dairy farm. They were given a 100-year lease.

Joe Zangari who was Maria's nephew had the biggest producing independent cotton farm in the Southern hemisphere. He was easily recognised by his white Jaguar car.

Salvatore was instrumental in bringing many Italians out from his home village as he had a great grasp of the English language. The Premier of QLD at the time visited Salvatore's farm which indicated how influential Salvatore was in this pioneering community. His daughters made cakes and lollies especially for the visit.

The family consisted of Frank who married Iris Peterson and Phillip who married Philomena (nee Scali). He worked at Williams Hardware and Moura mines as a storeman.

Velia started as a telephonist at the Biloela exchange. As a strong independent woman, she later moved to Sydney and worked for Frank Packer.

Rose became a successful restaurateur in Brisbane.

Ernie formed business partnerships with his longtime friend Cliffy Hunting. He independently owned the Space Service Station. He also took over the family farm. Elena married a police officer and settled in Wynnum. She recalls riding a horse to school after the brothers milked the cows. Their teacher at Mt Murchison Mr Reg Davidson was excellent even though he was only 18 years of age. She had to take a steam train ride lasting an entire day to get home for school holidays from the Range boarding school in Rockhampton.

Eventually Salvatore and Maria retired to 15 Bell Street.

Phillip and Philomena along with their sons Salvatore and Domenico resided at 88 Bell Street. Don remembers doing the mass in Latin as an altar boy, then racing to the Broadway cinema especially for the Elvis double feature at Easter. The sons both had fond memories of St Joseph's school where they were commended for their spotless white shirts that their mother painstakingly cleaned by hand. They also enjoyed exciting times living next to the Blackburns where Philomena learnt her English. She would make a big saucepan of spaghetti for the Blackburn children which they still remember today.

The Goos Family Story

Ludwig Goos (45 years) and Mary (43 years) with their children Ivy 16 and Alvin 10 moved to Valentine Plains from Mt Whitestone near Gatton in October 1938. Lud as he was known decided he needed a property with water after the 1937 drought. The first farm on Kroombit Creek was purchased from Jim and Edith Flemming. How ironic is it that the 4th generation of the Goos family to live on this farm is James (Jamie) and Edith Goos.

On arrival at the farm, land was ready to plant, corn was planted using a 2 row planter pulled by horses. Lud always said one of his worst decisions was to bring the draught horses to Valentine Plains. When the milking machine arrived, dairy cattle were purchased. In 1942 an Illawara stud "Alfa Leaf" was established when 20 stud heifers were purchased near Murgon. The stud was registered in 1948 and dispersed on Friday 27th November 1960. Dairying continued until 1962.

When Lud, Mary, Ivy and Alvin arrived at their new home, they moved into a house that Jim and Edith Flemming had built, it was modified and then Lud's stepfather Friedrich Beutel came to live with them. The house must have been full to overflowing most of the time with the family, Grandfather Beutel and work people. When Ivy married Arnie Timm in April 1942, they continued to live with Lud, Mary, Alvin and Grandfather until they moved onto their property next door. The house became more crowded when Jean, Ivy and Arnie's daughter was born. Grandfather Beutel passed away in 1946.

Alvin attended Valentine Plains School from 1938 until the end of 1941 when he was 13, he should have gone to school until he was 14, but we suspect that as it was war years, people had much more to think about. Jean Timm (1945), Fay Timm (1951), Trevor (1952) and Lyn (1955) all attended the same school until they went to Biloela for High School.

Ludwig passed away in January 1980. Mary in January 1987.

Ivy passed away in April 2004. Arnie in in June 2006

Alvin passed away in November 2008. Joyce in August 2020

Jean married Hubert Krenske in January 1969, their sons were born, Paul in June 1971 and Dean in May 1974. Paul is married to Mandy and works as a computer tech at USQ and Dean works in the office at the Forensic Laboratory in Melbourne.

Fay met John Boal and was married in December 1977. Biloela. They had 3 children, Rebecca born May 1980, Daniel in December 1982 and James in October 1985.

Fay worked in childcare and Disability Support work retiring in 2020. Rebecca has 2 boys and is the Director of Moura Kindergarten. Daniel married Kirsten in 2007 and they have 4 children, he works at Callide Mine. James works as an industrial cleaner.

Alvin meets his future wife Joyce Behrendorff when he was 19 and she was 18. They were married on the 20th July 1950. Their children Trevor and Lynette became the 3rd generation on the farm. They first lived in a barn that had been converted.

Trevor started work fulltime as a farmer at the end of 1967. This was the start of many a project. In 1975 they started to design a 4WD tractor using 2 1950 Chamberlains. The “Jimmy” as it was known was finished in 1976 and was the main farm tractor until a Steiger came along in June 1983. It was then sold to Gordon Clifford and as Jamie told Mr Clifford when he went with Alvin and Trevor to deliver it, I’ll buy it back one day. It came home in 2021. J&T Laser Levelling became another part of our enterprise as a result of Trevor realizing there would be a call for land levelling.

Trevor had a car accident in September 1975 and fractured his neck and spent some time in Rockhampton Hospital, there he meets Joy Boal. Moved into the converted “Barn” and welcomed the 4th generation, James Ludwig (June 1978) and Kristopher Adam (January 1982). Joy has worked at Biloela Hospital as a nurse.

In 1999, the “Herb Farm “was purchased where we now grow herbs. Dryland cropping continues with the help of a share farmer.

Jamie meet his future wife Edith Vanhengel, a backpacker from Belgium, in 2007 and married on the 7th January 2013. Desiree Edna 28th August 2014 and Archer Ludwig 10th May 2017, the 5th generation to live on the farm. Jamie manages the earthmoving. Edith manages the farm office.

Kristopher met Catherine Boon whilst they were at Biloela High School. They married on the 7th January 2002 and have Jack Adam born 28th August 2019 and Ella Poppy born 17th December 2021. Kristopher works for Red Bull racing.

Lyn started her nursing training at Mater Hospital, Rockhampton. She returned to Biloela hospital as an Enrolled nurse. Lyn worked for Dr. Tan for 23 yrs

Lyn married Trevor Ritchie (known as Jock) on the 27th November 1976. Biloela. Jock worked for Banana Shire Council.

Allison was born on 4th April 1981 and Renee on the 29th August 1983. Allison, who was a baker, married Chris Lukan on the 4th September 2010. They have 4 beautiful children, Thomas: 24/4/11, Edward : 27/11/12, Samuel: 26/2/14 and Abigal: 20/6/22

Renee who worked for the army, married Stewart Ramsay on the 24th March 2013. They have Lachlan 22/12/14

GORDON by David Gordon

The forebears of the Gordon family - Hugh Hamilton and Agnes McManus Gordon came to the Callide Valley in about 1930. The G family lived in a tin hut near married daughter, Evelyn, on the State Farm. Hugh worked building the wheat silos out on the Paroz property on the Rockhampton Road, as well as cotton chipping and picking. Agnes worked as a hotel cook in Biloela and at Kitty Sheen's hotel in Thangool. Most of their seven children lived and worked around Biloela over the years. Hugh and Agnes are buried in the old Biloela Cemetery and many of their descendants live in the district.



Their oldest, Ethel Sargood (17/05/1901- 21/05/1983) affectionately known by many as Nana, worked as a cleaner and laundress until her death. James Robert Leslie (07/06/1903 - 30/07/1974), see below. His twin sister Evelyn, mentioned above, left in 1950. She later remarried with Antonio Michele in 1966 and lived on the Gold Coast. Dorothy Bath (02/09/1912 - 19/05/1989) dairy farmed with her husband Donald) out Prospect Creek way until her death. Florence Perry (16/01/1915 - 02/07/1975) married to Laurie lived in Kariboe Street. Agnes Jean Funk (20/05/1918 - 24/05/2015), known as Jean, lived in Biloela until her marriage in 1940, then returned in the early 1950's when her husband Jack set up a barber shop, before moving to New Zealand.

HUGH ANDREW (16/06/1922 - 29/07/1980), our father, lived with his parents until he enlisted in the army in 1941. He went to school in Mount Morgan and Biloela. Hugh worked as a salesman at Fleming's and Chisholm's Draperies. He met Bette Veronica Bryson, (26/04/1927 - 24/07/2019), a barmaid at the Biloela Hotel. They married in Rockhampton in 1949 and built a home at 36 Bell Street. Hugh went into partnership with Jim and Edith Gough, opening a furniture store, *Gordon and Gough*, as well as drapery stores in Biloela and Moura. After Jim Gough's death, the partnership folded, and Hugh worked at Callide coal mine as a drilling operator until he retired. Bette worked in many sales jobs during her lifetime, including Burtons, and on the door at the RSL. In 2014, she moved to the RSL Chelsea Nursing Home in Maryborough until her death, aged 92. Hugh and Bette had four children who attended St Joseph's and Biloela State High School..

Kay Veronica (1952) married Robert Shotton in 1971. Kay also worked at Burtons and had Xanadu Florist, with her friend Theresa Brown. Xanthe (1974) won world Karate championships in Japan, Italy, and Mexico. Many Biloela locals will remember the fundraising that helped to get Xanthe to these championships. Kay left Biloela in 1992 to live at Tannum Sands. She has worked in many countries as a document controller and now administers the *Bilo Remember When* Facebook group.

Sharon Majella (1956) worked as the first laboratory attendant at Biloela High in 1973 before attending the CIAE in Rockhampton to become a teacher. In 1976, she married William (Bill) Sargent who was born in 1955 in Biloela, and they moved to teach in Carmila, then the Wide Bay district with Bill at Howard State School for thirty-three years. Sharon taught at Torbanlea State School before starting their family of four children. They still live in Torbanlea.

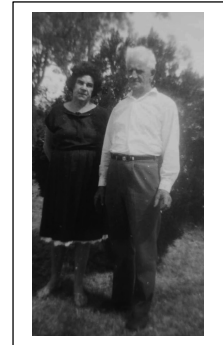
Raeleen Therese (06/04/1959 - 08/02/ 2023) worked at 4 Square, Burtons and later at the DPI taking cotton samples. She married Bradley Clunes (1957) and had two children. She left Biloela in 1993 and worked at the Smelter in Gladstone amongst other jobs including FIFO in Western Australia. She had a stroke in 2013 while visiting friends in Biloela and moved to the

RSL Chelsea Nursing Home in Maryborough in 2015 where she was down the corridor from our Mum. Raeleen died in Gladstone in 2023.

Terry Andrew (1963) worked at various places including Blue's Bearings before taking a job at Boundary Hill Coal Mine where he drives one of the huge trucks. His nickname at the mine is Tonka for obvious reasons. Terry married Joanne Steadman in 1989 and has two children. They live in Cooper Street carrying on the presence of the Gordon family in Biloela.

JAMES ROBERT LESLIE

(Les or Flash) and his wife, Ina Agnes Sarah nee Edmonds are buried in the Biloela Lawn Cemetery. They had 7 children: Ray, Doug Coral, Charles, Gary, Graham and Lesley. They all moved away from Biloela in early adulthood except Lesley and her husband.



Charles (Chook) returned to Biloela at 19. He married Rosalie (Lee) Taylor in 1963, and had 4 children; David, Janelle, Mark and Wayne. Charlie worked on the construction of Callide Dam in the 60s, with Gary, his father and his father-in-law. He later worked for Dunlop Tyre Centre and finally became a drag-line operator at Moranbah. He was a dedicated union rep and part of the 46-member amalgamation team responsible for the formation of the CFMEU. He died in 1995 and is buried in Moranbah Cemetery.

Gary (Gaz or Duke) returned to Biloela in 1959. He married Judy Baldwin of Goovigen in 1962 and had 3 children, Carolyn, Micheal and Cherylee. Gary worked on the construction of Callide Dam and later at Kianga and Moura Mines. As a plant operator for CQCE he worked with Charlie and Hoppy Austin. Gary taught guitar to many aspiring young musicians and mentored others. The band, *The Silhouettes* was formed in the mid-1960s with Gary, Charlie, Ian Warry, Ian Johnson, Graham Lawson and others. They played for nearly 20 years, at cabarets, dinner dances, fund-raisers and the opening of the Biloela Civic Centre, until work led them away to Moranbah. *The Silhouettes* were a constant in their own and their families' lives. Lots of great memories were made right across the district. In 1982 Gary and Judy relocated to Moranbah where he became dragline supervisor and superintendent at Goonyella Riverside Mine. He took a golden handshake in the late 90s and they now live at Albury/Wodonga, near family.

The Gordon family experienced a monumental amount of change in the Biloela district from 1930 to 2024. They lived through the early days of dirt roads, bullock teams and horses and carts. They experienced the introduction of motorised transport and paved roads; from hand picked cotton and other crops to the mechanisation of agriculture; candle-lit shanties and carbide lamps to electric light; dunny carts to the installation of a town sewerage system; from rail motors that brought mail and supplies they then saw the introduction of trains. They saw the construction of the first power station nearby. They witnessed the construction of the butter factory, the meatworks, the hospital, the telephone exchange...the A to Z. The Gordon family has been present throughout, experiencing it all, over most of the last 100 years.

KAPERINICK by Karen Burrows (nee Kapernick)

My family always lived in the Biloela area, as my paternal grandfather was a pioneer of the Dixalea area. He drew a block, then travelled up from the Brisbane Valley area (1910), cleared seven acres on his own with very limited tools, then built a small dwelling to bring my grandmother to. He was German and my Grandmother Norwegian. Her parents, the Johanssens moved up soon after with their family.

They went on to have 11 children in a tiny house. It must have been terribly tough in those days, with none of our modern conveniences. My Dad, Edgar married Daisy Stone in 1939 and they had 5 children – Kay (Kathleen), Ken, Henry, myself and (Dianne) Kym. Mum obviously liked the initials K.K.!

Mum's parents were of English descent who owned a business in Goovigen. Her Mum was a very hard working and capable woman, who sadly died when the wind changed direction while they were burning off, before I was born. Kay tells many stories of her cooking and gardening skills and how welcome and loved she always felt when there.

Mum and Dad moved around the area share farming. Dr Jim Oxley delivered me in 1951, at the Biloela Hospital. My earliest memories were at Wowan, when I was three. Before I began school, we shifted about 12 miles from Biloela, share farming a dairy farm. Kay was at teaching trainer's college in Brisbane, Ken helped on the farm and Henry when he was older. Mum helped in the dairy in addition to all the household chores and made almost all of our clothes.

I remember one Christmas when we had had a lot of rain and we went in to town in the back of the cream carter's lorry as the roads were not traversable by car. We thought it a great adventure.

My education commenced at Prospect Creek State School - seven miles from Biloela, where brother Henry and Kym also went. Ken did some time at the High Top in Biloela before coming back to the farm. In November 1957, our home was burnt to the ground and we lost everything. Luckily, we were at the school as Dad played cricket while the women and children went to the nearby creek. Kym was only three months old. Mum used to put her in the kitchen to be warm near the wood stove. The kerosene refrigerator exploded and caught fire, so we were so thankful that nobody was home as it could have been disastrous.

We stayed with friends who were not far away for several weeks. I will never forget the night of the fire and for days afterwards, where a constant stream of people, some of whom were complete strangers, turned up with goods for us, including nappies for Kym and essentials – one family even brought cigarettes for our parents. Later furniture was also supplied. Even at age six, I was overwhelmed by their kindness and compassion.

We moved a couple of more times in the ensuing years. We all had jobs to do, including feeding poddy calves, which were later sold and the money divided between us. We also picked cotton by hand, to earn extra income.

Milk from the cows was separated, with milk fed to pigs or poddy calves and the cream kept in cans at the dairy. The cream carrier came three times a week to collect the cream which had been transferred to a little structure near the road for easy collection. He was much more than a cream carrier – he also brought the mail, newspapers, bread in a plastic lined sugar bag Mum made and groceries ordered from the shop beforehand. All stores ran accounts, which were paid at the end of each month. He was the life blood of the rural community.

Prospect Creek School was a wonderful place for my primary Education. There were strong caring bonds forged with all students and teachers, I loved it. I still share time with some of those students, some 67 years later. It's like we only saw each other yesterday. We travelled by bus to school and Dad did the bus run for a few years. There were 3 buses in total from the different areas, all farming families except one. My first teacher was Daria Koosnetzoff, then Head Teacher Allen Evans, a wonderful kind

man whose wife taught us sewing until years 7 & 8 when we travelled by bus to the High top at Biloela for half a day of cooking and the other half sewing, with the boys learning manual arts of metal and woodwork. My sister, Kay taught Home Science in Biloela and I had to call her Miss Kapernick like the other students. Later Mark Ruge became Head teacher and Peter Bagget (who later became my brother-in-law) his assistant. Peter initiated a project club, one of which was bees and another a crop. We had Greek and Italian families attending, so we also were able to learn some of their culture, especially cooking.

Toilets were old style into cans, which one bus driver emptied on Friday afternoons. Alec Hounsham was the longest serving bus driver we had, a wonderful man and a wonderful family.

Sport was a big part of school life and encouraged us to develop pride in our school, teamwork and fitness. The girls played vigoro, basketball or tennis, the boys mainly cricket or tennis. Our Vigoro team rarely lost as we had some amazing players. Every student had a bag of marbles and we became quite proficient at the game.

End of year break up was a very special occasion, when all parents came to be entertained in the annual concert, for which we worked very hard practising for weeks beforehand. I created much amusement playing Snow White at one such occasion, when I kept on chewing the supposed poison apple after I was meant to be dead! Then Santa came with gifts for the younger children and books for the older ones. A lovely lunch which ended with watermelons and ice-creams was then served. Afterwards we had games and races, including 3-legged race, egg and spoon race and other activities. It was a great social event for the parents as well and every parent knew every student and I'm sure would have stepped up to help any one of them if a parent was away or uncontactable.

Outings were usually to the movies, sporting events, dances at the School Hall and the annual Biloela Show. We usually had a new outfit for each show, loved the side shows and eked out our allocated money to achieve the best value. Catalogues from McDonnell and East in Brisbane were a good way to buy our clothing and we used our money earned from cotton picking and feeding poddy calves for the purchases. The order was sent by mail.

We lost two students, Danny Anderson and Ken Harch during my time there and we all felt the void afterwards.

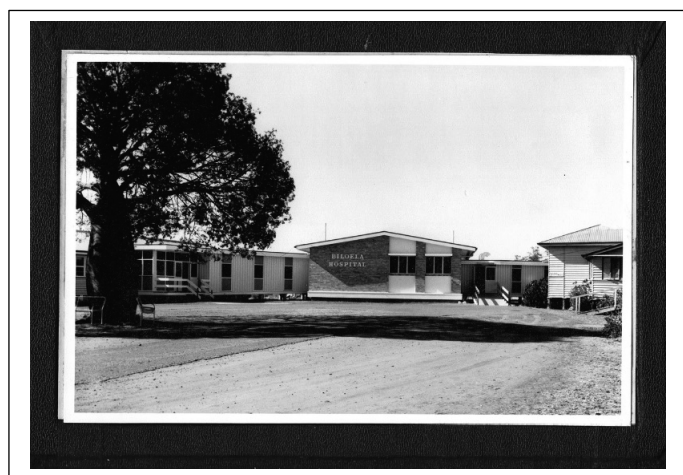
Biloela at that time had all the essential shops and was predominantly a farming hub. Later a meatworks and cotton ginnyery were established providing many opportunities. The construction of the Callide Dam and Powerhouse was also a huge boost for the district.

50th and 75th reunions were wonderful occasions and the same camaraderie ensued.

My primary school years were some of the happiest of my life.

“Not too far from Biloela is a School that is unique,
It evokes most poignant memories –
A little school called Prospect Creek”.

Biloela Hospital 1971



KENT, Norman and Berryl

by Jocelyn Sibley (nee Kent)

Norm and Berryl Kent moved to "Eulalie" in 1959; Dad was 41 and Mum 37. The property on Crowsdale - Camboon Road, is opposite Torsdale Station, where Kent's Road is to-day. Prospect Creek ran past our front door. We had many hours of fun, swimming in the creek and climbing the Catsclaw creeper. I remember on one occasion, we were well off the ground, jumping from tree to tree, when, I heard a loud crack, the broken branch gave way and I caught another tree on the way down. Oh! If only Mum or Dad had seen us. I guess that would have put an end to our fun. A couple of platypus made their home under the edge of the bank in a waterhole near the house. We were forbidden to play near them. However, we did see young ones from time to time.

On Election day, the voting was held at our place on at least two occasions. Also, Dad was one of the founding Members of the Callide Valley Lucerne Co-op.

Eight of us children attended the Prospect Creek State School, Robert, myself, Desley, Susanne, Graeme, Junette, David and Noelene. We all looked forward to our free bottle of milk provided by the Education Department. Our bus stop was about a kilometre from the house; our school was 12 kilometres away. Travelling to and from school was interesting; when we had a bit of rain, coming home the bus sometimes got bogged as it turned onto Camboon Road. Further along towards our place, there's an extremely slippery red hill just before Ziebaths Road; the older kids needed to get out and push. Most times we got covered with red mud, but it didn't worry us, it made our day. We just had a wash in the creek on the way home.

School for me was an adventure, I just loved sports. Each year our school competed with other schools at the Biloela State School. Thanks to our dedicated teacher Peter Baggett, our school always gained a good result, on sports days. Once we were taken over to the Wowan State School grounds for a sports day we thoroughly enjoyed. I was not good at reading or writing when I left school midway through Grade 8. I was probably too busy working and playing sports.

I can remember us kids attending a fancy-dress ball at the Prospect Creek Hall. Mum went to a lot of trouble to dress us all in different costumes. Break-up day was the best; a lot of our parents attended and we had watermelon and ice cream and a gift for each of us. I always felt, that if any of us ever got into trouble, anyone of the parents at that school would have helped us. It was like belonging to a big family.

Recently, my sister June and I made a trip back to the farm, after 54 years, and met the current owners, Steve and Margaret Johnson. They were kind enough to show us around. So much seemed to have changed. The dairy has disappeared- no sign of it, until we looked for the concrete slab. The engine block and the separator stand were still there, in the grass, and a Pepperina tree. The chook pen, machinery shed and the yards around the dairy, including the old cars and clutter of steel, have gone too. It all looks neat and tidy now.

The old hay shed has shrunk too! I remember when we were feeding hay out to the animals in dry times. We would eventually come to a bale on the ground. The dog would be waiting, all keyed up, ready to pounce. On lifting the bale, mice went in all directions. The dog moved quickly, he had two or three mice under each foot and more in his mouth. It looked so funny!

Our parents worked extremely hard to keep us all fed and clothed. It must have been difficult for them to have cared for their family needs, as well as feeding the cattle, horses, pigs and sheep. The irrigation pipes needed changing twice a day, to keep the lucerne growing. Milking was done twice a day, as well. It's not until I had children of my own, that I realised how much effort it took. I only wish I could have been more useful to them.

To give you some insight into Mum's life, every morning she got out of bed, well before daylight to light the stove to boil water for us to have a cup of tea. To do that, wood needed to be chopped and stacked for ready. Who had that job? I didn't even think about it at the time. Then she made toast for us, by placing a piece of bread on a long piece of wire to cook over the hot coals in the stove. Then, we were woken, after Mum had been working for an hour or so. One morning while we were all enjoying our morning cuppa, I leant over Peter to get some hot water from the fountain on the side of the stove, and spilt it down his back. Although Mum reacted quickly, it was too late to stop his singlet from sticking to his skin.

On wash days Mum washed our clothes in boiling soapy water. She would gather timber from around the paddock by hand. Then use the axe to cut it into small enough pieces to place under the copper. The copper was a round metal shape like a cup about three quarters of a metre high and approximately half a metre wide. It was inserted into a ring of metal, to keep it upright. She carted water by bucket to pour into the copper, and lit the fire underneath. By doing this, the water in the copper began to boil. She grated soap from slabs of sunlight soap, into the boiling water, to get our clothes clean. Mum would stir the clothes from time to time, to help with the cleaning process. She used blue in the rinse water to make the whites whiter. Washing became an all-day effort to complete. This method is very different from what happens with our washing in modern homes today. With just a flick of a switch, it's all done for us.

Mum had a pet magpie that would follow her around; he used to talk. One day she was hanging the washing out and noticed maggie coming along on the line behind her, pulling the pegs off, which meant the wet washing was being dumped on the ground.

Each morning after our cuppa, we headed off to get the cows into the yard and put the separator together. The copper was lit for hot water to wash up afterwards. The cream was held in a cream can with our name stamped on it, and taken out to Camboon Road and left in the stand, then taken to the Butter Factory in Biloela by a cream carrier. A dairy Inspector turned up from time to time to make sure everything was clean and in order. Dad had a good relationship with him.

One morning when I arrived at the dairy, I noticed what I thought was a spotted cat, trying to get out of the 44-gallon drum that contained the separated milk for the pigs. It turned out to be a Quoll. Poor thing was almost drowned, so I picked it up and put it on the ground. I had never seen one before.

On July 19th, 1965, we had an extremely cold day; it was 8 degrees below. Dad had the irrigation going overnight and when he went down to the lucerne paddock next morning, the engine had shut off. There was so much ice; the water was freezing as it hit the air. On cold mornings when I was asked to bring the cows in, my feet were numb. I didn't own a pair of shoes. It was good policy to follow the cows closely, and any fresh dung was used to warm my feet. O, what a relief!

One year, Dad lined all us kids up to burn all the dead trees in a few paddocks. We really enjoyed that. Bob and I threw hot coals to each other to catch, it was fun. We didn't get burnt. Only a few days later Dad was in Biloela and noticed a pall of smoke. He knew where it was coming from. A tree had fallen over into the wheat paddock that was ready to head.

Several of us kids went on Young Australia Tours on the train to Cairns and Perth. We saw and went to places we haven't since. What our parents sacrificed for us 10 children is truly amazing. We are all so grateful. We had a happy family life and I'm sure that has helped us to enjoy the company of each other to-day. Hopefully, we can hand this love on to our families as well.

RATZ **by Patrica Brown (nee Ratz)**

Susan Ratz moved to Biloela in the early 1930's. Her sister Mary and niece Cecilia came with them; also, Susan's daughter Mary who later married Vincent Oates. Cecilia married Frank Thorn.

Shortly after she moved to Biloela, she started a boarding house in Callide Street. She then moved to Kroombit Street somewhere near the old Central Telegraph building near Melton Park on the same side of the road, where she continued to run a boarding house. Of course, it was mainly scrub in those days.

Sometime between 1939-1940 she moved to a rented house at 38 Kroombit Street. She continued to take in boarders to help make ends meet. Marian Jensen (nee Barnes), Dot Connor and Tom Bourke were some of the boarders during this time.

Later, after all the boarders had moved on the Thorn family moved in with us. We had no electricity until 1960. We had an icebox, and ice was delivered to the door so we could keep things cool. Cliff Hunting had a garage next door and when he was working at night, he would run a lead across to our place, so we had good light until he finished for the night. He was very good to Mum. The Thorn family stayed with us until 1962, when I purchased 39 Kroombit Street and Mum, Nola, and I (Pat) moved across the road. I still own this house today. Mum spent most of her life in Kroombit Street.

Reinke's (produce agent) were on the corner where Woolworths stands today. Not sure when Montgomerie's started. There was a butcher shop along there somewhere. Mr and Mrs Boldireff had a van and sold fruit and vegetables. There were a couple of houses and a place that sold tools. Kev Cockburn had a baker's shop somewhere at the back of where Woolworths had their petrol station near Valentine Plains Road. My sister, Nola and I used to go there for our bread; the only trouble was it was through scrub and there was a donkey. We were quite scared of it as it used to chase us, and we would run from tree to tree to get away.

I am a bit hazy on some of it now as it was back in the 1940's. Biloela was very small in those days, not many houses. It didn't take long to walk the block. We even played cricket on Gladstone Road (I don't think it would be wise today). I remember when it rained fishes and the gutters were overflowing. We had great fun catching them. We had many a walk-through scrub to get to State Farm Road to visit our cousins up near where the DPI is now.

RIDEOUT, Frank by Val Osbourne

Frank was the eighth and last-born child of William Sutherland and Margaret Ann Rideout (married in Rockhampton in 1881). Frank was born in Calliope on 29 December 1898 but lived on the Callide Creek in the Six Mile Hut until he was 3. They then moved to Calliope where William died when Frank was 8. After leaving school, Frank conducted a mail service from Calliope to 'Kroombit Station'. In 1920, Frank went to work on 'Kroombit Station' where his brother Jack was the manager. It was here that Frank met Sarah Childs who was the governess there. Frank decided if he was to get married he would like to have better prospects than being a horse breaker.

In 1924 Frank selected the slaughter yard paddock, where Queensland Heritage Park is now. He then purchased 2 town blocks and built a butcher shop on one and a house on the other.

The first meat was sold out of the shop on 9 May 1924. Prior to this Frank had set up a bough shed in Roy Brown's paddock and sold meat from there. At that time Biloela had not been surveyed and Frank was not allowed to use his slaughter yard building because it was a health requirement that the inside wall be painted black up to 5 feet.

The nearest black paint was at Wowan or Rockhampton- both a very long way away until the rail came through.

May 1926 Frank married Sarah Childs who was born in Cania on 30 April 1899. They had four children – Cliff, Alan, Thelma and Brian.

Frank and his family lived in the Callide Street house next to the butcher shop until 1931 when he leased the butcher shop to Skip Naughton, having selected '*Revelwood*'.



In 1928, Frank bought 2 more blocks in Kariboe Street (Allotments 15 & 16 Section 4 Town of Biloela) to place a building on and to be leased to become Biloela's first Police Station. Frank bought a wooden house in Mt Morgan, and like a lot of buildings in those days it was dismantled, transported and then reconstructed. The building was high set and the Court of Petty Sessions and Courthouse were under the private dwelling of the Constable in Charge. Prisoners were chained to a tree in the back yard until a cell was built under the house. This Police Station commenced service on 24 December 1928 and was operated by Constable Daly. The first permanent Police officer Constable Cooling began on 12 Feb 1929. Later a police reserve was gazetted and a new police station and courthouse were erected and completed on 21st February 1930 on the same site as the current police Station at 56 Grevillea Street, Biloela. Frank's house continued to be used as the Police residence until 17 November 1932.

In 1929, '*Kroombit Station*' was resumed and Frank selected an 8776-acre block on the Two Mile Creek which he called '*Revelwood*' but it was not until 1932 that Frank's family moved into the newly built house on '*Revelwood*'. With the help of a bush carpenter and a few other men, Frank rigged up a sawmill driven by a Fordson tractor which cut the timber to be used in the house. In 1949, this house was sold to the ambulance and relocated to Kroombit Street, Biloela, where it is still being used as a home today. While the '*Revelwood*' house was being built, Frank moved his family to '*Blue Hills*', his brother's property.

1932 to 1939, Frank's family lived on '*Revelwood*' and Cliff and Alan did school by correspondence. During this time Thelma and Brian were born and joined their two older brothers in being taught by

their mother Sarah. In 1934, Frank selected 'Mt Kroombit' 4000 acres. It was mostly scrub country and not valued as it was very expensive to clear. It had a good well on one corner and Frank thought it may be useful for water on 'Revelwood' if needed.

In 1939, Frank moved the family back to Biloela to the house that had been the Police Station in Kariboe St. There was a 3-teacher primary school which the four children could attend. Frank took back the butcher shop, which by then had been extended to include an ice works. It had a big generator which supplied power and lights to the shop, cold room, the office and the hair dressing salon next door which was under the original family home in Callide St. At that time, Biloela still had no power, water or sewage.

In 1942, Frank moved his family just out of town to a rented house on 200 acres. This land is from about Wahroonga to the corner of Thangool Road and Dawson Highway and out to nearly Meissner's Road. It was a huge house that had once had the post office and had been Brown's Boarding House. It had 6 bedrooms, plus 3 sleepouts and a large, covered breezeway. The family were then able to have horses, chooks and milking cows again. For Frank and Sarah, education was an important aspiration for their children and they sent Cliff, Alan and Brian to Rockhampton Boys Grammar and Thelma to St Faiths in Yeppoon to complete Junior.

In January 1944, Frank became fed up with the rationing and the general red tape of butchering at this time and he sold the butcher shop to River Motors. Then, in 1947, Frank sold the slaughter yard paddock and the adjoining block and bought three Portions at Valentine Plains which joined 'Mt Kroombit' to 'Revelwood'. The family then moved onto Portion 18 ('New Revelwood') on the Kroombit Creek which had a very old house with water laid on and power provided by a 32-volt lighting plant with batteries - a big step up from kerosene lights. There was also a mail service 3 times a week, with bread delivery and a much better road to Biloela. There was also more of a social life with several tennis courts along the road and on alternate Sundays we would play social tennis.

From 1948 to 1951, Frank and Cliff, Alan and Thelma all worked on 'Revelwood'. In 1951, Cliff left 'Revelwood' for a working holiday. He ended up working and living most of his life in the Northern Territory before retiring to Maleny. Thelma married in 1954 and moved to Beerwah where they built a poultry business which is still family run. Brian followed Cliff to the NT. At age 25 Brian received a Government Cadetship to Queensland University to do Vet Science before returning to the NT for the rest of his life.

Frank passed away on 21 January 1962 in his own home on 'New Revelwood', Valentine Plains and Sarah was killed in a car accident on Valentine Plains Road on 11 December 1963. Both are buried in the Old Cemetery in Biloela. After Frank and Sarah's passing, four sections of 'Revelwood' were sold while Alan inherited the 'Mt Kroombit' portion. Thelma still lives on the Sunshine Coast; Cliff passed away in Melaney in April 1994; and Brian in Darwin in April 1985.



Anzac Day parade in Gladstone Road, showing house and butcher shop.

SHIELDS by Lindsey Duff (nee Shields)

This is a story about a man who went to war and came back home to shock his parents who were told he had been killed in an Aircraft accident.

My dad Edgar Mathew Shields was a young man when he joined the air force. He was sent to Canada to train to become a Spitfire Pilot. He went to war flying these planes and was later shot down over Normandy in France by the Americans. He was badly burnt on his legs and was sent to England to recover. My dad didn't talk much about the war. When he came home to Rockhampton after his parents had been told by the Air Force that he had died, you can imagine their shock when he turned up on their doorstep.

My dad had met my mum in Brisbane during leave and they wrote to one another regularly. When he came back after the war he proposed to my mum and then set up house in Rockhampton. They bought a home in Bolsover Street and we lived there till I was 7. Our family consisted of four children -Rodney, Geoffrey, Lindsey and younger brother Kim and my mum Mavis and Dad. Dad rented a shop in Callide Street where he started his own Real Estate business next door to the CWA Building.

Dad would drive back to Rocky every weekend for many years and then when I turned seven, we left Rocky and lived in a house which dad had bought on the Biloela - Moura Road and it was called Carinya. I started school at Biloela State School along with my elder brothers and settled in.

Dad went on to play Golf which he gradually got good at and then he got mum interested in the game also. My dad had bought some land in Cooe Bay Yeppoon where he built a holiday cottage for all of us to spend our school holidays. He built that house all on his own with some help from mum. We loved going down there up until a few years ago when it was sold.

Dad built up his business and moved several times till Callide Chambers was built when some other business people went into their own businesses, these being *Martins Men's Store, Westpac Bank, Malcolm Husbands Chemist, McAdams Solicitor, Edgar Shields Real Estate* and *Dawsons Drapery*. This building is still there today.

We all as kids got involved with life in Bilo. Dad got into Council, Golf, Ambulance Committee, and School Committee. We lived in Biloela for many years and my mum and dad left when dad retired and sold the business.

Dad received the Legion d'Honneur Medal from the French Gov for his bravery during the war. He was in his 70's when he received that along with 4 other Air Force men in Australia.

Dad passed away when he was 88 and my Mum is in a home in Emu Park, She will be 99 on the 31st of Dec this year.

We loved our life in Biloela. I have the best memories of growing up there and still regard Bilo as home. I met my ex-husband in Bilo and we lived there till I left to join my parents in Rocky. My eldest brother Rodney died when he was 54; Geoffrey lives in Cooe Bay and Kim in Nambour. I, Lindsey, live in Mackay.

