

❖ DICK BENNETT ❖

BACKGROUND

Arthur Richard (Dick) Bennett was born in St George in 1930. He was raised on Kooroon, where his father was farm manager. Dick had one older brother who died in 1988, and also sadly lost twin siblings from whooping cough when they were six months old.

Dick spent the first thirty years as a jackaroo and overseer, breaking in sheep dogs and, as a noted marksman, he made extra money from roo and rabbit skins. He also received council rebates for fox and feral pig scalps. He met his future wife, Carol Challinor at the Club Ball in St George. Carol grew up in Maranoa. They married in 1958 and had two daughters in St George, Joanne and Jacquie. In 1959 Dick decided to move his family to Buderim where there were greater social and educational opportunities.



LIFE ON BUDERIM

The family settled in Buderim, where their third daughter, Kerry was born. Dick did some small crop farming on their block of land in Mill Road while working in sawmills and at Underwood's Muffler Factory. Underwood's were the sole suppliers of exhaust systems for Victa mowers at that time. Their first home on Mill Road was a 2.5 acre block. Sadly, their first home burned down but they rebuilt in 1978. A neighbour grew beans on a block that stretched from Mill Road to Ferguson Avenue, and also had a cow that grazed on the beans.

Dick started work at the Headland Golf Course where he helped blast rocks during its development. He ended up Head Greenkeeper and retired aged 58 in 1988. Dick's best mate was Fred Munn who was a member of Lions. The two of them went on working bees and helped clean up after the Brisbane Floods. Fred and Dick would have drinks at the Buderim Bowls Club on Friday nights.

Dick helped keep the Buderim Mountain State School, St Marks and Methodist Church grounds mowed. He was also an active community member and joined BATS, BWMCA and the school P&C. He was well known for his hard work ethic and was always willing to lend a hand.

Dick died aged 87 in 2017 after a battle with Leukaemia. His life is summed up as someone who enjoyed his mates, who was a genuinely popular and an all-round good bloke. He lived his life well for those who loved him most.