

❖ ALICE GRIMMETT ❖

Alice Roslyn Grimmertt (nee Fielding) was born in Sandgate, QLD, in 1915. She was the youngest of Herbert and Rose Fielding's four children and their only daughter. She was the granddaughter of John Fielding, one of seven men who selected blocks of land on Buderim in the 1870s. Those early settlers grew sugar cane but, by the late 1880s, John's son Herbert (Alice's father) was growing bananas on a large scale on the family property. When Herbert acquired the property in 1906, it extended from Orme Road to Mill Road and extended across Gloucester Road to Martins Creek.



Alice grew up on the family farm ('Clitheroe') and attended Buderim Mountain State School. At that time, the farm was still producing bananas but also had a dairy herd and a piggery. The Spit at Mooloolaba was the Fielding's holiday destination. They travelled there by horse and cart with the family cow following closely behind to provide fresh milk each day.

Alice inherited a strong love of music from her parents and took piano lessons from the age of eight. Her musical prowess developed further in her secondary school years at Somerville House where she practiced for three hours a day. She became a music teacher at that school then returned to Buderim where she continued teaching piano. She travelled to Brisbane each week to continue her music studies and, in 1935, sat for the Licentiate of the Trinity College, London. She was awarded the Whitehouse Medal for attaining the highest marks in Queensland in that year and again in 1937.

Alice married Lanse Grimmertt in 1942, just four days before he was posted to New Guinea as a medical officer to the Australian troops fighting there in World War II. She worked as a music teacher at St Mary's School in Herberton, North Queensland, while Lanse was stationed at a nearby Army rest and recuperative camp. At war's end, Alice, Lanse and baby John moved initially to Maryborough, then Goomeri and Goodna where Lanse held various medical positions. Three more children, Roslyn, Ruth and David were born during that period.

The family eventually settled at Margate on the Redcliffe Peninsula where Lanse established a medical practice, with Alice working as receptionist at times. When the children were in their later teens, the family moved to St Lucia, Brisbane, with Lanse swapping a busy private practice for a job at the Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital, and then the Taringa Repatriation Centre.

After those years when her children were the focus of Alice's attention, the time had arrived for Alice to pursue new interests. She studied bonsai and flower-arranging and enrolled in upholstery classes. She volunteered for Meals-on-Wheels and Kings College Ladies Auxiliary, and became an active member of the St Lucia Uniting Church. She played piano accompaniment for cantatas and solo singers.

Alice retained a strong connection with Buderim throughout her life, and her children have very clear and fond memories of holidays at the Fielding family farm then run by Alice's brother, Frank. Lanse and Alice retired to Buderim in 1983 and soon became integrated into the Buderim Uniting Church community. They joined the Buderim Garden Club and opened their garden for members to view. They took great interest in the activities of their seven grandchildren.

Lanse died in 2004 and was much missed by Alice. She died in 2014, shortly before her 99th birthday. She touched the lives of many in her various roles as doctor's wife, mother, musician and church member.