

❖ GAIL EGGMOLESSE ❖

BACKGROUND

Gail Eggmolesse's father, George, came to Australia in the late 19th century from Vanuatu's largest island, Espiritu Santo – firstly to Bundaberg, and shortly afterwards to Buderim. He was one of tens of thousands of men brought from South Pacific islands as indentured labourers to work mainly on Queensland's sugar plantations. George chose to stay in Australia at the end of his indenture period and bought land near Buderim's Rim Road from his employer, the Foote family. From those early days of settlement on Buderim, George was a prominent member of the Buderim community and part of its history.



GAIL'S LIFE

Gail was born in Nambour in 1945, the second youngest of 12 children to George and Muriel Eggmolesse. Like her siblings, she went to Buderim Mountain Primary School and Nambour High School. After school, she worked as a cleaner, was employed at the Buderim Ginger factory and did seasonal fruit-picking in Victoria. She settled in Rockhampton for a few years before returning to Buderim and meeting her lifelong partner Graham Thompson. They had five children and Gail included Graham's three older children as her own.

Gail was very family-oriented and lived for her family. Her children, and her 20 grand and great-grandchildren, were her pride and joy. They were all special to her and she had a way of ensuring they knew that. She helped them excel in their various endeavours through her limitless support and encouragement.

With a personal history of sporting achievements in running and softball, she maintained a lifelong sporting involvement including support for Little Athletics continuing from the 1980s till more recent years.

She was involved with the Indigenous and South Sea Islander communities in the last five years of her life, participating in events, meetings and important issues related to those communities.

Gail was kind-hearted, well-respected and much-loved. Family and friends remember her as a very sociable person with a happy-go-lucky nature. She loved to joke, laugh, dance and sing. She was also a very caring person, always putting others first. Many saw her as a special person who touched all who knew her. Those fortunate people say 'she was one in a million'.

EGGMOLESSE LEGACY

The Eggmolesse Environmental Park in Rim Road, Buderim, honours a family that has contributed significantly to the Buderim community for more than 100 years. George Eggmolesse donated the land as a community park before he died in 1988, with the request it be left in its natural state.

Donor: Anonymous