

# ❖ GEOFFREY & ELDER LINDLEY ❖

## BACKGROUND

Geoffrey Lindley was born in 1905, the eldest son of Herbert and Isabella Lindley of Curra Station (north of Gympie). He went to boarding school at Cranbrook in Sydney where he excelled at rowing and was school captain. When Geoff was ten his father became ill and his mother moved to Brisbane with his three siblings. He later went to live with his uncle and aunt at Jingerrri. Sadly, Geoff's mother died when he was 16 and at 19 he went to jackaroo on a sheep property called "Darr River Downs" near Longreach in 1925. His diaries of the time show how physically demanding this job was.



Elder Reid was born in Gympie on "Glenhead", where her father Colonel David Elder Reid was the manager of the Gympie Scottish Gold Mine in the early 1900's. Elder went to the local Chatsworth State School in Gympie until she also went to boarding school in Sydney.

Geoff and Elder married in St John's Anglican Cathedral in Brisbane in 1934 and they had two children, son Ian (b 1935) and Anne in 1936.

Geoff joined the army (Queensland's 2/10th Field Regiment) at Redbank in 1939 and Elder and the children moved back to Brisbane. Geoff was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese in Singapore and was in Changi, and later was sent to work on the Thailand-Burma Railway. Of the 834 men in the regiment, 270 died, and they were liberated in 1945.

During the war old family friends of the Lindleys, the Wilsons, took in Elder and her children to live on their dairy farm at Miva. "Uncle Bert" Wilson became a surrogate father to Anne and her brother during this difficult time. Elder would take the children to Noosa for holidays, which they all enjoyed. Geoff was half his weight when he came home after the war and after recuperating in Brisbane, the family moved to Noosaville. They eventually returned to Curra Station and Geoff and Elder bought the Durramboi Paddock, a part of Curra.

## LIFE ON BUDERIM

Geoff and Elder settled at Durramboi until Geoff retired in 1962 and they built a house in Buderim. Son Ian took over the running of Durramboi but Geoff made frequent trips back to check on things. Geoff had good friends in Buderim where he enjoyed snooker. He also took an interest in the early development of Foote Sanctuary.

Elder enjoyed living in Buderim where she played bridge and was one of the first members of the weavers group at the Craft Cottage. She was also a keen golfer and loved fishing. She bought a little boat with an outboard motor, and would go fishing at the Cod Hole on the Maroochy River.

Geoff died in 1979 and Elder in 1991.



*Donor: Anne Webber (daughter)*