

❖ JACK & DOT MONKS ❖

BACKGROUND

Jack and Dot Monks were married in 1945 and embarked on various vocations in the Sydney and Tweed areas including farming, window-cleaning, dry-cleaning, and running a sandwich shop.

In 1957, they were living on the Georges River in Bankstown (NSW) with children Robyn (11), Carol (7) and John (3) when a devastating flood precipitated a move. Jack had also been concerned with the increase of crime in the area and wanted to bring up his family in a safer and certainly less flood-prone area. With their VW Combi and 2-metre caravan loaded to the hilt, the family of five together with their pet dog and Dot's mother undertook the northwards journey to the Sunshine Coast.



LIFE ON BUDERIM

Jack and Dot purchased farming land rich in volcanic soil covering almost 13 acres on top of Buderim and farmed it for 14 years. Buderim provided a safe family environment and, with a return to farming life, assured a very satisfying family and community life. They worked hard on the farm growing beans, strawberries and bananas before embarking on other ventures including a crusher at a Buderim quarry and a sports store in the nearby coastal centre of Cotton Tree. They owned and operated the 'Alexander', a boat used as daily transport for school children living along the Maroochy River and for sightseeing tours between Cotton Tree and Dunethin Rock. Their final business endeavour saw them operating fishing trawlers out of Mooloolaba.

Throughout those years, Dot was involved with the school tuckshop and church, and played tennis with Irene Barnes, Ollie Ashby and Hilda Osborne. She produced outfits for the kids when they attended the school fancy dress balls and Jack prepared the ball venue's floor for dancing. Jack enjoyed billiards and bowls and getting into mischief with his mates Rufus Eggholm, Robbie Robson, Dick Bennett and Fred Munn at the bowls or billiard club. Rufus and Jack were the main workers at the crusher. Fishing took a sudden priority whenever a stick of gelignite failed to detonate with the hope that all would be safe when they returned. Jack, Danny Dowd and George Eggmoss erected rock walls for many Buderim landowners and many of these walls are still in place today. Dot and Jack were competitive with their fishing, particularly with each other, and Jack was known to place lead sinkers down the mouth of his fish in a futile attempt to beat Dot in the heaviest bream competition.

Sadly they lost their son John as a result of a road accident on his way to work in 1995.

In later years Dot and Jack lived in Mooloolaba and Tin Can Bay, always near the water where boats and travelling in their various motorhomes filled their life. Jack passed away in 2009 and Dot in 2012, both at Regis Lakeside, Chancellor Park, near their beloved Buderim.

The land that the Monks farmed when they first moved to Buderim is now subdivided. The road running through it (Monks Crescent) is named after the family which retains strong connections with the area. Daughters Robyn Colbran in Caboolture and Carol Dahler in Buderim along with six of Jack and Dot's grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren living in various parts of Queensland's south east corner all share the Monks heritage with pride.

Donors: Carol Dahler and Robyn Colbran