

# ❖ DOUG AND MARGARET MURRAY ❖

Edward Douglas Murray (known to most as Doug) was born in Blackall in 1919. Margaret Cameron was born in 1920 and grew up on the family property 'Glen Nevis' near Stanthorpe. They met while both were studying at the University of Queensland. Doug graduated at the end of 1940 and, with the World at war, enlisted for overseas service. He and Margaret became engaged before Doug left to serve with the Ninth Division in the Middle East. During this time, Margaret graduated from university with a science degree and embarked on a teaching career. The Ninth Division returned to Australia in early 1943, by which time Doug had served at Tobruk, Palestine and El Alamein. He was awarded the Military Cross for 'gallant and distinguished service' during this period of service.



Doug married Margaret soon after his return from the Middle East and shortly before proceeding to New Guinea on the next phase of his war service. He was subsequently transferred to the War Office in London as an instructor in tropical warfare. After returning to Australia and to civilian life in late 1945, he embarked on a career as an electrical engineer firstly in Ipswich and then Brisbane. Doug and Margaret's five children – Anne, Cynthia, Richard, Helen and Joan were born in the period 1945 to 1955. Margaret's teaching career was curtailed at the onset of motherhood and she threw her energies into creating a secure and loving home life for her family.

From the early 1950s, Buderim became a favourite escape. The Murrays built a holiday cottage on the north-east slopes of Buderim Mountain providing the family with their ideal holiday destination. It also provided for Doug an opportunity to pursue his passion for gardening – in this case, creating a landscaped garden from untamed bushland. This phase of their Buderim life continued until 1964 when Doug was appointed CEO of the newly established Northern Electric Authority resulting in sale of the cottage and a family move to Townsville.

Doug, Margaret and the youngest of their children moved back to Brisbane in 1972 when Doug was appointed Commissioner for Electricity for Queensland. The purchase of another house in Buderim at that time allowed them to resume their relationship with Buderim as their favoured escape and holiday base. It became Doug and Margaret's permanent home when Doug retired in 1980.

Retirement marked the end of a very successful career for Doug. His leadership qualities, formally recognised in the early years of his war service, were evidenced throughout his professional life. For Doug, it was simply about respecting and getting on well with people regardless of their position in the workforce.

Still relatively fit and healthy at the start of their retirement years, Doug and Margaret developed a small avocado farm on Buderim northern slopes. They really enjoyed the work involved and the farm became a great attraction for their now adult children and their families.

In 1994, Doug and Margaret were ready for the next stage of their retirement and moved into a villa at a nearby retirement village in Buderim. This gave them more opportunity to enjoy the company of old friends and to develop new friendships. Doug enjoyed listening to classical music, helping to tame his daughters' gardens and attempting to improve his golfing game at Headland Golf Club. Margaret enjoyed the company of other women in the village, played bridge, loved seeing her children and grandchildren, and maintained her avid interest in reading and sewing.

Margaret died in December 2005. Doug died on his 91st birthday in May 2010. Buderim had been an important part of their lives for more than fifty years. Their children continue to maintain an association with the area that was a haven for their parents.