

# Place of wheat and wattle....



## Reflections.....

We continue our selection of interviews with long standing members of our community. This month our reflection features the late Mr Ernie Carlshausen & Mrs Thelma Carlshausen.

Remember, if you think you know of someone we should chat with and who may share their story with us please contact Deb at the Shire. You can email [ea@dalwallinu.wa.gov.au](mailto:ea@dalwallinu.wa.gov.au) with your suggestions and details. Our aim is to capture the history from our residents while they can still share it.



Ernie and Thelma Carlshausen

Thelma Carlshausen (nee Cail) was born in Perth. Thelma grew up at Jibberding on Cail Road. They lived in a wheat bag house lined with hessian and covered with wallpaper. Most other houses were mudbrick. She grew up with one brother who was 3 years older. The farm she grew up on was one of the original settled in the area from the four Cail brothers who came to Jibberding from



Victoria and established themselves in the area. Her ancestors were the first land clearers in the Jibberding local area.

Thelma attended Cailbro School which catered for infants of 6 years old up to 14 years. It was too far to walk and they attended by using the horse and cart. The last two years she spent doing correspondence. Once Thelma left school she helped out at home before working in the Bakers shop in Wubin. She left work when she was married at twenty one years of age.

Ernest (Ernie) Carlshausen was also born in Perth. As with Thelma his family were from Jibberding. Ernie grew up with two brothers and two sisters. Ernie attended East Wubin School where there was an enrolment of just eight students. In those days the students travelled by horse and cart to get to school. He finished



his schooling by attending boarding school in New Norcia for the last two years.

It was a journey in itself to get to school. He would travel by train to Perth and then bus back up to New Norcia and do the same by reverse when he went home for holidays. When Ernie left school he returned home to the farm at Jibberding. His father died when Ernie was young and he and his mother and brothers had to work the farm.



Ernie and Thelma did not really get to know each other growing up. Even though they were both from the Jibberding area and saw each other at dances and picnics they only officially met when Thelma became friends with one of Ernie's sisters. There were many dances and Debutante Balls in those days as far spread as Latham to Ballidu.

Thelma and Ernie were married on the 23 August 1952 when Thelma was twenty one. They eventually moved onto their farm at Wubin where they settled and had four children.

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Ron, Linda, Glenda and Julie. Ron who took over the farm but is now semi-retired. The farm is run by his two sons and families. Linda trained as a nurse farmed locally before retiring to Denmark. Julie lives in Harvey but loves nothing more than coming home to Dally to enjoy the open spaces. Glenda works at the bank here in Dalwallinu. At last count they have 13 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren. The greatest joy of Thelma's life is her family.



When Glenda was in high school she announced to her parents she wanted to apply for an American Field Scholarship. This meant Glenda would live and go to school in America for a year. The criteria for the selection process was quite rigorous. Thelma recalls having to host members of the judging panel at their farm so they could assess Glenda and her family. They arrived in the middle of shearing and basically had to work around the farm requirements and it was this that clinched the deal. Glenda was selected and she headed off to America.

She was very lucky to be placed with a wonderful family in Missouri on their farm. Shirley and Marven Oerke adopted Glenda and she became part of their family, and remains so to this day. Ernie and Thelma travelled to America for a month and stayed on the Oerke farm with the family with Thelma visiting a further six times since. The families have shared many celebrations including several of the children's weddings



They remain lifelong friends which is a wonderful tribute to them all.

Travel has become a big part of Thelma's life since losing Ernie. Apart from travelling to America and Borneo she has gone on many cruises with family members. She has cruised from Fremantle to Darwin and then boarded the Ghan for the train trip to Adelaide. She also cruised from Cairns to Papua New Guinea and onto Sydney, as well as Broome to Darwin and on to Cairns. She has also cruised through Alaska.

She's been on the Indian Pacific no less than seven times and because of lawn bowls has travelled to Norfolk Island, Tasmania and South Australia. One of the trips that remains an absolute highlight with Thelma is travelling the

Canning Stock Route with one of her granddaughters and her future husband.

Her other interests include being a member of the Wubin CWA, Tennis club, Golf Club where she won the B-Grade once. She volunteered with Meals-on-Wheels and is a member of the Craft Shop.

Thelma moved to Dalwallinu in 1977. She never wanted to live in a city and loves the country, her home and her family. Her home is full of family photos and photo albums and the fridge is covered with grandchildren and great grandchildren's photos.

When I asked if she would change anything or bring anything to Dally, her answer was an emphatic "Nothing".

She is a massive Essendon fan and can name every player and also still regularly attends local games when they are played in Dalwallinu to support her family when they are playing.

I asked about one thing she grew up with that youngsters wouldn't understand or even remember today and Thelma's response was the lack of available water and not being able to bath or shower daily.

We thank Thelma for sharing their story with us.

