

# Place of wheat and wattle....



## Reflections....

We continue our selection of interviews with members of our community. It is interesting to hear their stories and find out how they came to Dalwallinu and more importantly what keeps them here.

Please remember if you think of anyone who may like to share their story with us please contact Deb at the Shire on 9661 0500 or email [ea@dalwallinu.wa.gov.au](mailto:ea@dalwallinu.wa.gov.au).



Doug and Betty Waterhouse

This month's story our story is from Betty Waterhouse. We thank Betty very much for sitting down and sharing hers and Doug's story with us.

Betty Waterhouse (*nee Hymus*) was born in Fremantle and grew up with 1 sister and 2 brothers, who, unfortunately are all now deceased. Betty grew up in Rockingham, with her father's family being pioneers of the area.

Her father served in WW1, and due to injuries received during his service in France, was mostly confined to a wheelchair. He passed away when Betty was 4 leaving her mother to raise 4 small children on her own. Betty remembers her Mum having lots of help from relatives in Rockingham and from Kelmscott where her mother was from.

Betty attended primary school in Rockingham, where it was close enough to walk. Later she attended

Princess May school in Fremantle she would use the bus, before finishing at Perth Modern School where she boarded with friends. Betty was elected prefect at both Princess May and Perth Modern School.

Betty then attended Teachers' College, to train as a teacher, a job that she loved. On completion of teachers' college, Betty and a friend went to Albany and worked in a café while waiting for their teacher appointments. Her friend was appointed to Gwalia for her first school, but Betty and 7 others, who had received very high teaching marks were sent back to university to train as Vocational Officers. Their headquarters were at Perth Boys School. After completion of the course, they were called out to various schools to assess and assist children with specific learning difficulties, mainly reading, and help develop programmes to assist these students. They were also required to do IQ tests on students to better understand the student's needs.



Betty as a baby



Taken at Teachers College

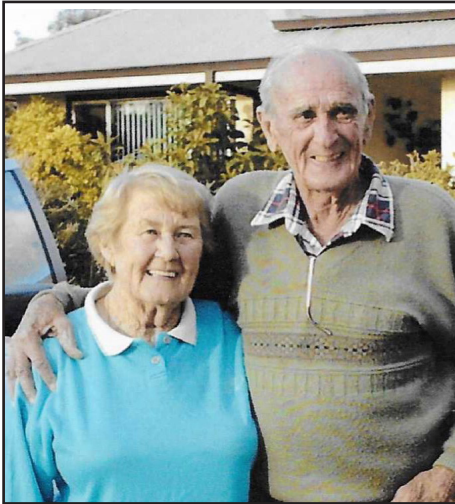
Betty's first teaching post was at Goomalling, which she thoroughly enjoyed, finally having her own class to teach. After two and a half years at Goomalling Betty was approached to become a demonstration teacher, a position she accepted. She went to Claremont School where trainee teachers, as part of their training, would go into her class and watch her present her lesson.

John (Doug) Waterhouse was born in Goomalling. He was the eldest of five children with two brothers and two sisters. His family were farmers at Karranadgin, a small locality just north of Goomalling, and he grew up on the farm. When it was time to start school, as there was no school near the farm at Karranadgin, he went to live with his grandmother and attended Cottesloe Primary School. When the school was eventually built at Karranadgin, he returned and attended this school with his brothers and sisters. Doug also attended Perth Technical College, again staying with his grandparents.

On completion of his schooling, he returned home to the farm near Goomalling. Doug's two sisters

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had gone to school in Rockingham with Betty, and when she moved to commence teaching at Goomalling, Doug and Betty met. They married in 1952.



Betty and Doug Waterhouse

Betty resigned from teaching when she married. Eventually, in later years, she returned to do relief teaching and worked part time from 1970 through to the 1990's. Betty said she was inspired to become a teacher because she didn't enjoy school. Corporal punishment was the norm in those days, and she desperately wanted to become a teacher to inspire children and to make sure that children loved school and wanted to come. Her motto was that a teacher does not have to be a walking encyclopedia, all she must do is inspire a child to want to learn.

She was thrilled when she recently received a Facebook post from one of her ex-students which stated—*"When you walked in the classroom at Latham Primary you made learning fun, and we all loved you"*. That made her day, and she hopes she has made a difference in some children's lives.

Betty and Doug eventually left Goomalling and bought a farm at Maya, between Buntine and Latham, in 1960. By that time, they had three children in Kerry,

Peter and Debbie, with the fourth, Megan, born in Dalwallinu after their move to Maya.

When they moved to Maya it was a bustling little community, with 2 shops, tennis club, hall, which hosted church and the church guild, as well as other community events, which Betty was a part of.

Betty and Doug regularly attended and hosted bridge nights with neighbours. Betty and Doug both played tennis at Latham Tennis Club when Maya tennis folded and in later years both played bowls at Buntine Bowling Club.

Doug and Betty worked on the farm from 1960 to 2005, at which time they retired to live in Dalwallinu. They had 4 years together before Doug passed away in 2009. Betty moved into Pioneer House in 2021 and says she is enjoying it here. She loves Dally and says that everything she needs is available here.

Their children have all married and have families of their own. Sadly, her son Peter passed away, but one daughter Kerry lives in Bunbury, another daughter Megan lives in Jurien Bay and Deb is married to a farmer in Dalwallinu. Betty has 13 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

When I asked her what she grew up

with that younger people wouldn't understand today she recalled that traditionally every Sunday they would go to church, then have a roast dinner followed by apple pie and cream, and tea would be cold meat and salad. This was every week, no matter what the temperature was.



Family home at Rockingham

Betty has travelled to Singapore and Phuket. She loves cruises and has enjoyed 3 of them as well as enjoying a trip on the Ghan from Darwin to Adelaide. She also has many happy memories of camping trips with family and friends over the years. Betty and Doug also have many happy memories of all their caravan holidays in Jurien Bay. Both enjoyed fishing and Betty loved her "two swims" a day regardless of the weather.

Betty has always had a passion for gardening, which continues today, as she tends to and enjoys her orchids and geraniums in her small garden at Pioneer House.

