

The Reflections Begin....

All interviewees were asked the same series of questions and then we expanded upon their history. This is the first story in a series that we intend to share over the coming months. 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 with your suggestions and your contact details. All suggestions are welcomed. Our aim is to capture the history from our residents while they can still share it.

Robert and Helen Nixon

Robert Nixon was born in Midland but returned to Dalwallinu and lived all his life on the farm at Kalannie. Helen Nixon was born in Brisbane. She grew up on a dairy farm with her parents at 8 Mile Plains, which is eleven miles from the centre of Brisbane.

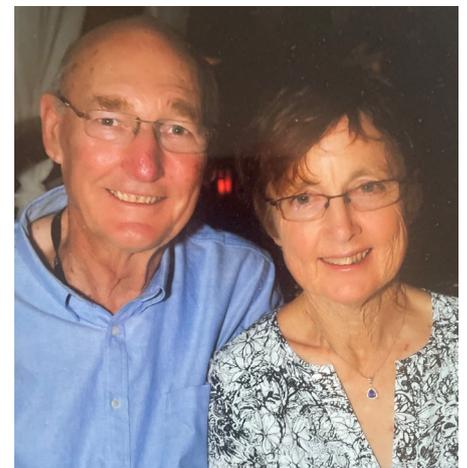
Together they raised five children and have eleven grandchildren. There are still three generations farming in Kalannie. One is in Perth and another in Mullewa with their families.

Robert attended Kalannie Primary School. Depending on the bus run it could take fifteen minutes to get to school or one hour. He attended Christ Church Grammar for Senior school. Whilst at high school Robert competed in

athletics and was the WA Under 17's state 1/2 mile champion in 1963. For those who don't know it, a 1/2 mile is now called the 800 metres. He was also in two Head of the River winning crews. After school he returned to run the farm as his father was not well.

Helen commenced school at 8 Mile Plains but moved to Loreto School in Brisbane later on. Helen walked to primary school but had to take a bus and tram to school when she started at Loreto. Upon leaving school Helen's commenced work as a bank teller in Brisbane.

Helen and Robert met on a cruise out of Brisbane. Robert and some of his friends went on it and met Helen and a girlfriend who were also on the cruise. The rest is history. They married and Helen



Robert and Helen Nixon

returned to Kalannie to raise their family and to support Robert as he was fully committed to many endeavours.

When I asked Helen what activities she participated in she modestly said she was a homebody who was happy to support Robert as he was fully committed to many endeavours.

Robert was a Councillor for the Shire of Dalwallinu for 16 years and served as Shire President. He was also a member of Kalannie Basketball Club, community and farming groups. He was a President of the Dalwallinu Junior Farmers whose legacy for this district included

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Robert sitting on his pedal tractor in front of a self-propelled Massey Harris 726 header. His sister Anne and Uncle Bill Nixon are on the header.





Place of wheat and wattle...

(Continued)

agricultural, debating and social activities. His involvement in politics, and his desire to serve his local community, was the pathway to his involvement in Local Government.

Robert and Helen are particularly proud of the time that Robert was involved with the Shire, especially during his tenure as Shire President.

He describes his greatest achievements during his time

on Council as his involvement with promoting the Shire and his involvement with the tendering and lobbying for the establishment of the Dalwallinu Discovery Centre. The entire project came in on-time and on-budget.

When asked about the thing they love about Kalannie they responded “the people; but there just aren’t enough of them”. They both feel there needs to be less obstacles to decentralisation to

enable more families to live in rural communities.

When asked what many youngsters today wouldn’t understand or remember from their days, they said fridges that ran on kerosene and 32 volt electricity.

Robert would milk a cow and butchered all their own meat.

Young people today only know how to find these at supermarket.

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