

The Reflections Continue....

We continue our selection of interviews with long standing members of our community. This time we are focusing on Charles and Gwen Hyde. 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.

Charles and Gwen Hyde

Gwen Hyde (nee Jasper) was born in Cunderdin and her family is one of the early pioneering families to settle in and around Cunderdin. She attended Cunderdin local school and then went on to Perth Business College. Gwen recalls when they lived in town it taking five minutes to walk to school in Cunderdin. When the family moved out onto the farm it could take 30 minutes or 1 hour and 30 minutes on the bus, depending on which direction the bus took. After school Gwen moved to Perth to go to college.

Gwen's very first job after finishing her education was at the Cunderdin Co-op where she worked for three years. Eventually she came to Dalwallinu to work as a

secretary at the Dalwallinu Road Board (*which is now the Shire of Dalwallinu*). It was here she met Charles Hyde.

Charles Ernest Hyde was born in 1936 at Dalwallinu Hospital and he was educated at the Dalwallinu school. He recalls riding his bike to school which on a fine day could take about 20 minutes but in winter it could take up to 35 in the mud. He attended Wesley College in Perth for senior school. Once he finished his education in Perth he returned home to the farm.

Charles grandfather first settled near the well in Dalwallinu. The Hyde family were one of the original founding families who camped at the Dalwallinu Well. Together with the Rayners, the



Charles and Gwen Hyde

McNeills, and the McLevies who were all early settlers in the district.

When Gwen moved to Dalwallinu she enjoyed social outing to dances. This was where she met Charles and they began courting. The rest they say is history.

They married in 1959 and moved onto a property at Nugadong where they raised five children including twins. They now have 11 grandchildren and one great grand child. Only Craig remains at home now.

Their leisure pursuits were varied. Gwen is fond of embroidery, was involved in the Op Shop, the Arts Festival and Totally Local and Charles was an enthusiastic supporter of the Music and Drama club. He
(Continued over)

(L-R back Bruce, Craig, Grant, front Bronwen and Charles)





Place of wheat and wattle...

regularly performed in musicals and plays. He fondly recalls performing in 3 Gilbert and Sullivan productions. He was President of the Liberal Party, on the School Council, President of the Hospital Board and Chairman of the restoration committee for the Town Hall. He also enjoyed playing cricket. Charles reflects that sport was a very important part of community life: "In the early days cricket and football, teams were fielded from all around the surrounding local farms and communities and anyone would have a go. Now the standard is

higher but participation is less."

The Hydes love the local community of Dalwallinu and are both very proud of their long family history and the part they play in it. Furthermore, the Hyde family folk are usually active in local government, which has led to the prominence of the family in the Dalwallinu district.

When asked about the thing they love about Dalwallinu they both responded "the community" but they feel that there is not enough assistance now for those wanting to live in their own homes later on

in life. They feel this needs to be reviewed. They also miss a town Dentist. Other than that there isn't anything they would change about their town.

Finishing off I asked them about something that they remember which young ones today may not understand. Top of the list was pan toilets, but Charles also mentioned air raid drills and having to hide in trenches.

I would like to thank both Charles and Gwen for sharing their time and their story with us.

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