



## MARIE PASSLOW



### DRESSMAKER'S SCISSORS

I grew up on the family dairy farm on Booloumba Creek Road during the 1930's and took an interest in making doll's clothes from an early age.

Along with my brothers and sisters I attended school first at Cambroon and later in Kenilworth.

In 1939 I was fortunate to have the opportunity to go to boarding school in Brisbane and attended St Ann's, the Industrial section of All Hallows Convent where I learned dressmaking from some very talented nuns. This experience taught me how to draft, cut and sew clothes. At that time you couldn't buy ready-

to-wear clothes as you can today.

I spent a year and a half at All Hallows and returned to Kenilworth at the end of 1940. Subsequently most of my family moved temporarily to Gunnedah in NSW to stay with relations as it was a difficult period in World War 11.

There was a fear that Australia could be invaded and the government encouraged anyone who could move south to do so. The army was prepared to defend the area south of what was called the Brisbane Line.



On return to Kenilworth around 1943, I used my dressmaking skills to make clothes for the family. Mrs Fleiter asked me to make a dress for her and subsequently asked me if I would spend a week at her house to make dresses and other clothes for her and her children. This started my career as a dressmaker. As it became known around the community that I was prepared to travel to farms and houses in the town, my career took off. I would spend about

a week at each house and devote my time to drafting patterns, sewing dresses, ball gowns, children's clothes etc.

The families welcomed me into their homes and I was well looked after using my Malvern Star bicycle to travel between places with my port strapped on to the back of the bike. I was trained at All Hallows to be discreet and not pass on gossip from one house to the next and I was careful to maintain this practice.

I mostly made women's and children's clothes but occasionally I made men's shirts. I remember Bob Beattie asked me to make two shirts for him from special material he had purchased and he wore one of the shirts to the Melbourne Cup. The other one was stolen from his hotel room in Melbourne.

I loved the dressmaking work and was kept busy with it, continuing in the role for around eight years before getting married and living in Brisbane at the end of 1950.

I used the sewing machines belonging to each family I visited but this pair of scissors travelled with me to each job and I was careful to keep them sharp and only use them to cut material. They were purchased by mail order with the first money I saved from my dressmaking work. Each season T C Bierne Department Store in Brisbane would send out a catalogue and you could select and order what you wanted and the goods were posted to you. These scissors can still cut well though have not cut material for a dress for many years.

Marie McIvor (nee Passlow)

Pictured left Marie on her 90th birthday in 2015 and below in 1943.

## KENILWORTH'S LIVING TREASURES

### CALL OUT FOR 2015 NOMINATIONS

The Kenilworth Living Treasures Award is an opportunity to recognise someone who is valued by the community, someone who has been of service to our community. It will include someone who still resides in our beautiful township or surrounding areas as well as people who have recently moved away. The Kenilworth & Historical Association Inc is now calling for nominations for the 2015/16 Living Treasures Award. Closing date for nominations is March 31, 2016

Please forward nominations with –

**Name of nominee.**

**Why the nominee would make a Kenilworth Living Treasure.**

**An outline of what they have done for/in the community.**

This outline of approx 200 to 300 words would include service to community organisations or other voluntary work, business association, sporting activities, special talents or simply how, by being who they are, the community thinks they are great.

Nominations to – Kenilworth's Living Treasures, Kenilworth & District Historical Association Inc., PO Box 166, Kenilworth 4574

Previous winners are:-

1998 Victor Fedorniak, Ed Sims, Burne Sutton; 1999 Dell Miles, Don Owens; 2000 Ross Scott & Margaret Scott, Coral Sutton; 2001 Kev Franz; 2002 Clem & Olive Hassall, Fay Miller; 2003 Shirley Moreland, Terry & Lolie Murtagh; 2004 Fred Armstrong, Bill & Daphne Morris; 2005 John Cutmore, Peter Dobson; 2006 Lionel & Muriel Piez, Veronika Spicer; 2007 Pat Hampstead, Beryl Laffey; 2008 Carmel Dobson, The Wilcox Family; 2009 Cecil & Val Pearson, Linda Green; 2010 Blair & Lenore Meldrum; 2011 Tony & Margaret White, Jenette Franz; 2012 Jessie Wood; 2013/14 Wayne & Joyce Lashmar.

Lenore Meldrum

President, Kenilworth & District Historical Assn Inc.



## KENILWORTH RAINFALL – DECEMBER 2015 by Michael Pfeiffer

Kenilworth had 73.9 mm during December which fell over 9 days. Total rainfall for the year was 1307.9 mm which fell over 134 days. This is just above the average for Kenilworth based on rainfall figures that go back to 1903.