

OUT & ABOUT



Nancy Stenton

NANCY STENTON (nee Lane) is one of a small percentage of Gold Coast residents who can trace their lineage to the first immigrants who settled in the Logan and Coomera area.

Her maternal great, great grandfather Carl Frederick Huth, a tailor who embarked from Hamburg in Germany aboard the 'San Francisco' with his family on August 8 1863, arrived in Queensland on November 28 that year and settled in the Logan area.

Nancy's paternal great grandfather Solomon Lane arrived in Moreton Bay aboard the 'Parsee' on February 9 1857 after having been at sea for 87 days. By 1873 Solomon and his family had taken up residence in a slab hut by Wonga Wallen Creek.

Born at a hospital close to where Australia Fair now stands, Nancy was brought up with her four siblings on the original 187 acre property in the Wonga Wallen Valley near Coomera.

When just under five years of age, Nancy was enrolled at Coomera Upper Primary School as one of only 30 pupils, and after completing her formal education stayed at home for approximately six months before going to work for Paula Stafford's swimwear and leisure clothing business in Cavill Avenue.

Lifestyles

"During frequent visits to my 91 year old mother, we often reminisce about our lifestyle on the farm," says Nancy.

"We were probably regarded as being poor as church mice, but most of our neighbours were in the same predicament so as children we were unaware of the hardships faced by our loving parents.

"Certainly there weren't any real luxuries, except perhaps that the whole valley was our playground where we could roam at will, pick fruit from the trees, fish and swim in the creeks and feel welcome to visit any of the valley residents.

Comforts

"Among our comforts were a wood stove, a kerosene fridge and a generator for lights. We made a living milking our cows by hand then separating the milk to supply cream to the Kingston Butter Factory, and we grew a few small crops and bananas. Because of ill health my father sold the farm in 1964 and we moved to Main Beach, into the house where my mother still lives today amongst all the high rise buildings.

"As the years pass and the population continues to grow in south-east Queensland, these days it's the traffic that gets to me more than high rise buildings, although I do find it disturbing and disappointing that many historic links have been lost in areas such as Benowa*, which was settled by a branch of the Huth family.

"Apart from the primary school, post office and Spotlight Theatre many historic links have disappeared to make room for retail and housing development.

"These include sites where cotton as well as sugar cane were grown, milled and shipped overseas," says Nancy, who finds Southport Golf Club very welcoming.

"Moreover the Associates are terrific company and I find that golf is very challenging."

Before taking up golf her main sporting passion for more than 15 years was squash, in which she played open grade, position one on the Gold Coast and became involved with both local and state squash association committees.

Squash had its romantic edge too: she met Tony, to whom she has now been married for 23 years, at the squash courts. Between them they have six children and 19 grandchildren.

Nancy breaks out laughing when she says the whole family looks forward to a very big turkey when they all decide to come home for a traditional Christmas lunch.

**Incidentally, Benowa is derived from 'boonow' the Aboriginal name for the red bloodwood tree and Wonga Wallen means 'place of pigeons and water'.*