

OBITUARY - DOUGLAS CRILLY

30.10.1929 (Rushworth) - 20.10.2016 (Carag Carag)

Douglas Crilly was the eighth and youngest child of John Robert and Hetty (née Davey) Crilly. The Crillys worked in the Carag Carag area until 1925 when they moved to Station St, Rushworth for four years. The parents, with a family of six boys and two girls, then purchased the farm at Carag Carag via Stanhope in 1929 when Doug was just one month old. Siblings Jack, Helen, George, Les, Cliff, Evelyn and Eric have all pre-deceased Doug. The children all attended the Carag Carag Primary School which celebrated its centenary



in 1978 and were very fortunate to have wonderful neighbours in the Stewart family, including Mary Stewart who lived to be 100 years of age.

Doug's schooling was completed at Grade 8 at the Carag Carag school and on leaving school he worked assisting his father on the farm with sheep and hand-milking cows. When his father passed away in 1949 and with brother Eric taking on the farm, Doug, with lifelong friend, Jack Stewart, both learnt to shear and they took up contract shearing in Stanhope, Rushworth and Colbinabbin areas. At the end of 1952, Eric decided to leave the farm and Doug returned to help his mother who was still on the property.

Doug married Shirley Wallden on 10 January 1953 at St Augustines Church, Shepparton with their wedding party being Jack Stewart, Eric Crilly, and Alma and Melva Wallden. The reception was at the Arcadian Café in Maude St Shepparton and they honeymooned in Canberra, Sydney and the Blue Mountains.

Doug, newly married, returned to looking after the farm and also continued contract shearing. In early 1954 the sheep were sold, a cow shed built and cows arrived in the evening at 9pm on April Fool's day 1954. Doug and Shirley, with the aid of a lantern, had to milk by hand well into the night. (Electricity didn't come to the farm until 1964).

In 1959 Doug decided to train trotters, so he acquired a horse, and driving and training trotters became an enjoyable passion which lasted for forty years. Doug's other interests in his lifetime included local school committee and community activities, tennis, football in which he won two best and fairest awards with the Stanhope seconds, and following the sporting pursuits of his growing family.

Over the many years on the farm the family suffered many floods, when Doug and eldest son Graeme spent many hours on the shovel saving crops; and also droughts in which one particular drought year the cows could not be sold and they were all shot and buried in a shire pit with just \$2 per head Shire compensation paid.

In 2002 Doug handed over to daughter Alison and her husband David Couston but he still helped in the milking shed and for social entertainment enjoyed night bowls at the Stanhope Bowls Club. In 2014 he tripped and broke his knee cap and spent three months in hospital and rehabilitation. He was not as active after that and spent much time with Shirley watching tennis, football, netball, cricket and racing on the television. Doug never had a holiday as he considered it a waste of money and why bother 'when he could see trees, dirt and water on his own home property'.

Doug and Shirley had six children Graeme 1954 (dec 2008), Geoffrey 1956, Brian 1957, Maxwell 1959, Alison 1968 and Jenny 1969 and currently there are seventeen grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Doug, in declining health and with a heart condition, spent time in the Goulburn Valley hospital in July but returned home to familiar surroundings and passed away peacefully at his home near his family ten days prior to his 87th birthday.

The funeral service and internment took place at the Rushworth Cemetery on Thursday 27 October 2016. The celebration of life was conducted by celebrant Lynton Round, after which, friends and relatives adjourned to the Stanhope Bowls Club for refreshments.