

Robert Douglas Freudenstein



NX167655 2nd 1st Guard Regiment

Robert Douglas Freudenstein, better known as Doug was born at Grenfell, 16th March 1924. Doug is the second son to William and Agnus Freudenstein of firstly "Chippendale" then later "Nindethana", halfway between Grenfell and Young. His childhood years with six siblings included the usual farming activities of those times along with schooling at Warrunga.

His interest in farming developed through his teens and early adulthood, working with his father, brothers, cousins and wider family.

Before enlisting in the AIF, Doug spent approximately one year in the Allied Works Council building airstrips at Bogan Gate and Hoxton Park. Once enlisted, a large part of Doug's training was in Queensland's Atherton Tablelands and then he was shipped to Milne Bay, New Guinea on 6th December 1943.

Returning to civilian life, Doug married Marian Jane Smith on 29th March 1946 and then settled down to farming on "The Ranch" (246ha) 10 kilometres west of Greenethorpe on the Tyagong Creek. Doug and Marian had four children, Stuart, Christine, Kay and Joy, with five grandchildren and three great grandchildren to this day.

Doug became a Registered Seed Grower (number 149) around 1955 after encouragement from the local NSW Department of Agriculture officers of the time, and so began a career long relationship which brought new, more advanced wheat varieties along to be distributed through the district.

Involvement with community activities began with the Greenethorpe Show Society and Greenethorpe School P & C, serving terms as President, then followed Grenfell P & A Show Society as President.

Local government consumed much of his non farming/family time for 29 years. He was elected to Weddin Shire Council in 1966 and retired in 1995. Through that journey he was Shire President and later Mayor for 15 consecutive years.

Doug and Marian continued farming until 1994 when they sold their property and retired to Warraderry Street Grenfell.

In 2000 Doug's involvement in the Grenfell Bowling Club moved from playing the game of lawn bowls to a Director on the Board, then Chairman's position which he retained for 6 years.

Doug's concern for the welfare of the community continues to this day.

2016