

Greville and Nancy Griffith



Greville Whitehouse Griffith was born on 11th February 1922, at Sans Souci (south of Sydney), the eldest of three children (2 boys and 1 girl) to Hubert and Edna Griffith. Greville grew up on Yamma Station, north east of Forbes, and was educated at Yanco Agricultural High School at Leeton. Upon finishing his education he returned to the family property.

Greville enlisted in the RAAF on 27th September 1941 in Sydney with RAAF Service No. 413579. He did his initial training at Somers, Victoria and Narromine and Bradfield Park (now Lindfield), NSW. On 2nd July 1942 Greville embarked from Sydney, by ship, arriving in Canada on 7th August 1942. Greville then commenced training as a wireless operator in Calgary B.C. as part of the "British Commonwealth Air Training Plan". He was then posted to No.2 bombing and Gunnery School in Mosbank, Saskatchewan, Canada. He graduated in April 1943 and was promoted to the rank of Flight Sergeant. Greville was then posted to No. 32 Operations Training Unit at Patricia Bay on Vancouver Island.

On the 18th July 1943 whilst on a training exercise, Greville was seriously injured when the aircraft he was a wireless operator in was forced to perform a crash landing. Due to his injuries, he was unable to continue his training and was sent back to Australia in February 1944. Greville spent time at a number of RAAF hospitals and rehabilitation units. In December 1944 he was trained as a telegraphist at Point Cook, Victoria. In July 1945 he was posted to RAAF Headquarters at Point Cook in the telecommunications department. On 22 January 1946, Greville was discharged from the RAAF.



Nancy Kirk Priddle was born on the 1st August 1923 in Grenfell, the youngest of three daughters to Sydney and Bertha Priddle. Nancy grew up on "Birangan" between Grenfell and Forbes, and was educated at Kambala Girls School at Rosebay, Sydney. Upon finishing her education she began secretarial work in Forbes.

As the war progressed Nancy decided she wanted to contribute to Australia's war effort, she enlisted in South Australia on the 6th February 1945 and joined the WRANS (Women's Royal Australian Navy Service) as an Assistant Writer, given service number W2536. She did her training in Adelaide and then returned to NSW and started her service at the Naval Base at Garden Island. She was posted to HMAS Penguin at Balmoral, then to HMAS Kuttabul, which had been renamed in memory of the depot ship Kuttabul. This ship was moored alongside Garden Island in 1942 when Japanese Mini Submarines entered Sydney Harbour, a torpedo sank the Kuttabul with the loss of 21 service personal on board.

Nancy was promoted to Writer on 1st August 1945 (her 22nd birthday) and posted to HMAS Torrens in Adelaide in April 1946, from where she was discharged from the Navy later that year on 19th July. Not long after the war ended, Greville and Nancy met through Greville's sister, and in 1947 became engaged. Whilst they were engaged, Greville's father accidentally shot and killed himself while getting through a fence. Subsequently, because of Death Duties (Probate), Yamma Station had to be sold.

Greville and Nancy were married in June 1948 and began their married life together on a property near Manildra. Shortly after, rabbits drove them off the property just before the introduction of myxomatosis. They bought a small property between Grenfell and Young which they farmed until purchasing "Victoria Park", just west of Greenethorpe in 1954. They were successful farmers there for many years where they also raised their three sons: Syd, Ian and Lindsay. Ian continues farming on "Victoria Park" today. Greville passed away in July 1990 at the age of 68 at Concord Repatriation Hospital, from post-operative pneumonia after an operation for lung cancer. Nancy passed away in December 2014 at the age of 91 at the MPS in Grenfell from natural causes.

On this date, 25th April 2018, they are survived by three children, 11 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren.