

DOUG HALL – GREENSBOROUGH

By June Hall nee Evans

My husband, D. S. (Doug) Hall, was born at Preston in 1928; the youngest of five children, at that time the family was living on a soldier settlement farm at Clarkefield (near Romsey). The Hall family moved to Greensborough in 1936, and lived at 165/7 Grimshaw Street. They were members of the Greensborough Methodist Church, the children attended Sunday school and church regularly and Mrs. Hall played the organ.

Doug started school at Clarkefield, when the family moved he attended Greensborough Primary School, then Northcote High School, where he became Head prefect and School captain. He played football for NHS he also played the clarinet in the school band. He was very good at art, sport and music. He lent his clarinet to a friend who then moved to Sydney that was the end of his clarinet playing.

His first job was with Bryant & May, who made matches, they were located in Richmond, then he worked for Burns Phillip, a shipping company, this job took him to New Guinea, where he worked for about twelve months, his next job was at Melford Motors in the city. From the early to mid 1950s he worked in Main Street Greensborough, the locals used to see him daily as he walked to and from work, first at Stublely Motors, then the Stublely furniture store, then the hardware store owned by Bob Stublely. Next he joined the S.E.C. working in the Greensborough office; he was with them until he retired.

He was in Greensborough scouts and played in a couple of premierships teams for Greensborough Football Club. He played cricket for Greensborough; I think he won the district batting average one year. On Saturdays he played football or cricket and on Sundays he played tennis at the Greensborough Tennis club. He did train with the Ivanhoe Amateurs Football Club, I don't know if he ever played for them. He stopped playing cricket because he wasn't seeing the ball very well. Soon after, he found he needed glasses; however, he didn't go back to cricket instead he joined the Heidelberg Golf Club in the early sixties, and was still a member when he passed away in 1995. He didn't quite make single figures, playing off a handicap of eleven. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge in Greensborough, and a Director of the Greensborough Housing Co-op.

I met Doug in the early 1950s just before he joined "The Pied Pipers" band. He played piano, with Reg Groves on the Saxophone and Ron Stott on the drums, both from the Macleod/Rosanna area. When needed, they would call in a friend to play Slap Bass. They played at the local dances, weddings and many other places including Nine

Oral History

Darling Street for the old Melbourne Grammarians. This was always a fun night for the band, those old Grammarians really let their hair down.

His mother told me at the age of three, he started to "pick out the tune of" God save the King on the piano; he was never given piano lessons, because his sister had had lessons and never practised. I never ever saw her play the piano. People admired his "cord progression", a lot of this he learnt from Alf Montfort, an old Greensborough identity, and very dear family friend. Alf was POW in Changi, he returned home in a very poor condition. For quite a long time, Doug used to go to Alf's home every Monday night, for a "jam" session, Alf played the guitar and piano, Doug played piano, this was how he learned so much about cords.

After a trip to Cairns in 1973, where he saw a painting of a gum tree, by Arthur Singer, a well known artist from S.A. He said it was the first time he had seen a painting of a gum tree that really looked like a gum tree; this inspired Doug, and he started painting two months later. He then joined the Diamond Valley Art Society and enjoyed the times spent with the other artists; he made some good friends there, Ron

In 1975 he had a one man exhibition at the Eltham Gallery; he also exhibited in other galleries at Balwyn, Heidelberg, the Dandenongs and others. He showed paintings at numerous art shows, including the Camberwell Rotary Show and Sherbrooke Art Society. Some of his paintings are in the UK and America. The Eltham Gallery had a 9 x 5 exhibition, with most of their artists exhibiting two paintings each. Doug was asked to paint two more when his two paintings sold; when they sold he was asked to paint another two. He sold at least 6 paintings at that exhibition.

He had no formal coaching or training in any of his interests.

For the family, his legacy lives on in his paintings.

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