



Ulster Motors Monbulk c1963

Winter 2017

RON BODEN AND ULSTER MOTORS



It was 1956 when Ron left his wife May and daughter Sandra in Ireland and made his way to Australia in search of a warmer climate. He arrived in Sydney and proceeded to his uncle's large sheep and grain farm in Lake Cargelligo, NSW. He worked for the next 18 months before May and Sandra joined him from Ireland.

Ron, May and Sandra moved to Melbourne and settled in Scoresby. Their home was behind the Golden Fleece Service Station that Ron was managing. He worked there for 3 to 4 years and during this time their family grew with the birth of Adrian and then Ian who were both born at Ferntree Gully Hospital.

By 1961 it was time for the Boden family to move on and that's when they moved to Monbulk. Ron bought the garage from Mr Hefford, who had built it in the late 1940s. Hefford's went on to run the milk bar next door to the garage. Ron named the garage "Ulster Motors" after the province in the north of Ireland.

The family first rented a house in Baynes Park Road, across from where

the swimming pool is now. About six months later they moved into their first home at 16 Mt Pleasant Road, Monbulk.

Ron's business proved to be very successful. He was open for business seven days a week. He had a contract to work on all the Forestry, Police and CFA vehicles. Ron employed many locals including 3 apprentices over his time in the garage. They were Ono Doubled, Peter Seamer and Daryl Bennett. After several years the Hefford family, who had continued to run the milk bar next door, decided to sell their business. With no takers coming forward, Ron decided to buy the property and moved his family into the small house behind the shop. Ron turned the milk bar into a panel beating shop adding to his already busy workload.

It wasn't long before the house seemed too small for a family of five, so they were on the



Ron Boden at Ulster Motors

move again, this time to Priors Road, The Patch with a wonderful view over the ranges.

After some 14 years in his business, seven days a week Ron eventually retired in 1975. He sold his garage business but kept the freehold. He took some well-deserved time off before taking up work again, this time driving a spare parts truck for Williams. It wasn't long before a lot of Ron's old customers wanted him to work on their cars, so he built a shed at his home in Priors Road and started doing some mechanical work again from there. It wasn't full time so he got a job driving a school bus in the morning and afternoons leaving the time in-between to do small mechanical repair work.

As time went by Ron decided he wanted more land. Eventually they found the perfect property in Fairy Dell Road owned by Erne Linton, a well know family in the nursery industry and one of Ron's old garage customers. The property was called 'Monbulk Rose Farm'.

Ron being the adventurous type and not shy of a bit of hard work then decided he was going to become a farmer of some sort but he didn't quite know what. He tried his hand at growing horse radishes, sadly without success but luckily he had kept his job with the bus lines and continued doing some mechanical repairs at Fairy Dell Road. By this time Ron's son Ian had completed a horticulture apprentice with Brooks Nursery and bought the seven acres next door to Ron so they decided to join forces and started growing plants together. They started growing Azaleas, Boronia, Ericas and Daphnes to name a few. Then they began growing roses for the cut flower industry supplying rose plants to cut flower growers. Later they started growing garden varieties for K-mart and other retail outlets.

Ron eventually retired from the farm at the age of 68 years. It was time for Ron and May to be on the move again, this time to Jellicoe Avenue in Monbulk where they stayed for about 7 years before finally moving to a brand new home in Fernshaw Road. Ron maintained a beautiful garden including a big veggie garden which kept him very busy. Over time they realised the house

and the big block in Fernshaw Road was going to be too much to look after as they grew older so Ron and May brought a small two bedroom house in Mt Pleasant Road. Funnily enough this was only three doors up and opposite from where they first started some 50 years earlier. Ron hopes were to retire in Gimpy, Queensland where he had built another house on 22 acres but May preferred to be close to her family.

During Ron's working life he had two very successful businesses allowing he and May to travel back to Ireland 5 times over the years.

Ron was an active member of the community. He was the President of the Belgrave Rotary Club and was a founding member and later the President of the Monbulk Rotary Club. He received the Paul Harris Award which is the highest achievement award for the Rotary Club. Ron was also a founding member of Monbulk Bowling Club and also became their President for many years.

Ron passed away on 11th May 2017 aged 82 years.

FAREWELL

Over the past few months we have had to say a sad goodbye to several long time members of pioneering families of the Monbulk area.

Ron Boden
Dot Sykes
Jimmy Maki

Tony shearer
Betty Colee
Jeanie Wilcox

Our heartfelt thoughts are with all these families.



Betty Colee and her husband Geoff lived in Monbulk for many years. Betty loved her time with the Monbulk Senior Citizens. She also enjoyed following the footy.