

Keith George

Pam Eaves

Keith Herbert George was born on the 11th of September 1907, at Claude Road, Sheffield. His father, Enoch, was a wood cutter and carrier and often used to visit "Entally House" with his horse and cart to deliver his wood. Keith's mother, Elizabeth Mary, was the district midwife. Keith was the youngest of eight children and the only one of his family to further his education. The other family members all followed farming pursuits.

Keith became a probationary student teacher at Devonport State High School. This was followed by teaching appointments at several North West coast schools prior to attending the Philip Smith Training College (part of the old University of Tasmania on the Domain). After his teacher training he taught at Launceston schools and in 1934 he became Head Teacher at Kellevie, then Gretna and later Westerway.

During his youth Keith was a very keen sportsman, playing cricket and football. Prior to retirement and until his death in 1981 he was an enthusiastic bowler with the Tarooma Bowls Club. He was very interested in all sporting activities and promoted a healthy "Do your best" attitude with his primary students. Another major interest was his garden and he spent much time there.

In 1958 he became Principal of the Tarooma State Primary School, firstly at the old school at Coolamon Road and later at the present primary school. While at the Tarooma State Primary School he worked towards the building of the school library which was then named after him. He remained as Principal until his retirement in 1971.

Keith lived in Tarooma with his wife Ethel. They had three daughters, Jennifer, Pam and Annette. All three daughters were teacher trained and are still teaching. While living in Tarooma Keith became deeply committed to working within his local community. He was a vestryman at St. Luke's Church for many years and most Sundays his lusty voice could be heard singing his beloved hymns. He also worked for Meals on Wheels after his retirement.

After a public meeting Keith was approached by members of the community to

help form the Tarooma Senior Citizens Club. He was foundation President of the Club, a position he held until his death in 1981. Many people in Tarooma appreciated Keith's enthusiasm and caring manner with which he approached his variety of interests and on his death, several memorials were dedicated to him:

- A bible at St. Luke's Church.
- The Keith George Memorial Quiet Corner at the Tarooma State Primary School.
- A print of "The Lady Nelson" at the Bowen Road State Primary School.
- The K.H. George Memorial Room at the Tarooma Community Hall.
- The first posthumous award from the Kingborough Municipality for Meritorious Service to the community.

Keith had a great love for people old and young and was always interested in their activities. His sense of humour, kindness and sympathetic nature endeared him to many.



The late Mr Keith George.

PAM EAVES nee GEORGE.