

## Margaret Anne McMillan Reminisces

Margaret Anne Hardiman nee McMillan, who lives in Sydney, is the grand daughter of Monica Carrucan, the third eldest of the 6 children born to Michael and Margaret Carrucan of Kew. Thus she is a Generation 5 descendant of Patrick Carrucan and Mary O'Brien. Her reminiscences are included below.

In 1959, when I was aged three, my two sisters Catherine and Barbara and I moved with mum and dad into a four roomed Garage at Rydalmere in Sydney. The family grew to three more siblings, Brian, David and Elizabeth, By the time I was eight it was quite cramped in that garage for a family of eight. Eventually, by the time I was eleven, a more conventional three-bedroom home was erected on the same block of land, Money was tight but dad always made sure Christmas was special, We had roast chicken on religious days and birthdays.

A gramophone was my favourite and I used to play the 78-rpm records.

The bulk of my working life has been Receptionist/Computers. Interior Decorating is a great interest so, with my Diploma, I will pursue that line of work from now on.

I married Merv Hardimon on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1977 in the Lake Macquarie area, enjoying it immensely. Our son Scott still lives quite well and independently in Terrigal.

My hobbies and interests include visiting art galleries, live stage productions from all cultures and travel.

### MEMORABLE EVENT

My husband Merv, (full name Mervyn Paul Hardimon) and his parents Eileen (1922) and Harry (1917) Hardimon, are all still living. Merv was baptised in the Four Square Gospel Church at Westmead, Sydney. His primary school was Myong Primary School and his high school was Doonside High (Co-educational).

Merv, the youngest of three, was three years old when his family left their Rydalmere residence. (the same year that my family and I moved to Rydalmere and moved into a war service home at Blacktown). They still live there.

Most of the area was farmland and he would ride his pushbike for miles with their neighbour's son. The boys would ride under neighbouring homes (playing games) at night and apparently they lit fire-crackers in the occasional letterbox, He was well behind most of the time although the man across the road chased young Merv with a machete (axe) once. Merv would pick cabbages after school for pocket money,

After completing year 10, Merv gained an apprenticeship on the NSW Railway as a coach-painter/sign-writer. Evidence of this workmanship is on the Queen's Carriage at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

Merv stayed on the railway for ten years. After working in a motor-car repair business, he commenced his own business restoring classic cars.

The clients bring their vehicles to Merv to paint and restore, knowing there will be a trophy won or some form of fine recognition achieved. The latest was at Pebble Beach in America. He enjoys his work with a passion and, in the twenty years we have been married, I'm the one to say, mostly "*Let's stop and have a holiday*", then he unwinds. He is the Vice President of the Central Coast British Car Club and a member of the Jaguar Club of Australia. He has put apprentices through the trade to learn the craft.

Our son (Scott) was born on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1980 at Westmead Hospital and his interest is music - mainly piano.

