

The Waller Family

Rebecca Winifred (Rita), born in 1905, was the fifth child of Gerald and Bertha Martin and was a grand child of Bridget Carrucan and John Coleman.

In 1932, she married Ernest Arthur (Ernie) Waller who, with his brother, had established a contracting business. They began their family life at Ascot Street in Ballarat West and had two children, Kenneth David (b 1931) and Thelma Winifred (b 1933).

Like her mother, Rita was a very gentle woman. She loved the closeness of her family and her companionship with Ernie, and they did everything together. She loved her letter writing and doing the crosswords in the newspaper.



Rita with her sister Connie circa 1920

Ernie collapsed and died in 1965 so Rita continued on in Ascot Street, living alone. For some time she carried on part of the business as owner of a concrete truck and part owner of the contracting business with George Waller. She made several holiday trips to Brisbane to see Lil and in her last years became quite frail. It was Les, one of her foster children, who on one of his regular visits in June 1989 found that she had passed away sitting in her lounge room.

Kenneth David (Ken) Waller – Zeita Coleman

Kenneth David (Ken) Waller, the elder son of Ernie and Rita Waller, was born in Ballarat in 1931. Ken writes

... I wanted to work with Dad in the contracting business but he wanted me to study electrical engineering. I worked for him for a short while "in the stone quarry" but he kept forgetting to draw my wages and the "penny dropped".

After a short period with the Victorian Railways in the electrical workshops, Ken returned to Ballarat and worked in the State Savings Bank until he was able to get into the engineering field as an engineering surveyor. He carried out small transmission line surveys in the Ballarat area that included areas within about a 25 mile radius of Ballarat. This involved investigation and preliminary design to set specifications, the pegging and detailed sketching for the preparation of the construction plan. This was work that Ken really enjoyed and it was a real challenge, also a thrill to watch the construction of your work.

Just before he left to go to Sydney to marry Zeita Coleman, he was given the task of surveying and pegging

the extension of the electricity network between Ercildoune and Beaufort plus the township reticulation of Beaufort, a job that would have normally been undertaken by head office survey teams.

In Sydney, Ken had employment as a survey draughtsman and then an engineering surveyor/manager with a contracting company. He started his own contracting company when the owner of this company retired. Zeita and Ken were in business for the next 25 years as “K.D.WALLER. PTY. LTD Road and Drainage and Civil Engineering Contractors”.

They have two sons: Richard, a financial accountant in the insurance field and David who married Judith Neiuwenhuis with whom he has three daughters, Helen, Susan and Kathryn. David is a senior lecturer at The University of Technology, Sydney.



Richard, Zeita, Ken, David and Judith

Richard Kenneth Waller

Richard Waller, the elder son of Ken and Zeita was born at Manly, NSW in November 1956 and grew up on Sydney's Northern Beaches. He attended Harbord Public School, Manly Boys High School and then the University of Sydney, where he completed a Bachelor of Economics degree. His sporting achievements include playing in the local Manly Warringah cricket and soccer competitions. He has also competed in hockey, basketball and indoor cricket. Richard worked for NRMA Insurance Limited in various accountancy roles and then subsequently as a senior financial accountant with the Insurance Australia Group (IAG) following the demutualisation of the NRMA Group. Richard is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) and an Associate of the Chartered Secretaries Australia (ACIS).

Davis Scott Waller - Judith Neiuwenhuis

David Waller was born at Manly, Sydney, in 1962. The second son of Ken and Zeita, he grew up on the northern beaches where he attended Harbord public School, and Manly Boys High School and player soccer with Curl Curl Youth Club. Post secondary school, he obtained a BA (The University of Sydney) and MCom (University of NSW) and subsequently worked in the banking and film industries. In 1989 he married Judith (nee Neiuwenhuis) and moved from Sydney to work as a lecturer in Marketing at Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga. After a couple of years at Charles Sturt, he moved to the newly formed campus of The University of Newcastle at Ourimbah on the Central Coast where he was one of the foundation lecturers of this campus. David and Judith have three children: Helen (1992), Susan (1994) and Kathryn (1998), all born at Gosford. In 2000 he gained a PhD at The University of Newcastle. He currently works at the University of Technology, Sydney, where he lectures and has authored/co-authored several textbooks and refereed journal articles.

Thelma Winifred Waller – Graeme Maxwell Waller

Thelma Winifred Waller, the younger of two children born to Ernie and Rita Waller, was born in Ballarat in 1933. She was a grandchild of Bridget Carrucan and John Coleman.

She married Graeme Maxwell Waller in 1955 at Ballarat and they had two children, Lyne Maree (b 1958) and Toni Michelle (b 1960).

Thelma died in 2005.

Lynne married Terence Raymond Burns in 1979 and they have two children, Jessica Kate (b 1987) and Lori Jade (b 1989).