

Rex Caldwell Beveridge



Rex Caldwell Beveridge
(20 March 1894 – 26 July 1982)

Rex Caldwell Beveridge was born in Trangie, NSW, in 1894, the second son of Andrew Beveridge and Mary Jenkins. He had eight siblings

Rex's family on the maternal line was one of the founding pioneer families of the Illawarra district of NSW. Rex is a descendant of Mary Wade, who as a ten year old in 1789, was sentenced to death, commuted to transportation for life to New South Wales.

The Beveridge family lived on "Mullah", a property near Trangie, northwest of Sydney NSW. Rex was home schooled with his siblings by tutors and governesses until after the death of his father in 1907, when the family moved to Ryde in Sydney.

Rex was working on the family property when World War 1 began. He gave his Next of Kin as his mother, Mary Jane Beveridge of Epping. He gave his trade or calling as "Station Experience (Jackaroo)".

He was wounded in 1917 but it appears probable that he was in

action for the months of 1918 leading to the Armistice on 11 November. Rex's family believes he was part of the liberation of the French town of Villers-Bretonneux when, in April 1918, the town was recaptured from German troops and handed back to the French villagers. He was discharged from the Army early in 1920 and returned to live at Blairgowrie in Abuklea Road, Epping with his family. However whenever needed, he would spend time on the family property at Trangie, managed by his brother, Alwynne.

Rex was exceptionally good at different sports including tennis, golf and billiards and in his younger years was a champion bare fist boxer.

Until the 1960s Rex had a sporting store (Piper's) 18 Langston Place, Epping, where he sold and restrung tennis racquets. Rex became a patron of ETDTA during this time. He also had the first curb-side petrol pumps in the area. The sporting store was later expanded to include children's toys. His home was a large house called 'Lindisfarne' down a lane at the back of the store. Rex had a tennis court at the back of his house and there were often family tennis days. This court was still in operation until the 1970s when the AGC building on the corner of Epping Road and Langston Place was built. Counted amongst Rex's tennis friends were Harry Hopman and Jack (Herbert) Crawford, both well-known Australian international representative tennis players.

Rex was a non-drinker and non-smoker but had a very active social life and many friends. He didn't marry until very late in life. His

marriage to Lola Wilson, who used to work in the sports store, took place at Church Point in 1970. Keeping it in the ETDTA tennis family, Lola is the sister of Carmen Eldridge who is married to Noel, uncle to John & Kathy Eldridge and brother of the late Len Eldridge who together with wife Daphne, spent many hours at the Abuklea Road complex, managed by son John.



Rex & younger brother James on the tennis court at "Blairgowrie", Abuklea Road, Epping

Rex died 26 July 1982 and is commemorated on a plaque at Northern Suburbs Memorial Garden and Crematorium.

The substantive portion of this profile was sourced from one of the 21 profiles in the book "A Parish Remembers", written by Julie Evans and published by Saint Alban's, Epping in October 2018.

The profiles were of the people named on the WW1 Honour Board in St. Alban's Church