



This year Sundale celebrates its 60th birthday. To commemorate six decades of caring for the community, we will be sharing the stories of 12 remarkable individuals and revealing their amazing contribution to Sundale.

William Barry 'Bob' Sherwell

Foundation Board Member and Secretary (1963 – 1964)

Bob Sherwell had a front row seat during the creation of Sundale.

An active member, and one-time President of the Apex Club of Nambour, Bob and his fellow Apexians, including future Sundale luminaries, Ian Hayne, Peter Richardson, Ray Wilson and Noel Parry, with the support of J.D. Grimes, R.D. Charlton and Sir Clem Renouf of Enterprise Estates, purchased an 18-acre site by Doolan and Carter Roads in 1961, which would become home to Nambour Garden Village.

With a location secure, the serious business of raising money to secure a Government grant to build Nambour Garden Village began.

Two pole sits, the first undertaken by Wilfred Griggs from the Nambour Chronicle in 1961 kickstarted fundraising efforts. At the same time the Apex Club of Nambour hand delivered thousands of brochures to every household in Nambour requesting donations.

Bob's son, Ken vividly remembers the pole sit, which captured the imagination of Nambour and his father's involvement.

"The Apex Club of Nambour was always raising money for projects which would support the local community," Ken said.

"I remember the cubbyhouse being erected in the small square opposite the railway station, prior to the second instalment of the pole sit.

"Ian Hayne and Tom Carter were heavily involved, but so was Dad. I'm sure he spent a night or two at the top."

The son of a dairy-farmer, Bob was born and raised on the Sunshine Coast and built a reputation as a man who would have a go

and could get things done, firstly as a truck driver hauling grain throughout South East Queensland, then as a contractor, building many of Coolum's first roads.

As a foundation Board Member and Sundale's first Secretary, Bob played a key role in the creation of Sundale and establishing many processes and procedures.

"Dad was very good with figures and he was great at estimating. He was details focused. Maybe that's why he was chosen to be Sundale's first Secretary?" Ken said.

"Most people remember Dad as the owner and operator of Nambour Joinery which employed more than 20 locals, and later as an estimator on the Sunshine Coast.

"Dad was very proud of Sundale and the role he played getting it up and running. I know it meant a lot to him.

"He was amazed at how big Sundale became, given its humble beginnings. He was chuffed to have played a role in something so special and successful.

"When you reflect on the men and women who created Sundale in the early 1960s, they were all very successful in their own right and active and proud members of the community.

"My lasting memory of Dad, the Apex Club of Nambour and Sundale's forefathers is their work ethic and their collective drive to enhance the local community."

Bob passed away in 2019. He was 88 years of age.