



*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.*

## Eunice Krome

**Sundale hairdresser**

Eunice Krome was just a teenager when she started doing residents' hair at Sundale's Nicklin Lodge in 1963.

"I was an apprentice hairdresser at Dorothy's Beauty Salon in Wilson's Arcade in Nambour," Eunice said.

"I didn't have a driver's licence, so J.D. Grimes (Sundale Board President 1960 - 1978) used to collect me from Dorothy's and drive me to Nicklin Lodge on Doolan Street.

"Sixty years later, I'm still cutting residents' hair, and I have no intention of giving it away."

Before Sundale's first hair salon opened at Nicklin Lodge in 1981, Eunice would push a trolley room-to-room to visit each of her clients. Her two young children, David and Kylie would often be in tow, and the trio quickly became an integral and much-loved part of the Sundale community.

"The kids grew-up at Sundale," Eunice said.

"They had grandparents in nearly every room.

"The residents taught them how to play cards and Chinese Checkers.

"Sundale became and still is my extended family and I'm still very close with a number of team members I worked alongside in the 1960s and 70s, including Kathy Himstedt who used to work in the kitchen, but is now an amazing volunteer at Sundale."

Eunice was born in Nambour and raised at Palmwoods and has been married to Allen, a former Sundale bus driver for the past 54 years.

Eunice said her long chats with residents have always been her favourite part of the job.

"They're delightful, their stories, their lives. You go home and the smile is still on your face," Eunice said.

"It's a wonderful job because I get to help people.

"When you love what you do, it's not work.

"Everyone needs a little bit of TLC from time-to-time and I'm honoured I can listen to and care for the residents.

"Sundale has given me so much. I love the residents and the opportunity to spend time with them – they make my life better."

Eunice's influence at Sundale cannot be understated. She has become a dear friend to hundreds of residents over the past 60 years and conducted more than 40,000 haircuts.

Eunice is kind and compassionate and has provided great comfort to residents over the past six decades. She is a mentor, a fantastic friend, a wonderful mother and exceptional role model to her five grandchildren and the broader Sunshine Coast community.

Eunice has also attended countless resident birthday celebrations and been introduced to residents' children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Fortunately for Sundale, retirement is the furthest thing on Eunice's mind.

"People occasionally ask me when I'm going to retire, and I tell them I have no plans to stop," Eunice said.

"I'm still fit and healthy, and I'll continue to cut hair at Sundale for as long as possible."