



SUNDALE

60

YEARS OF CARE

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.

J. D. Grimes M.B.E.

Sundale President (1960 – 1978), Foundation Board Member (1963 – 1978)

J.D. Grimes is widely considered the father of Sundale.

Born and raised in Nambour, J.D. left school at 14 to work as a delivery boy throughout the North Coast (Sunshine Coast).

Via hard work, J.D. soon had enough capital to open a small goods store in the Nambour CBD. A brief career as an insurance salesman followed before J.D. found his calling in real estate with business partner Vic Day.

Together the pair would establish Day & Grimes Real Estate in Nambour in 1936. Offices in Gympie, Kingaroy and Gladstone soon followed, with the business evolving to also sell building supplies and furniture throughout regional Queensland.

J.D.'s daughter, Glenys said her father was a Christian man, with uncompromising values and morals who possessed boundless energy.

"Dad was a loving family man who was very community focused." Glenys said.

"He was President of the Nambour Show Society, President of the Nambour Bowls Club, a member of the Nambour Chamber of Commerce, a Freemason, a trustee of our local church and heavily involved in the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland.

"He was always busy and people would regularly come to him for advice and support."

In the 1940s, J.D., along with future Sundale luminaries, R.D. Charlton and Sir Clem Renouf, established Enterprise Estates which would go on to develop, sub-divide and sell residential land throughout Nambour and surrounds.

In the late 1950s, the trio considered donating a parcel of land to a Nambour church group who wanted to build an age care home, however, they soon discovered the Nambour Apex Club had a similar idea and was exploring locations and fundraising initiatives.

In 1961, J.D. and his Enterprise Estates business partners, R.D. and Sir Clem supported the Nambour Apex Club by helping to fund the £3,625 purchase of an 18-acre site by Doolan and Carter Roads, which would become home to Nambour Garden Village. The Enterprise Estates trio each donated £1,000, with the remaining £625 raised via a local appeal.

As Sundale's foundation President, J.D.'s generosity of spirit, boundless energy and passion for the Nambour community was instrumental to the creation of Sundale. He oversaw fundraising initiatives, sought donations from local business leaders

and established strong relationships with prominent Queenslanders, including then Premier, Sir Frank Nicklin.

Simply put, without J. D. Grimes, there would be no Sundale.

"More than anything I remember the number of meetings about Sundale that took place at the dinner table," Glenys said.

"There were plans everywhere!"

James Grimes Nursing Home (now, James Grimes Care Centre), which was opened in 1973, is one small way Sundale recognises the contribution of J.D. Two streets in Nambour, Davidson Street and Grimes Terrace, and the J.D. Grimes Stand at Nambour Showgrounds also acknowledge his standing in the community. J.D. was also awarded an MBE for a lifetime of charitable work.

"Dad was a very compassionate man. He's what you would call an old-fashioned gentleman," Glenys said.

"He was always immaculately dressed and always wore a tie.

"I think he'd be very proud of what Sundale has become because it has provided comfort and solace to so many people.

J.D. passed away in 1978. He was 70 years of age.

Perhaps the most fitting tribute to J.D.'s contribution to Sundale is that of former administrator and resident Ern Stollznow*.

"Looking back over almost two decades of personal involvement in Sundale by James Grimes, one can only marvel at how from the very beginning he was able to visualise the total concept of Sundale Garden Village – its goals and philosophies, its capacity to attract support from the community; the Committee and staff structures. By personal leadership and example he modelled for Committee members, staff and residents, the graciousness, concern and dedication of a Christian gentleman. Supervisors and administrators brought into service during his term of office were inspired by his friendly encouragement not to settle for less than their full potential in service to Sundale. They appreciated his interest in their views and opinions and his life is written deep into the affections of Sundale residents who knew him as a trusted friend and counsellor. Committee members remember him as a President who never laid a burden on them that he was not first prepared to carry himself; and a friend who gave of his time and ability until the very last days of his life."

*Sundale Creating Communities 1963 – 2013 (Elaine and Inga Green)

