



Harold Jeffreys Evans was born in Hamilton, N.S.W, on 4th January, 1916. He was the firstborn child of Mary Jane (Jenny) Evans (nee Jeffreys) and David John (Dai) Evans who had respectively emigrated from Brecon and Llanspyddid in South Wales. Harold was followed by siblings Eileen, Gwyneth, Frank and Tess. The family was a close and loving unit and the home was often filled with members of the local Welsh community and extended family.

Harold and his siblings were all enthusiastically involved in sport and Harold excelled in hockey, tennis, swimming and later, golf. The latter was to become a lifelong passion and Harold was awarded Life Membership of Merewether Golf Club.

He was also very actively involved with the scouting movement and gained the prestigious award of King's Scout.

In 1939 he met a very shy but obviously patient young lady called Ivy Norma Bear who waited another three years for him to propose. They were married on 21st November, 1942. Their honeymoon lasted only three days as Harold had to report for duty in the army and the next three years were difficult for both with long separations enforced by the war. Harold took part in the landings at Tarakan and Balikpapan in Borneo and was proud of his army service.

When he returned from Borneo he was welcomed warmly by all his family and friends, particularly Ivy and their first-born son David Bryn and baby daughter, Glenys Lee. These two children were followed in time by Haydn Warwick, Gareth Rhys and Leighton Ross.

The ensuing years were busy, especially as, with borrowed capital, Harold and Ivy purchased their own business. Harold was the salesman and public face of the business and Ivy worked long hours managing the necessary accounts and often assisting with the measuring and cutting of linoleum.

Despite the long hours they were obliged to work their five children were given a loving and secure home where there was much laughter.

Harold's outgoing and friendly nature undoubtedly contributed enormously to the success of the business in Beaumont Street, Hamilton. He was the first businessman to offer credit to the wave of Europeans arriving in Newcastle after the second World War and he was very proud to recount that none of these new arrivals failed to repay the trust he showed in them. In later years his youngest son, Leighton joined the business and thoroughly enjoyed gaining the sales experience and sharing in the light-hearted welcoming atmosphere of the shop. Harold was so highly regarded in Hamilton that he was affectionately known as the "Baron of Beaumont Street".

When he retired Harold devoted his remaining years to his family, friends and, of course, golf. His many grandchildren and great-grandchildren loved their Taid (Welsh for grandfather) dearly.

Harold had a youthful enthusiasm for life, a ready wit and an understanding heart. He is greatly missed but remains with us in our hearts and memories. We are so thankful for his life. Rest in peace, Dad.

This information was supplied and written by *Glenys Roser*, daughter of Harold Jeffreys Evans and Harold's sons, Bryn, Haydn, Rhys and Leighton Evans. June, 2009