

## Eungella General Store late 1937



Cars left to right: Chrysler Plymouth & Austin 7

W. B Swayne (Wally) the original owner of the shop, leased then later sold the store to Lou Edwards.  
Wally built a Post Office alongside (behind the Chrysler car) which he ran (as featured in the last Regulla).

Photo & info from: Cedric Swayne (grandson of W.B Swayne)

(In the last Regulla it was described as where Debbie Gussey now lives. Thank you Del Cunningham for point out that this PO building was really effectively where the stores extension is, that recently was Christine's 'Dolly Shop', so between it and Deb's place. We really appreciate such information modifications).

When Wally's son Roy was running the shop he hired Lou Edwards initially as a butcher ( see the Butcher shop behind the Austin 7 Car).

Harold Petersen, (who later had the milk and carrier run from the early 1960s until 1978) first came to Eungella as a 14 year old lad in 1943, to assist Lou in the shop and learn butchering.

In those days the general store supplied the locals with all their groceries and other items they ordered in. Folk would send their order in with the cream truck, the shop would pack it all (groceries, bread, meat etc) and it would be delivered back to the farmers via cream truck. People rarely made the trip to Mackay, maybe only once a year for some. Usually only for dental or doctor appointments or such like.

Most would travel to Mackay via the rail motor from Netherdale having caught a ride down the range with the cream truck delivering to the station there.

Lou & Kate (Kath) Edwards eventually let the store out to a succession of 4 different leasees until about 1960.

In Nov. 2009 Kathleen Edwards and her twin sister Lucy were featured in The New Idea magazine as Australia's oldest twins at age 99. Shortly after I was able to visit Kate at St Francis of Assisi Nursing Home .

She spoke of her time in Eungella as "Work, work, work. See I handled the books. Mine was the last light out in Eungella at night"

Although her memory had dimmed and her few Eungella yarns were oft repeated, she was quite jovial about the prospect of a "letter from the Queen" when they would turn 100. However she died a couple of months before. Her sister Lucy is still alive and will be 102 this November. Kate and Lou had no descendants.

Does anyone out there have a photo of Lou or Kath Edwards please?

