

Colin James ASHBY & Muriel Ethel ASHBY, nee KECKWICK

Biography as published in 1995

Colin James Ashby born 16/12/1918 at Kongorong, S.A. Colin's nickname - "Dig".

Parents : Maria Mabel (Mary) ASHBY (nee McLEAN) & James Edward ASHBY

Grandparents : Maria Elizabeth McLean (nee Kruger) & Charles Soward McLean

G-Grandparents : Anna Soward McLean (nee Janeway) & Archibald McLean

G-G-Grandparents : Christina McLean (nee McPhee) & Donald McLean

Occupation: Farmer of Kongorong, S.A.

Married: Muriel Ethel Keckwick (b. 22/9/1921).

Death: Muriel died 8/9/1987 in her 66th year. Interred at Mt Gambler. S.A.

"Dig" lost the sight of one eye when a staple flew from a fence so was refused enlistment for W.W.2. He found work at the Cheese Factory.

Until he and Gwen built a home for themselves at Mt Schank, they lived at different houses in the Kongorong district and milked cows.

Dig retired to Nene Valley to continue his love of fishing and his son Gary took over the farm.

He has an enviable sporting record. He played football for several clubs and was a skillful wing man. He was on the original 1953 Committee when the Kongorong Football Club was formed (and continued on it for 30 years). He also played full forward and amassed 117 goals, still the record for this club. He was President for 7 years. All Ashbys played cricket with Dig no exception. He was renowned for fast bowling and even faster scoring. The story is told about the six he hit that ended up at the Bellum Hotel 18 kilometres away. There was a utility truck passing when he hit it... He is still a great darts player.

At the end of the (shortened) published account of his sporting activities he asked the writer to include:- "Wanted: Secondhand Hang Glider. Must be in good condition Contact C J. Ashby at Nene Valley".

Children:-

1. Lynette Joy Ashby b. 25/5/1940. Married: Gregory Lionel Allen (b. 24/6/1941). His occupation: Milkman of Mt Gambler Children - Peter (b. 24/4/1967), Mardi (b. 16/3/1969) & Robyn (b. 22/10/1970)
2. Gary James Ashby b. 27/6/1942. Married: Janice Lorraine Hunter (b. 27/10/1944). His occupation: Farmer of Kongorong, S.A. Children - Michael (b. 24/9/1966) & Cheryl (b. 9/9/1969).
3. Rhonda Frances Ashby b 29/10/1945. Death: of Rhonda Frances Ashby on 28/3/1946 aged one and a half years from kerosene poisoning.
4. Shirley Yvonne Ashby b. 29/10/1948. Married: Melvin Leslie Tilley (b. 2/e/1944). His occupation: Formerly with the Aust. Army at Pt Augusta, S.A. now of Kongorong. S A Children - Stacey (b 15/10/1971) & Kristy (b. 6/6/1975).
5. Susanne Mary Ashby b. 30/4/1951. Married: Phillip George Ongley (b. 31/7/1951). Occupation: Truck driver of Mt Gambler, S.A. Children - Darren (b. 14/5/1970), Ian (b. 20/7/1972) & Jodie (b. 6/10/1974).

• SOURCE : This biography is an extract from "The History of Donald & Christina McLean and Their Descendants" which was published in 1995 – page 438 & 439.
 • COLONIALISTS : Christina and Donald McLean and their ten children migrated from Argyllshire to South Australia in 1837. This was in the earliest years of the colony. The McLeans initially settled near Adelaide where they grew the first wheat crop in SA. Then in about 1840 they pioneered the Strathalbyn area. There are now well over 20,000 descendants spread across Australia and elsewhere.
 • CHANGES : Please contact us with additions, corrections or suggestions about any part of this family tree.
 • CONTACT : Visit our website www.christinaanddonaldmclean.com or Strathalbyn Museum phone 08 8536 2656 to discover more about your family – and about privacy and copyright.