

## Val Phillips - June 2010



I was born Valerie Schubert at Mt Barker Hospital and lived at Echunga on a dairy farm, my parents also grew potatoes, swede, turnips and gherkins.

Before I went to High School at Mt Barker, I would pick gherkins, I loved farm life, driving the tractor etc.

My mum had a beautiful garden with many plants, it was rows of lilies, carnation, Russell Lupins, white asters, sweet peas, plus many other plants, vegetables and trombone pumpkin.

We had an old house which I would walk to, had many daffodils, easter lilies, I always remember a rose which smelt like Black Boy, very strong.

I always brought a hand full of flowers to put in a vase for Sunday.

When I went to Primary School at St Michaels Lutheran at Hahndorf, at end of year we would have a fete, so I would enter a vase of carnations, sweet peas, sand trays, decorated saucers and I always won firsts and seconds.

When I was 15 I left High School and my first job was at Immanuel Lutheran

College, catering for 200 students, for breakfast, dinner and tea.

At 17 I left that employment and went home to Mt Barker and worked at Heinrich's Shop.

At 19 I worked at Scottsburn Poultry Farm, mainly inside the house looking after two baby girls and sometimes collecting and packing eggs - I loved it!

In 1971 I married Ken Phillips from Woodchester and we have one son, Steve.

Ken's mum, 'Alma' had a beautiful rose garden. When I first met Ken I slept in the 'Rose Room', roses on the wall paper and a vase of roses, I always felt pretty special in the 'Rose Room'.

Ken and I bought our house in 1970 and have done a lot to it, built on, got our garden how we want it and at the moment it's just full of colour - roses, dahlias, orchids...

I used to go to lots of flower shows and as one does, bring a plant or two home, next time I came home, backed the car up near our verandah, got my plants out and put them in the shade house, I didn't notice, but the garden was getting bigger.

I used to work in glass houses, picking cherry tomatoes, large tomatoes and cucumbers, a job I did for ten years, then I cleaned at night, offices - Telecom, TAB, Local Government and Banks and then I would get home at 10pm.

In the mornings I would clean the Rowing Club, Country Club and three private offices.

I always found time to cook, clean and garden and enjoy being with Ken and Steve.

The best medicine is getting out in the garden. I also love craft and used to do egg artistry and make cards.

I am a member of the Murray Bridge Orchid Club and Murray Bridge Social Garden Club, also the Rose Club and Strathalbyn Garden Club.

I used to spend a lot of my holidays with my Dear Aunty at Strathalbyn - Strath's a special place for me.

Happy Gardening to All.