Eulogy of Sam Camilleri

Sam Camilleri was born in Mackay on the 8th of June 1930 and was the 5th child of Charles & Mary Camilleri and brother to Victor, Jean, Grace, Mary, Joseph, Paul & Ann. The family lived on a farm in Habana and Sam attended Habana State School and then went on to high school at the Christian Brothers College in Mackay. His father encouraged him to stay on at school but his dream was to be on the farm.

In 1946 Charlie and Mary bought the farm at Homebush, which is still home to the family. Victor & Sam started to work on the farm alongside their father, while Joe & Paul were still at school. It was a large property with lots of potential but needed an endless amount of hard work.

When Joe and Paul left school, they too joined the work force on the farm, clearing trees and expanding the sugar cane area and making inroads into the cattle country.

In 1952 Vic moved to his own farm in Allendale. Their father passed away in 1956 and Sam, Joe and Paul continued developing the property and turned it into a beautiful cane & cattle property and introducing the Braham breed of cattle which proved to be a good move. Many field days were held at the property which hosted many visitors from other parts of Australia as well as overseas countries.

During the 73 years the family have lived on the farm, they experienced droughts, floods, bush fires and have overcome these difficult situations. In 1988, Australia's Bicentennial year, Sam, Joe & Paul nominated the property for "Producer of the Year" in the beef section of the RNA and the property was awarded second in Queensland. Sam was very proud of their achievements and very proud of the property. He really enjoyed it when friends and relations came to visit from other places and he would take them out for a drive around the property and any young children would enjoy seeing the animals, which he loved to see.

Sam was one of the founding members of the MRPS "The Mackay Rural Production Society", which is a rural based group and has had many members