Iris Fryett

Recollections of Iris Fryett by Alec Leach July 2013

My earliest memory of Iris was as a small child (about 1945-46) my mother, Lillie (Lil) Leach would go and sit with Iris's mother each afternoon, as she was bed ridden and was at home by herself.

In her heyday, Mrs Fryett was a lover of cats, keeping about half a dozen females for breeding purposes, then giving the kittens away. One kitten found it's way to our house.

After Mrs Fryett passed away, Mum and Iris became good friends.



monetary value but always something very useful.

Iris never married.
She spoke in a slow
Australian drawl
and was very
independent.
In her working
days she was a
Forelady at a large
shirt factory.

Throughout my childhood and into our early marriage, she would give a Christmas present. Nothing of great



Iris had a brother Jack and throughout life they shared many projects. I recall she spent years on and off helping him in some sort of business at I think Boorowa.

They were in partnership in a weekender at Callala Beach on the South Coast. Iris never had a

car, so to get to the weekender, she would catch the train to Bomaderry, then bus to Callala Beach. She would leave Oatley unannounced, thus causing a close neighbour, George Kendall, to worry that she may be unwell in her house. Finally they worked out a signal arrangement when she was away.



Iris bought out her brother and as time went on, the weekender became burden to her. Independent as she was. she didn't share this burden with anvone, living a frugal life. To save money, if she had to go anvwhere, she would walk. Kogarah was a reaular iaunt.

When George Kendall offered to take her at any time, she would politely decline saying she enjoyed walking.

Finally after much persuasion, she sort professional advice, sold the weekender and was then eligible for the pension. Iris still walked to Mortdale, for bread was cheaper there.

Iris did all of her home maintenance at 123 Rosa Street Oatley. In her late eighties she painted her complete house.

We lived at 111 Rosa Street and many a Saturday night at about 10.30pm, there would be a knock on the door. Yes, Iris had come to visit Mum. She would finally go home at about 3.00am.

Sadly, in her nineties, Iris developed dementia. Her niece and partner moved in to look after her. When out on my early morning walk, if I saw them out on the verandah, I would go up and say hello. If Iris was up, she would come out to see me. She still knew me the last time I saw her.

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