

NAIRN Donald James Henry

Born: 10 Mar 1920 Wellington, NZ
Died: 19 Jun 2012 (92) Masterton, NZ

Buried:

Father: Lionel Douglas 1891 – 1974 Karori
Mother: Grace Alice Henry 1892 – 1975 Karori

Married: 1 Jan 1944

HAWKEN Nita Euphemia

Born: 22 Oct 1923
Died: 21 Oct 1996 (73) Invercargill, NZ
Buried: Cremated & ashes scattered over Lake Te Anau

Father: Ernest Lorenzo 1893 – 1982 Karori
Mother: Ethel Isabel Thomas 1888 – 1942 Porirua

Children:

Nairn Roslyn Joy

Born: 25 Dec 1946

Married:

Sydney Grahame Charles

Born: c 1946

Nairn Gail Marie

Born: 8 Dec 1951

Married:

Kirkman Gary Nevin

Born: c 1951

Notes:

WW2 served as a pilot in Fleet Air Arm

Wrote an autobiography on his time as a pilot

Was a photographer in Levin

Property:

Does not appear on any property lists

Electoral Rolls:

| | | | | |
|------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | Donald | | Nita | |
| 1946 | Wellington | Photographer | Wellington | Married |
| 1949 | Wellington | Photographer | Wellington | Married |
| 1954 | Parker Ave | Company Manager | Levin | Married |
| 1957 | Hamilton | Commercial Pilot | Hamilton | Married |
| 1960 | 71 Parker Ave | Salesman | Levin | Married |
| 1963 | Frankton | Pilot | Frankton | Married |
| 1969 | Invercargill | Pilot | Inver | Married |
| 1975 | 71 Parker Ave | Salesman | Levin | Married |
| 1978 | 71 Parker Ave | Salesman | Levin | Married |
| 1981 | 71 Parker Ave | Retired | Levin | Married |
| 1987 | Winton | Retired | Winton | Married |
| 1995 | Winton | Retired | Winton | Married |
| 1998 | Winton | Retired | | |
| 2001 | Te Anau | Retired | | |
| 2005 | Masterton | Retired | | |
| 2007 | Masterton | Retired | | |
| 2010 | Masterton | Retired | | |
| | Grahame | | Roslyn | |
| 1969 | Dunedin | Student | Dunedin | Student |
| 1972 | Cromwell | Teacher | Dunedin | Student |
| 1978 | Cromwell | Teacher | Dunedin | Teacher |
| 1981 | Cromwell | Artist | Cromwell | Married |
| 1987 | Dunedin | Artist | Dunedin | Research Fellow |
| 1995 | Dunedin | Artist | Dunedin | Research Fellow |
| 1998 | Dunedin | Artist | Ida Valley | Writer |
| 2001 | Dunedin | Artist | Ida Valley | Writer |
| 2005 | Dunedin | Artist | Ida Valley | Writer |
| 2008 | St Bathans | Artist | Ida Valley | Writer |
| 2010 | St Bathans | Artist | Ida Valley | Writer |
| | Gary | | Susan | |
| 1972 | Timaru | Stock Clerk | Dunedin | Student |
| 1978 | Invercargill | Livestock Rep | Inver | Nurse |
| 1981 | Invercargill | Livestock Rep | Inver | Nurse |
| 1987 | Awarua | Tech Field Officer | Awarua | Nurse |
| 1995 | Makarawa | Tech Field Officer | Makarawa | Nurse |
| 1998 | Te Anau | Agricultural Advisor | Te Anau | Nurse |
| 2001 | Te Anau | Agricultural Advisor | Te Anau | Nurse |
| 2005 | Invercargill | Agricultural Advisor | Wigram | Consultant |
| 2008 | Invercargill | Agricultural Advisor | ChCh | Nurse |
| 2010 | Te Anau | Agricultural Advisor | Te Anau | Nurse |

Donald James Henry Nairn was born in 1920 and grew up on his parent's farm, near Wellington. He matriculated from Wellington Boy's College and became an engineering apprentice, determined to get into the aviation industry. To this end, he attended courses on aerodynamics. He applied for a scholarship at the RAF College but while awaiting acceptance war was declared and he enrolled with the RNZAF for training as a pilot. Given the opportunity of a flying commission with the Royal Navy he opted for that service and left NZ in August 1940. Nairn was initially trained at Gosport, Portsmouth and saw action throughout the war. He was then part of a team posted to the Naval Test Unit in Washington DC to test fly the Japanese Zero fighter. Nairn was offered a permanent commission in the Royal Naval Test Unit and was appointed as Chief Flying Instructor at the Royal Naval Corsair Operational Training Unit in Maine. The advent of the atomic bomb effectively scuttled this operation and Nairn returned to New Zealand where he spent the next twenty years as a commercial pilot.

Taranaki Daily News 2 Dec 1940

Family's Fighting Record.

A fine record in fighting for their country is held by the Nairn family, of whom Mrs. A. J. Taylor, Tukapo Street, New Plymouth, is a member. Her brother, Mr. Louis G. Nairn, is at present serving in the New Zealand artillery after having served four years in the last war. Mr. Donald Nairn only son of Mr. Lionel Nairn, Tawa Flat, Wellington, is serving with the Fleet Air Arm. Two brothers of the previous generation served in the Boer War, and three served in the Great War, one making the supreme sacrifice.