

## **McCASHIN: TERENCE MICHAEL**

**Known as: Terence in the family; Terry by everyone else!**

**Born: 18 January 1944, Palmerston North**

**Married: 30 July 1966, Levin, New Zealand**

**To: Beverley McDonald: b. 22 December 1945**

**Died: 31 October 2017, Christchurch, New Zealand**

**Buried: Marsden Valley cemetery, Nelson**

### ***Terry's parents were:***

Brian Leonard McCashin: b. 1 September 1918, in Wairoa;  
d. 4 November 1991, in Levin

and

Thelma Josephine (nee Terry): b. 29 January 1921, in Shannon;  
d. 6 June 1986, in Levin

### ***Terry had 7 siblings:***

Patricia Anne: b. 14 January 1940; d. 4 March 1974, Rotorua

Beverly Joan: b. 21 August 1941;

Brian Joseph: b. 17 November 1945;

Kevin John: b. 22 August 1953;

Shaun Anthony: b. 22 September 1956;

Colleen Marie: b. 18 December 1957, d. 16 January 1986, Levin

Pauline Mary: b. 18 December 1957

### ***Terry and Bev have 5 children:***

Dean: b. 26 April 1967, lives in Nelson with his family

Maria: b. 30 May 1968, lives in Christchurch with her family

Todd: b. 8 April 1970, lives in Nelson with his family

Scott: b. 18 January 1976, lives in Nelson with his family

Anna: b. 11 January 1977, lives in Christchurch with her family

## **Family Background and Growing Up in Levin**

Terry McCashin was one of those rare All Blacks whose deeds in his life, after being an All Black, have probably exceeded anything he achieved in rugby, worthy though his career was.

Terry's father, Brian, was an accomplished rugby player in his own right. He was born in Wairoa but, when he was young, the family including six siblings moved to Whanganui. This is where Brian began his working life, with New Zealand Railways, a job that eventually landed him in Manakau, via Palmerston North and Levin. At club rugby level, he played for Rahui, Kuku-Manakau and Hui Mai, and represented Manawatu in several games. However, World War II stopped his playing career and afterwards he concentrated on business. In 1952, the family moved up to Liverpool Street in Levin when Brian bought a local stock carrier company that would become McCashin Transport. In 1962, they shifted home again, into Queenwood Road, and shortly after, for three years in the mid-60s (1963–1965), Brian selected and coached the Horowhenua representative rugby team.



**The McCashins, with Brian sr 3<sup>rd</sup> from left and Terry back right (family archive)**

Terry had begun school at St Joseph's primary in Dannevirke, during another of his father's early railways postings. He continued at St Joseph's in Levin and then Horowhenua College.

After school he was working for a stock buying business as well as helping his father, often driving trucks without the correct licence.



**St Joseph's Levin Juniors, with Terry holding the plaque (family archive)**

Two or three years after leaving college, he and his brother Brian bought a meat-carrying business. Meanwhile, with rugby being a huge part of his life growing up, and inheriting his father's abilities and ambitions, Terry's own rugby career was starting to take off.

## **Rugby**

At the age of 19, in 1963 Terry made his first-class debut as a hooker with Horowhenua. He had a stunning first season. He so impressed that in 1964 he was selected to tour Australia with the New Zealand Under 23's team.

It was a dramatic rise for a young man, who in his early 20's, on his transfer to Wellington, in 1965, to better his rugby chances, worked on the capital city's rubbish carts, with another future All Black, Tom Lister.

His move to Wellington only succeeded in his playing for Wellington B. In 1966, he played one game for Wellington but made the NZ Juniors side to play the touring British and Irish Lions.

He finally cracked the Wellington side as first choice hooker in 1967 and had the first of the four All Black trials he received over the next three years. He made the tour of Australia and Fiji in 1968 as deputy to Bruce McLeod and his debut was against Tasmania! He was the test reserve that year to McLeod and also in 1969 against France and Wales. (In those days you only got on as substitute if another player was injured.)

Soon after the tour of Australia, he was ruled ineligible for Wellington because of the tight residential restrictions then in force. He played for Horowhenua for the balance of the 1968 season and in 1969. Being in a minor union may well have affected his international future.

He returned to Wellington for the 1970 season. Despite being a test reserve the previous season, he was overlooked for the 1970 trials and was never again an All Black contender.



**Terry during the 1968 All Blacks tour (nzherald.co.nz)**

### **Marriage**

He first met his wife Bev at a dance in Levin. Her family had moved to the town from Wellington during her 4<sup>th</sup> form year but when they met Terry was 18 and she was 17 and working in the telephone exchange. It took her quite a while to finally saying 'yes' to going out with him. Through his heavy workload and rugby, they didn't have much time together and drifted apart. She moved to Palmerston North to train as a nurse.



**Dating Bev**



**Wedding day, July 30<sup>th</sup> 1966 (family archive)**

In 1965, they met up again in Wellington. In May 1966 Terry proposed, and their marriage followed in July 1966

Terry had always seen himself as a farmer, but that was an unattainable ambition unless they could find the means to fund it.

### **Life Redefined in the Brewing Business**

They purchased their first pub in Pio Pio (King Country) and spent three years working like demons to get ahead. Terry also played for King Country in 1972.

Their next hotel was The Clarendon in Picton (locally known as the Crow). Terry played club rugby in Picton and was persuaded to play several games for Marlborough.

They were also able to purchase 100 hectares of farm land near Koromiko, a start to fulfilling Terry's most pressing ambition, farming. Here was space to indulge another passion – horses, breaking them in for both mustering and racing. Deerstalking, pig-hunting, and fishing in the Marlborough Sounds, where they bought a holiday bach at Ngakuta, consumed any remaining leisure time.

Terry could never rest easy if there was an opportunity at hand. When his research indicated it would be possible to establish a brewery to supply beer to his own pubs and to the general public, he didn't hesitate. He and Bev purchased the Rochdale cider factory at Stoke, near Nelson, and Terry cobbled together a 'No 8 wire brewery' out of bits and pieces of equipment bought from auction and defunct dairy factories.



**Terry at the Stoke Mac's brewery, 1981 (Nelson Evening Mail)**

The McCashins set the tone, but others believed in what they were trying to achieve. These included an accomplished brewer, Jim Pollitt, who had spent time in Europe working with Carlsberg. The brewery was 'Terry's dream', as one of the dedicated core put it, 'but it was our baby'. Overnight success in business is rare, and the McCashins' brewery was no exception. The major breweries (New Zealand and Dominion) were determined to make his task difficult, and neither gave the McCashins any real chance of survival.

Indeed, it was a couple of strokes of luck that turned the tide and changed the brewery from a marginal enterprise into one that began to make money for its founders. A brewery workers' strike meant that Mac's beer, in its distinctive container, hit the shelves in Auckland just as a whole new caste of consumers were demanding something different. By the time the strike had ended, Mac's had a loyal following.





**Terry, Bev and staff in the early days (family archive)**

After two decades of unqualified success, Terry and Bev were all burned out. The hard work finally caught up with Terry and he suffered a heart attack, requiring a major by-pass operation that involved 7 grafts. The surgeon told him he should “get a good ten years now”, although he would actually get twenty! It was a wake-up call, and while the pair were well aware the business was doing well, the heart attack caused them to re-evaluate and start the next phase of their lives.

They sold the Mac’s brand to one of their competitors, Lion, leased the brewery property and down-shifted to a slower lane, although not stopping.

### **The Next Generation of McCashin Brewers**

The story could have ended there, especially as Lion initially transferred the bottling to other outlets and then the entire production away from Stoke.

However, the children had grown up with the brewery, and with a deep sense of pride in what their parents had achieved. In 2009, led by their son Dean, the old brewery was reclaimed and rejuvenated and the latest incarnation of the McCashin family business, Stoke Beer, along with the revival of Rochdale Cider, arrived to re-assert a prime place in the craft brewing market that it still holds today.

Terry’s youngest son, Scott, is now in charge at Stoke (2022), as Dean has turned his attention to other ventures.

## 'Retirement' and Legacy



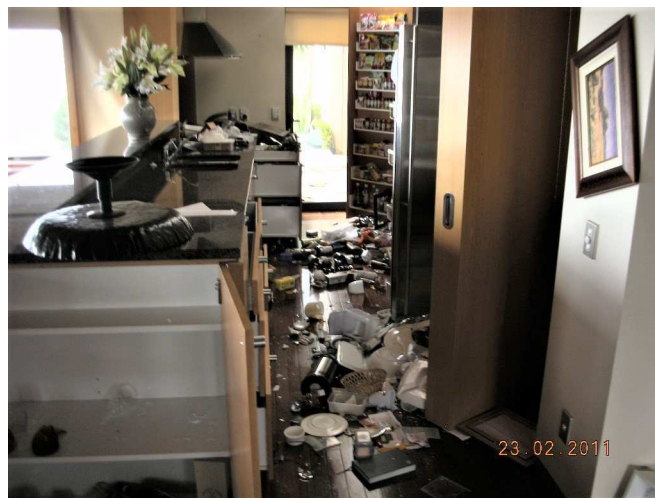
**The family celebrating Terry's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday at Ngakuta, Marlborough Sounds, January 2014  
(family archive)**

'Retiring' to Christchurch, Terry was able to revive his farming inclinations, running sheep on a property in the Port Hills, with some cattle on flat land close to the city. He was also not finished with the beer business and started brewing again on a small scale on site at his new Brewer's Arms pub in the city. He continued this for 4 -5 years, also maintaining an active interest in the larger family business, dividing his time between Christchurch and Nelson.

A true family man, he encouraged his children and grandchildren to embrace his love of hunting and fishing, followed by a beer, when on holiday, and was a keen, vocal, side-line supporter of their various sporting pursuits.

He and Bev had a new house built of stone on the cliff-edge at Sumner, which would prove to be a ruinous choice when Christchurch was struck by the earthquakes of 2011.



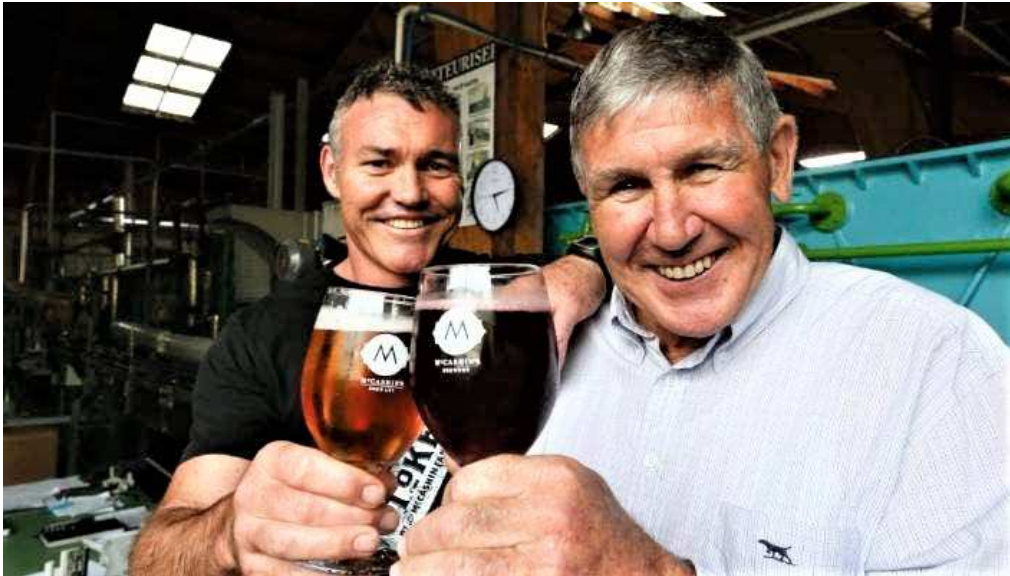


**Terry and Bev's Sumner home in ruins (family archive)**

Bev was at home at the time and managed to escape as every breakable possession around her was broken (Terry was out at the farm at the time). The house was red-stickered and later demolished. To short-circuit the tortuous route through insurance claims, the couple accepted a pay-out that fell well short of what they had lost but it enabled them to buy a new home at Redcliffs nearby. Bev recalls that Terry found the ordeal a lot more difficult to accept than her, especially as he was able to look out to, and mull over, their destroyed home from their new one. It would be the last of around 30 moves they had made during 50 years of married life! He passed away in 2017 at the age of 73, leaving Bev, 5 highly capable children, and 18 grandchildren (with 1 more since).

At his funeral, colleagues and friends described him as a humble gentleman who was never egotistical and who would be remembered as a family-orientated, generous person who always saw more reasons to do something as opposed to not doing it.

*"He was always one to break the mould, and he would be substantially responsible for breaking that duality of control that the large breweries had and he offered something different - the rest is history. He left a legacy that was able to be continued by the family."*



**Dean and Terry toasting the fruits of the family's labours (Martin de Ruyter)**

**Rugby Career**

All Black No 674

All Blacks	1968	7 games (no tests), 1 try	
	1968-1969	Reserve for 5 tests	
NZ Trials	1967-1969	4 games	
NZ Juniors	1966	2 games	
NZ Colts	1964	3 games	
Horowhenua	1963-1964	14 games	
College Old Boys club	1968 - 1969	9 games, 1 try	
Wellington B	1965	5 games	
Wellington	1966-1967	35 games, 4 tries	(Athletic club)
King Country	1972	11 games, 1 try	(Piopio club)
Marlborough	1977	3 games	(Waitohi club)
Other 1 <sup>st</sup> class games		3	
Total 1 <sup>st</sup> class games		96	

Sources used:

*Rugby Museum profile* by Lindsay Knight

"*The McCashins' Story*" by John McCrystal & Simon Farrell-Green. (First published 2013)

Bev McCashin recorded an audio-visual account of escaping from their Sumner home during the 2011 earthquakes which you can listen to on-line via the University of Canterbury QuakeStudies website at

<https://quakestudies.canterbury.ac.nz/store/object/12728>

### **Footnote:**

To anyone interested in what became of McCashin Transport, a well-known Levin-based business of the 1950s and 1960s, read on ...

Brian McCashin originally bought an established stock truck in 1952 and renamed it. According to centenarian Eunice Wright (still alive in 2022), she and her husband Charlie gave Brian his first paying truck job from the Levin Sale Yards to their farm further up Tararua Road. He carried mostly livestock, with loads to the abattoir in Ngauranga Gorge, Wellington, as well as between farms in the local area. He collected hay on farms and did furniture removals too. In the early 1960s he bought 2 more trucks from an opposition company. He employed at least 8 young men as drivers over the years - by strange coincidence most seemed to play rugby at the time for Horowhenua College Old Boys, the club Terry belonged to!

Brian sold his three trucks to Brian Kirk and his partner in 1967. He and Thelma moved to Carterton in the Wairarapa where they owned and ran the Royal Oak Hotel before retiring back to Levin in 1975.