

"Something for Everyone at Len Mutton & Co"

The History of Len Mutton & Co.

By Fiona Putra Jaya

Established in 1913 by my Great Grandfather Edward Norman Mutton, the shop operated as a true general store specialising in quality tailoring for both men and woman, Fashion & Footwear as well as extensive Homewares and Haberdashery ranges.

In the 1940's my grandfather Leonard Norman Mutton purchased the business from his father and along with his wife Isobelle Mutton continued to operate a very successful business until Len's death in 1976.

Len's children Brian and Janelle, and Brian's wife Ann Marie Mutton inherited the business and it continued to trade under their guidance until Brian's death in 1998. Brian & Ann Marie's daughter, Fiona and son in law Ling moved to Braidwood in 1999 and we continue to manage the business to this day.

Len Mutton & Co is housed in an historic building circa 1888. Respectful of our family heritage we continue to play an important role in the local community offering a huge and diverse range of products.

Our motto remains "Something for Everyone at Len Mutton & Co"



• Polly & Edward Norman Mutton (Teddy) overlooking the Araluen Valley.



• Len Mutton opens up in 1974.

• There was a false start to the advertised opening when the plate glass window was broken in transit to Braidwood and the opening was postponed from the 11th to the 14th of June 1913.

"Muttons top of the list!" Remembering Mutton's

Len Mutton and Co has seen many generations of some families through their youth and become senior residents in the community. Many locals have stories of working behind the counter which mirror the times over the last century.

It wasn't all hard work says Fiona. Len was known for his good sense of humour, and one day, when talking to a travelling salesman inside the shop they spied another pacing outside awaiting his turn.

They decided to play a joke on the traveller, and threw open the doors with Len throwing the first salesman out the door yelling "if I see another traveller toady I'm going to do my block!" as he fired a few blanks into the air.

Then they all fell about laughing as the unsuspecting second traveller disappeared down the road to the Clyde.

John and Jenette Hindmarsh of Jinden, Krawarree were married in the early 70s and young Jenette was taken into Mutton's to be introduced to Len. Afterwards Len would always usher John out of the shops saying "I'm not talking to you now John, I'm talking to Jennie for what she wishes to purchase!"

Now four generations of Mutton and Hindmarsh families have been doing business. John can remember sitting in the small wooden chair with long turned legs as a small boy, being fitted for boots. It's still there 70 years later says John.

"Back in the old days" says Jenette "it was a big deal to travel to town, when there was a lot less tar on the 62km trip. You could always just ring and Len would put things on the mail."

"Len was a real little gentleman, always with waistcoat and hat" says John. "And he used to play the saxophone beautifully."

Zelma McKie worked at Muttons from 1957 - 1960 then went back in 1965. Dot Grant had worked there too but left around the time I came back. "I was there until they closed the drapery in 1970" says Zelma. "We didn't close the shop to do the stocktaking in those days. There was no standing around, you had to have a duster or something in your hand. As soon as the door opened Mrs Mutton would say "forward please girls."

"Each afternoon all the clothes had to be covered with sheets which were on until after you swept out the store and footpath in the morning."

Wendy Hart went into Mutton's for a ball ticket and came out an employee, staying for 21 years, retiring in 2010. "It was such a pleasant place to work" recalls Wendy. "That's why people stayed so long. I started when just Gordon Shorrocks and Jill Burke were there, then worked with Fiona and Ling for 11 years. The Mutton Family are really lovely people and very caring towards their staff."

"And we also had some lovely customers, even Dame Joan Sutherland, Leo McKern and Geoffrey Rush to name a few."

Wynne Parker started work at Mutton's in 1968 and stayed for 19 years. "It was such a lovely place to work" says Wynne. "I enjoyed every minute of it."



• Shop Girls: Zelma McKie, Joan Parker Mrs Bessie Sullivan and Denise Young.

Mothers, get ye to MUTTON'S with the Boys to be booted and Suited

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Do., do., Norfolk Coats, at 3/6

Bengal Tweed Norfolk Suits, 6/6

Very Strong Tweed Norfolk Suits, 8/11

Rugby Suits, 3 garments, good wearer, worth 17/6, at 13/11

Boys' Tweed Hats, worth 1/9 to 3/-, going at 1/- each

McMurtrie's famous Boots for Boys, to 13 at 7/11; to 4 at 9s—for hard wear

6 Doz. Men's English Sample Fur Felt Hats, at 5/11 each

Fashion Shirts, from /11 each

MUTTON
THE CUT-PRICE STORE.

The Team at **RAY WHITE BRAIDWOOD** Congratulate **Fiona and Ling at Len Mutton & Co** for their Award and continued contribution to the Braidwood community.

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