

Fred Lubomirski's story

My Dad, Fred Lubomirski, was involved in the timber industry from an early age.

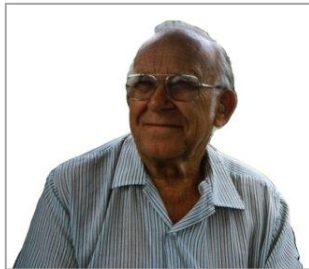
'May 1969, Fred got a job with Woodford Timbers as a truck driver. This was the beginning of a long association with the company, later known as Grant Timbers.

When Fred started working for the company, he was driving the old B Model Mack along with another driver, Arthur Curry. The owner of the business at the time was Bill Grant but it wasn't long after this that his son Bob took over. You would often see Bill drop in to check on the operation. Bob was a regular at the mill and quite often a young Shane Grant would be at his father's side.

Fred's day consisted of one or two trips into the bush around Bellthorpe and Jimna, hauling huge logs out to the sawmill in Woodford. After lunch they would load bundles of sawn timber and head off to Geebung where they were dropped at Grant Timbers outlet near the railway station. Now all long gone. This trip always meant he was home on dark. He also at various times made trips to Burnett Creek in the Boonah region, and to Linville in the Brisbane Valley.'

'Fred continued to work at the mill until his retirement on 8 August 1988.'

By Terry Lubomirski



Woodford Historical Society 2025

Compiled using information from:-

Trove Newspapers, local historian Ron Trim,

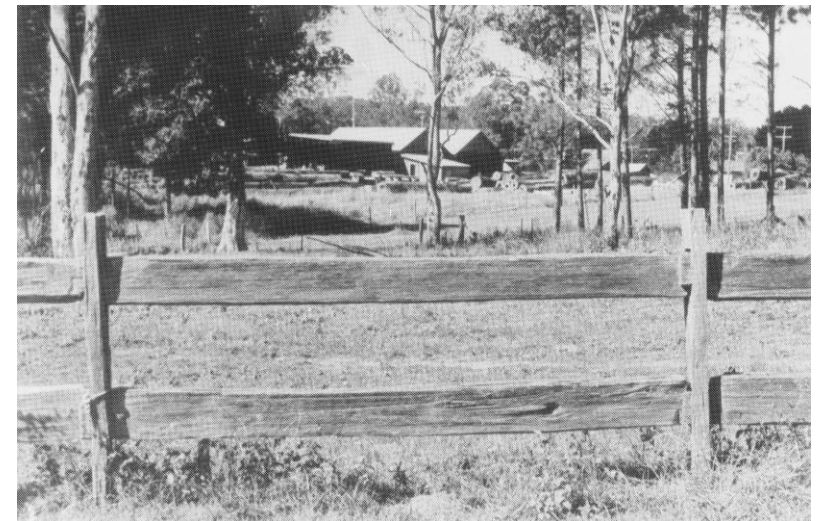
'Milestones' by WHS, 'Timberman' 1999

Fact Sheet – W11



Sawmills of Durundur ...

Grant's Sawmill (1959 – present day)



1982: Grant Sawmill (late Fredin's sawmill)

In 1959, Grant and Sons, a Geebung sawmill business took over the Fredin & Co Sawmill, by then a small rundown mill.

William Robert Grant (1907-1999)



Woodford Sawmills

Grant's Sawmill *continued*

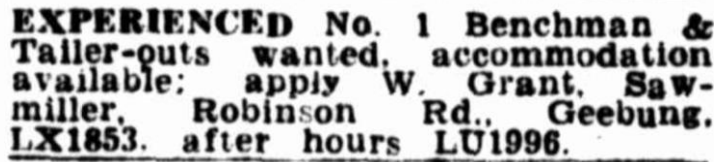
William Robert (Bill) Grant had a long history in the timber industry. He was a timber-getter by trade.

Bill got involved in sawmilling in 1945 when he went into business with his brother Jack. They established a sawmill at Kedron in Brisbane.

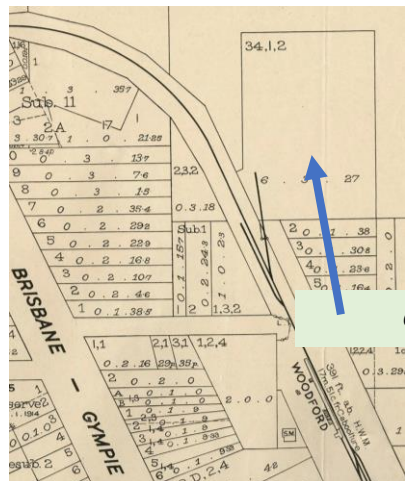


From TROVE: *TRUTH* 9 October 1949

In 1951, Bill went into business for himself and purchased a mill at Geebung.



From TROVE: *BRISBANE TELEGRAPH* 7 May 1951



In 1959 he expanded his business and bought the sawmill at Woodford previously run by Fredin & Co.

Grant's Sawmill

1936: Survey Map of Woodford

The Woodford mill was rundown with the gear pretty well worn out and powered by steam. Bill converted it to electricity and worked it for a year before it was gutted completely. He installed new equipment, the best machinery available at the time.

In 1960, sawmilling activity at Geebung ceased and it was used as a timber yard only.



In January 1971, Grant's Mill was amalgamated with Brandon Timbers and subsequently when Brandon's was taken over by the NSW Company Robb & Brown, the Grant family bought back the Woodford mill together with the company's substantial landholdings in the Bellthorpe area.

In 1985, the Geebung operation wound down in favour of delivering sawn timber direct from Woodford.



1985: Bob Grant with his father Bill checking out logs at their Woodford mill

'Up until his last days he took great delight in driving around the log yard and going to Bellthorpe to look at the trees.'

