

# A Stellar century celebrated

Ben Slater

From party line to iphone, retired farmer and Katanning resident Stella Lloyd has seen a century of changes.

Last month she joined the exclusive 100 club, and the occasion was marked with a presentation of her Gold Senior's Card from Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis.

Mrs Lloyd joins fellow centenarian Lilian Severin as two women who have stood the test of time to bring up the rare milestone.

The presentation was made to Mrs Lloyd at her room at Kerry Lodge in Katanning, on behalf of Communities Minister Robyn McSweeney.

Mr Ellis is a third-generation farmer and said he continued to marvel at the resilience of country women like Mrs Lloyd.

"Women like Stella are the backbone of regional communities, stoically providing for their families through good and bad seasons," Mr Ellis said.

"They provide the tenacious commitment to the small schools and sporting organisations that keep bush communities alive, they drive long dusty roads to get their kids to medical help or a football match, and while their city counterparts are downing a latte they are more likely to be drenching a sheep."

The eldest of eight children from a farming family in Victoria, Stella first moved to Queensland and then to Kukerin in WA. But another move was on the cards, when the family sold the farm and bought a property in Dumbleyung.

The Dumbleyung property remains in the family, and is run by her grandson.

Stella became a long-time member of the Country Women's Association, where she was recently awarded a 65-year membership certificate. She was also an active member of the Anglican Church.

Not only does she have Australia-wide experience in rural life, but she was also a great cook and gardener.

Stella's husband Ross died in 1994 and she moved into the former Salvation Army hostel in Nedlands for 13 years before moving to Katanning.

Her long and active life has seen her marvel at many changes from Tiger Moth aeroplanes to the first space craft and a man walking on the moon.

She has watched technology change from party line telephones to mobile phones and the internet. One thing that has never changed is country hospitality and commitment to regional communities.



Doreen Catling, the birthday girl Stella Lloyd and Brian Ellis MLC