



Veronica Zella Kelly

Born April 9, 1918, in Corindhap

A lifetime of giving to others

Veronica Zella Kelly was born in 1918 and raised in the small country town of Corindhap. Zella was one of seven children and grew up during tough times when life was filled with hardships. Remarkably, Zella's recollections of her early life are filled with happy memories spent with her large family and community. As a young child, Zella's parents could only afford basic primary school education. Once this education was completed, Zella left her family home as a young teenager to work in Ballarat as a house maid.

Zella married Daniel Kelly and after the Second World War they lived for many years on a soldier settlement property in Rokewood. Together they worked hard on the land and raised seven children. Unfortunately Daniel passed away in 1980.

During Zella's long life, she has tirelessly volunteered an enormous amount of time to many different organisations within her community ranging from the canteens at both Loreto College and St Patrick's College to being on the Nazareth House committee for many years and working on their sweet trolley.

Until a few years ago, Zella had worked for over thirty years at the St Vincent De Paul Society on a daily basis. Zella loved her work at St Vinnies which was evident by the many hours she would spend knitting and sewing beautiful outfits for babies and children who did not have these simple pleasures. In addition to this work, Zella volunteered for many years delivering meals on wheels. This work was a passion and privilege for Zella as she was able to connect with members of the community that were often lonely and had minimal contact with others.

This year Zella celebrates her ninety-first birthday and she continues to inspire. She is known in her community as a kind and gentle woman with a very generous heart.

In her nominator's words, *"If you asked Zella the meaning of life, I am sure she would say that to live a happy and contented life we need to help those in need."*