

Vale Linda Mottus



Linda from staff photos (L-R) in 1953, 1960 and circa 1985

Trish Hatfield had been keeping in touch with Linda since she retired from work and for the last few years she had been in a nursing home. When Trish found that her 2006 Christmas card to Linda returned, she phoned the nursing home only to be informed that Linda had passed away a month ago.

According to Trish, Linda was born on 21 February, 1924, and I seem to recall that her country of birth was Estonia. After the Second World War, Linda studied natural sciences at a university in Hamburg. Because of the turmoil in her own country, Linda decided to migrate to Australia by herself. She was 24 and one of the reasons she chose Australia to make a new life was because the warm climate attracted her. Linda would quite often be found at St Kilda Beach. For 18 months she lived and worked at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital. In 1950 she obtained a job with National Mapping in their office at Gregory Hall, in Chapel St. Windsor, and stayed with the National Mapping for the remainder of her working life.

Linda was a survivor, as most of us can recall she chain smoked all through her working life. Fortunately it was in the days before smoking was totally banned in buildings. Bob Irwin reminded me of the occasion when, in the early days of OH&S, Dave Dzur arranged installation of a small exhaust fan above Linda to remove the constant cigarette smoke. Linda just sat there watching the device being fitted, chain smoking!

Linda officially retired on 20 February 1989 after 39 years with National Mapping and a 'ploughman's lunch' was held in Dandenong Park on 17 February, in her honour.

As Linda was in one of the earliest Natmap staff, it is very likely that with her passing, no members of that early group now exist.

Vale Linda – a lifelong Natmapper.