

# Nearly as old as State

Ninety-five-year-old George Stacey of Wynnum, is only seven months younger than the State of Queensland

And - according to George - he's the oldest Queensland-born Queenslander living.

He was born at Limestone (now Ipswich) on July 11, 1860. Queensland was proclaimed a separate State on December 10, 1859.

Outspoken, healthy and jovial (he punctuates every second sentence with a hearty laugh), George lives with his three widowed daughters in his home in Chestnut Street.

Gets into lot of mischief

He built the house with his own hands when he was 84.

Eldest of the three daughters is 73. Seven of his 11 children are living - the "baby" is 51 and he has 20 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

"I do all the shopping and run the messages to keep out of mischief - and believe me, I can get into a lot of mischief," he said.

"I used to drink a fair bit of rum, and smoke, too, about 40 years, but I gave it away . . . found I couldn't clothe and feed the kids and enjoy myself as well."

His recipe for lusty old age

His recipe for a lusty old age: "I was well cared for. I had the best woman in the world for a wife."

George's wife died about eight years ago, aged 85.

Like most oldsters, George recommends good old-fashioned hard work as a sure way to stay young.

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