

Near the mouth of the Snowy River in East Gippsland lies the idyllic village of Marlo, where back in the 1940s a family called Waters ran the local pub. The owner and his wife loved the place so much, they kindly bestowed its name on a treasured daughter.

In the 1960s the former publican's wife went on to create several huge scrapbooks full of newspaper clippings and photographs of that same daughter, who started her meteoric modelling career by winning the coveted Oscar at the Mannequin Academy of Melbourne, went on to be proclaimed *Victorian Model of the Year* in 1966 and graced the catwalks of Georges, Myer and Waltons for more than a decade.



After doing a course in commercial art at Caulfield Tech, she had taken Melbourne by storm in an era of Jackie Kennedy type fashion. Somewhat an Audrey Hepburn lookalike, and a favourite of the Wool Board (she was photographed with twin lambs - one over each shoulder) she became a magnet for the top fashion photographers.



People say if you can remember the Sixties you weren't there; but thanks to Marlo's mother and her amazing clipping collection, it is easy to chart her progress. In that era the models would have three or four jobs within 24 hours: dashing from modelling bras to furs to beaches to Georges parades, all on the same day. Marlo says now the top models do an average of one job a month, and are paid a fortune for it.

Marlo Waters became Mrs Bill Douglass over 55 years ago, which will amaze bridge players who encounter the still statuesque auburn haired bombshell today. Despite the flowers from stage-door johnnies, the enterprising Mr Douglass managed to keep hold of his prize and in due course they became the parents of two beautiful daughters and are now also grandparents twice over.

Marlo bought her first Porsche, a bright yellow 911, with an inheritance from her father. This beloved vehicle was later followed by a stream of elegant chariots including two more Porsches, the most recent of them now gracing the Bridge

Club carpark. Before becoming motorised (from the age of five actually) she rode horses at the Waverley Riding School, won heaps of ribbons in Melbourne's Royal Easter Show, and even taught riding to finance the agistment of her own pony.

When Bill became sufficiently interested in trail bikes to attach two to the back of his E-type she enthusiastically joined in, eventually becoming an ultra glamorous motorbike rider, zooming into the city from Beaumaris in frightfully fashionable flared pants, to the delight of passersby.

After the modelling years Marlo and a friend ventured into the jewellery business before she and Bill bought the Collingwood Indoor Tennis Centre which she helped to manage for 12 years. The couple moved north about 20 years ago to live near the golf course at Noosa Valley, where Gabriel Poole redesigned a house for them.

Marlo then devoted spare time to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre at Eumundi for 14 years, sometimes working 10-hour shifts helping the furred, feathered and four-footed back to health. She also joined the Bridge Club, doing classes with Bev Salter.



Four years ago they moved to Settlers Cove. The Noosa Springs Golf Club is now a favourite haunt. Last month Marlo won their monthly medal and did so well in a subsequent Stableford she went out and bought a new set of golf clubs. She and Bill are from the same mould: he bought a new sportscar when he turned 80. Presumably we can look forward to another Porsche - perhaps a yellow one - in our carpark when the elegant Marlo does the same.

by Susie Osmaston