

Honouring the Past – Securing the Future

Following donations to build a secure future for the community, The Mackay Foundation would like to honour

DOROTHY BARBARA BLINES

Dorothy Barbara Nash was born at Pinnacle on February 25, 1936. She was the daughter of cane farmers Harold Richard Nash and his wife Elsie Jamieson, and had two sisters Isabel, who died at age five, Gwendoline and a brother Robert. Her mother harnessed Dorothy's musical potential through her insistence that she learn the fundamentals of music, particularly the piano.

Dorothy was educated at Pinnacle State School and every Saturday morning went to the Marian Convent for her piano lessons. She passed the scholarship examination and continued her secondary education and music studies at St Patrick's Convent where she boarded during the week. She completed junior, continued with her musical studies and became an assistant teacher of music at the convent.

Dorothy met David Blines at a dance at Finch Hatton. They married at St Paul's in 1956 and grew their family to include Devon, Warwick, Andrea and Frazer. They acquired a Pinnacle farm from David's brother George and it was here Dorothy spread her musical talents and immersed herself in the Valley community.

Throughout her life, Dorothy had a constant involvement in eisteddfods in Mackay and throughout Queensland either as an artist, teacher or accompanist for her many students or her husband. She gained her teacher's diploma both as an Associate and Licentiate with the Trinity College of London but declined invitations to teach at the conservatorium and to become an examiner for the Trinity College. Dorothy was a member of the Music Teachers' Association of Queensland Mackay branch for more than 30 years and was a life member. She also conducted school choirs and church choirs including the first inter-denominational church choir at Finch Hatton between Presbyterian and Catholic church choirs.

Dorothy was the founding president and director of the Valley Theatrical Players in 1973 and was largely responsible for the design and establishment of the Pinnacle Playhouse which opened in 1997. It is known as one of the best theatres in the district and is a highly valuable resource for the Valley community. Dorothy produced and directed more than 28 'Ye Olde Time Music Halls' from 1972, 12 plays and 23 pantomimes. She was awarded life membership in 1978. She also served as a member of various district associations and organisations including the Red Cross, Junior Farmers' Association, Choral Society, CWA, Pioneer Valley Heritage Committee, Mackay and Pioneer Valley Arts Council. As a member of the committee and with a generous donation, Dorothy helped to establish the Mackay campus of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 1989, a centre of excellence for tertiary music studies. Dorothy pushed the boundaries to make the Pioneer Valley a cultural centre and the Mackay district is richer for her contribution. Dorothy died at Pinnacle on November 7, 2008 surrounded by her memories of a lifetime of music, entertainment and community involvement.

