

## Honouring the Past – Securing the Future

**Alman Partners have made a donation to The Mackay Foundation to build a secure future for the community in honour of**

### BRENDAN WILLIAM ALMAN

Brendan William Alman was born in Cloncurry on December 31, 1924, the third of John Alman and Nellie O'Brien's five children. The family moved to North Queensland and Bren spent his childhood near the fairways of Townsville Golf Club. As a teenager he excelled at the sport. With hard work he secured a traineeship as an assistant professional at Kew Golf Club. However, soon after he became a qualified professional, World War II intervened and Bren joined the RAAF. It was during this time he met Elva June Pederick. The couple were married at Fairfield, in Melbourne, on January 12, 1945. In 1949, with baby son John, Bren and Elva moved to Mackay to take up the position of professional at Mackay Golf Club. Here their family grew to include a daughter Morelle, and sons Craig and Scott.



The job wasn't easy in the early days with floods, cyclones, few golfers, small reward and only a push bike to ride the 30 miles to and from the club. Bren loved his job and always acknowledged and appreciated the opportunities presented to him. Over the years he met many sporting champions including the world number one player and golfing great Arnold Palmer. Another highlight of Bren's career was playing an exhibition in 1950 at the Mackay course with South African champion Bobby Locke. Bren knew many great Australian golfers including Peter Thompson, Kel Nagle, Norman Von Nida and Charlie Earp and it was his support and promotion of the amateur and professional game that was instrumental in the formation of the Troppo Tour, the regional Queensland tour that gave a start to many aspiring professionals. In 1964, thanks to Bren's promotional efforts, the first Professional Golf Association sanctioned tournament outside of Brisbane was staged in Mackay.

Many young professionals benefited from Bren's guidance and tutelage including David Graham, the only Australian to have won two US majors, the Open and the PGA. Always keen to mentor and support juniors, Bren organised special clinics and coaching through clubs and schools and was always thrilled with the juniors' successes. In a remarkable commitment to his profession, Bren hosted a radio program for more than 20 years, while at the same time writing a weekly golf column for The Daily Mercury for 25 years.

Bren ran Sunday golf clinics at the Mackay club for 21 years, introducing an estimated 10,000 people to the game. Bren was also involved in the design and construction of golf courses at Proserpine, Mirani, South Molle Island, Moranbah and Dysart and supported their establishment by holding regular clinics. Having seen golf grow to become one of the most popular and competitive sports played, Bren retired as club professional in 1987, rightfully regarded as the father of Mackay golf. He continued to coach in retirement up to his death on May 29, 2009.

Bren Alman reached the top of his profession and competed against some of the greats of the game, but considered his greatest achievement as bringing golf to the people of Mackay. With a thirst for knowledge and a gift for sharing, Bren's dedication to golf and his contribution to the social fabric of the Mackay community is his enduring legacy.