

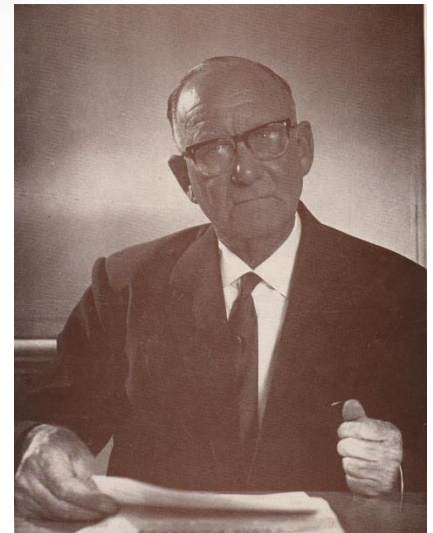
Honouring the Past – Securing the Future

The Ross Family have made a contribution to The Mackay Foundation to build a secure future for the community in honour of

HENRY LAWRENCE ROSS

Henry (Harry) Lawrence Ross was born in Mackay on February 28, 1899. His father, Douglas Ross, arrived from England as a young man to work with cattle and grow sugar. His mother, Elizabeth Heron, and her family were early settlers in the Sarina district.

Harry was a foundation pupil at Mackay State High School and the first school dux. At the school's diamond jubilee in 1972, Harry responded to the toast of the original students. On completion of his schooling, Harry joined J Michelmore & Co as the youngest member of the seven office staff but continued his education by distance study in accountancy. He valued education highly as did his wife, Alice Madge Swanson, whom he married in 1927. Madge was the daughter of one of Mackay's pioneering families. The couple encouraged their children to study and were delighted all four graduated from the University of Queensland. Two of their children, David Ross and Beth Chapple, still reside in Mackay. Lawrie Kelley and Peter Ross live in Brisbane.



Born and bred in Mackay, Harry was always concerned about his hometown and was fortunate both in his private life and through his business career to be able to make a significant contribution to its progress. With J Michelmore & Co, he rose from office boy to accountant before taking charge of the merchandise department and finally becoming general manager. In 1968 he was invited to join the Board as Managing Director, retiring from the position in 1971 and from the board in 1979.

His knowledge and contact with the business community enabled him to have influence in many spheres. On his retirement in 1971, the business community of Mackay organised a farewell in acknowledgement of his 50 years of contribution to the community. Representatives from the farming and grazing community also spoke at this event acknowledging his help during hard times and saying many would not have survived without this assistance.

Harry Ross's interests outside his business career included many years as a member of the Mackay Rotary Club and as a Freemason for much of his life. In both organisations he held a number of posts throughout the years. After a lifelong contribution to the progress of his community and beloved hometown, Harry Ross died on December 12, 1986, aged 87 years.