

Honouring the Past – Securing the Future

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

ARTHUR WILLIAM SHEPHERD & ELSIE MARIA SHEPHERD

Arthur William Shepherd was born at Finch Hatton on June 24, 1906, the sixth of John and Diana Shepherd's 12 children. At 14, Arthur worked two seasons at Pleystowe Mill before working on cane farms at Innisfail and Mackay as well as the Shepherd family farm on Nebo Road. In 1929, he married Elsie 'Nell' Maria Vollmerhouse (born in Mackay on August 7, 1909) and raised two sons and six daughters including Raymond, Edna, Daphne, Fay, Lynette, Carol, Peter and Brenda. In 1931, the family purchased a small cane farm at Dow's Creek to which, in the following years, they added three neighbouring farms and another on Eimeo Road.



During his life-long association with the sugar industry, Arthur was director at Marian Mill for 34 years, nine of which he was chairman and seven as deputy chairman. He was vice-president of the Australian Sugar Producers' Association in 1961 and elected president in 1968, a post he held until his retirement in 1979. During these 11 years, he travelled extensively overseas and within Australia on behalf of the Sugar Producers' Association.

His service to local government began in 1958 as chairman of Mirani Shire Council for six years, while also a member of the North Queensland Local Authorities Committee (three years), the Mackay Harbour Board (six years) and Mackay Hospital Board (three years).

Arthur was passionate about his local community and served on the Dow's Creek School Committee as chairman for 15 years. He was both a regional player and delegate for a number of sports including tennis, cricket and football. He was a foundation member, trustee and six-year president of the Marian Bowls Club as well as a foundation member of Pioneer Valley, Eton North and Seaforth Bowls Club. Other community activities included serving with the Voluntary Defence Corps (VDC) from 1942 to 1945 and serving two terms on the committee of the Mackay Show Association.

In 1971, Arthur was awarded an MBE (Member of the British Empire) and later a CBE (Commander of the British Empire). He was incredibly proud of his many achievements, but none more so than his family and his marriage to Nell. He was mindful of her hard work, love and devotion to their family and farms which allowed him to succeed in all his other endeavours. He considered his achievements as much a reward in some measure for his family for their acceptance, co-operation and sacrifice during his lifetime of service to his community and the sugar industry which often took him away from home.

Arthur and Nell moved to town in 1972 leaving the family to run the farms. Arthur passed away on June 16, 1993, just before his 87th birthday, and Nell passed away June 25, 1999 at the age of 89.