

Honouring the Past – Securing the Future

Margaret Gibson and her daughters have made a donation to The Mackay Foundation to build a secure future for the community in honour of

BRUCE CAMPELL GIBSON

Bruce Campell Gibson was born in Kingaroy on January 3, 1929, the oldest son of dairy farmers from whom he developed a healthy work ethic. Upon completing his education in 1945, he worked as a clerk with the SGIO Rockhampton and in 1948 transferred to Mackay. In 1951 he became a senior clerk at Farleigh Sugar Milling Co-operative and this led to his long association with the sugar industry.

In 1954 Bruce joined the staff of public accountants Douglas Gibb and Lewis having gained his accounting qualifications through night study. In 1960 he became a partner in the firm and remained so until his retirement in 1992. Because of his early experience on a farm and working at the sugar mill, Bruce had an immediate rapport with the cane farmers which constituted most of his clientele.

He was a committed Christian and from his arrival in Mackay Bruce had a close association with St Paul's Presbyterian Church, later the Uniting Church. St Paul's proved to be a great introduction to Mackay and its young people where as a member of the PFA youth group he was able to establish many lifetime friendships. He played in the PFA cricket team and in the Mackay competition and became a member of the Mackay Cricket Association.

Bruce was an elder with St Paul's Church for more than 50 years and, as the session clerk, devoted himself to the work of God and assisted many ministers in their work for the church. He had a wonderful temperament and worked well with others. He married Margaret Shepherd in 1954 and had three daughters, Alison, Helen and Lyn. Margaret sang in the church choir and together they worked as a team for St Paul's.

Bruce was well regarded as a public accountant but it was his work within the community which clearly demonstrated his honesty and moral fibre, giving him wide-spread recognition and respect. In order to improve his public presentation he became a member and then president of Coolabah Toastmasters Club. Bruce devoted 34 years as a member of the Mackay Ambulance Committee, was an original member of Meals on Wheels committee and was an original member, first president and later life member of Mackay Senior Citizens. On most committees Bruce was the automatic choice as treasurer, not only because of his profession but because of his honesty and reliability.

Bruce was an original member of the Presbyterian Homefield Aged Persons Home committee and was a member for 36 years. This was a project very dear to his heart.

For his service to the community, Bruce was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 1997. Due to illness, he was forced to relocate to Brisbane and died there on December 9, 2005.

