

## Honouring the Past – Securing the Future

**Joan McDonald has made a donation to The Mackay Foundation to build a secure future for the community, in honour of the contribution of**

### STUART EDWARD McDONALD

**Stuart Edward McDonald** was born in Mackay in 1931, the son of Archie and Ivy McDonald. He had two sisters Marjorie (Lenahan) and Ruth (Innis). Their family home, which is still standing today, was in Wood Street next to McDonald's Hardware which Archie owned and operated.

Stuart was educated at Mackay Central School and spent a year at Scots College Warwick where he learned the strong Christian values he held all his life. He was an outstanding youth leader teaching Sunday school, playing with the sports teams and participating in the church youth and fellowship groups.



Stuart began working in his father's hardware store in 1947 but left after it was sold in 1954. A year later he rejoined the business, and following a company restructuring in 1956, became shareholder and later director and general manager of Woodman McDonald Hardware Pty Ltd. The company expanded its operations and at one stage operated six stores throughout Mackay, Proserpine, Sarina and Toowoomba. Woodman McDonald Mitre 10 also took a controlling interest in a small company called Meecham and Leyland Ltd, but at the end of 1985 Stuart sold his interest in the company.

Stuart married Joan Harvison in 1954 and they had four children including Judy, Don, Beth and Lorraine. Throughout his life he was very interested in his children's sports, especially hockey and cricket. He played and coached young cricketers.

Stuart began his association with Mitre 10 Queensland in 1970. He worked with them until he retired in 1992 after serving 17 years as Queensland chairman. In 1974 he was appointed as a director to the national board and served seven of those years as national chairman. For 24 years Stuart was also a director of Pioneer Permanent Building Society and served on the board of Scurrs Mitre 10 Brisbane. Stuart moved his family to Brisbane in 1986 and purchased a specialist wholesale hardware business with son Don and sons-in-law Paul Howard and Adrian Pembroke. The business expanded Australia-wide before it was sold in 2007.

Stuart was a member of West Mackay Rotary Club and was involved in the AFS exchange student program with three of his family members each spending a year in the USA. The family also hosted four overseas students. Stuart became chairman of AFS Queensland and was instrumental in expanding the exchange program throughout Queensland.

Stuart McDonald was a second generation Mackay industry pioneer. He revolutionised the building supply and hardware retailing industry in both Mackay and throughout Queensland and was highly regarded both by his peers and competitors. He died on May 30, 2013.