

Honouring the Past – Securing the Future

Joyce Graham and her children, Robyn Graham and Russell Graham, have made a contribution to The Mackay Foundation to build a secure future for the community in honour of

HARRY HAYFORD WESTON AND ADELINE WINIFRED WESTON

Harry Hayford Weston was born in Brisbane on April 29, 1899, the last of Henry Weston and Jane Margaret Kimberley's three children. He was educated in Brisbane and joined the tax department where he studied accounting. Harry enlisted in the World War but the war ceased before he was posted overseas. In the early 1920s, Harry commenced employment with Hutton & McFarlane public accountants in their Mackay practice, which was later purchased by George Ernest Jones.

In 1927 Harry was admitted into the partnership of GE Jones & Co Chartered Accountants and became a senior partner in 1936. He was widely acknowledged as one of Mackay's leading public accountants and became a member and a President of the Rotary Club of Mackay. Harry was also treasurer of the St Paul's Presbyterian Church management committee and chairman of its first Wells fundraising scheme as well as a trustee of the City Bowls Club representing the club in inter-club activities. He was a member of the Freemasons Lodge, Master of Caledonian Lodge in 1947 and held Grand Lodge and Chapter honours.



Harry married Adeline Winifred Ellingham on April 7, 1927 in the Congregational Church at Milton. The daughter of John and Rebecca Ellingham (nee Startin), Adeline was born on November 2, 1904 and had three siblings. The family transferred to Mackay in 1923 where her father took up a position with the construction branch of Queensland Railways to build the Boddington Street Railway Station.

Harry and Adeline raised three children: Bruce Hayford Weston, born June 9, 1928; Keith Ellingham Weston, October 25, 1931; and Joyce Adeline Weston, July 7, 1933. On April 1, 1943, the American Red Cross opened its largest and most successful recreational and rest area in Mackay consisting of 14 buildings in the inner-city area. The centre provided relief for servicemen direct from Pacific Island fighting who arrived in Mackay on three daily flights. While staffed by Americans, assistance was requested from Mackay citizens and Adeline Weston accepted the role of chairwoman of the Air Force Victorettes. This group comprised young Mackay women selected to provide partners for the servicemen at dances, functions and outdoor activities under strict supervision. Adeline was also involved in the canteen providing home-cooked meals. An autograph and photo album carries many testimonials expressing appreciation for the kindness of the Westons at this time. Mrs Weston met and entertained Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt on her visit 1943. In a visit to America in 1959 many of these friendships were renewed. There is no doubt that her work helped cement Australians and American relations.

Harry Weston died in 1957, his eulogy commending his unfailing courtesy, good humour, charming personality and a sympathy and sincerity that inspired confidence and invited friendship. Adeline Weston died on June 12, 1986. Both contributed substantially to Mackay's development and progress.