

❖ LOLOMA WEIR ❖

Loloma Weir (nee Green) was the daughter of an Australian Methodist missionary, the Reverend Robert Green. She was born in Suva, the Fijian capital, on 17 November 1922.

Her father's vocation entailed moving periodically and by the age of 2, her family lived in the Cuvu district. Although there were few Europeans nearby, the manager of the local Colonial Sugar Refining Company (CSR) operation was an Australian named Bill Weir. The Green and Weir families became well acquainted. Bill Weir's son Stuart was almost the same age as Loloma. In the Fijian language, Loloma means 'love' or 'gift'. Young Stuart, her future husband, acquired the nickname 'Tui', Fijian for 'king'.



Stuart and Loloma left their respective homes aged 6, to attend English-language boarding schools in Suva. Loloma's secondary education continued at the Methodist Ladies' College Melbourne, where her older sister Joan was also a boarder. Loloma excelled in the sporting arena as a swimming champion, and scholastically, becoming the Head Girl of the school. Somewhat remarkably for a woman in the 1940s, Loloma gained entry to Melbourne University, from where she graduated in 1943 as a Bachelor of Science, majoring in biochemistry and microbiology. Her early employment entailed solo travel to remote areas of Queensland and Western Australia, enabled by her determined and independent character.

As it happened by the early Forties both the Weir and Green families had relocated to the Melbourne area and Loloma and Stuart had renewed their acquaintance. In between their competing career commitments, Loloma's work travel and Stuart's emerging military career, romance grew and they married on 9 February 1944. Stuart and Loloma had one child, a son Tony.

LIFE ON BUDERIM

After various military postings in Australia and overseas, following Stuart's retirement the couple moved to Buderim in 1977. Loloma and Stuart both became closely involved in various community endeavours in Buderim. The Buderim Historical Society and the BWMCA were actively supported by Stuart and Loloma Weir.

During this time the couple enjoyed travel, especially ocean cruises, often returning to their beloved Fiji. Loloma was renowned for being somewhat frugal in certain areas, but almost extravagant in important matters like recreational travel, ocean cruises in particular. A lady of nuanced personality, at once friendly yet with a degree of reserve.

She was a keen competitive bridge player at the Buderim Bridge Club and a golfer at the Headland Park course. After Stuart's passing in 2004, she continued to play solo, no doubt contentedly drawing on her capacity to be comfortably alone.

Loloma was a very generous though discreet supporter of the Buderim Foundation from shortly after its formation. She encouraged others to become involved either as a donor or practically. Over time she became the Foundation's largest benefactor. Loloma was very supportive of the Foundation's model whereby the donations to the fund are never spent, but also as a keen investor herself supportive of the wisdom of including an element of growth in the Foundation's investment strategy.

Failing health obliged Loloma to leave her distinctive Amaroo Drive apartment to move to Buderim Views though her interest in the Buderim community continued. Sadly, Loloma passed away in October 2018, aged 95. A memorial service held at the tavern was attended by family, friends and admirers, paying respect to a wonderful Buderim personality.