

# ❖ JEANE CAMERON ❖

## BACKGROUND

Jeane was born in Melbourne in 1908. She was a high achiever in sport and scholastically, graduating from the University of Melbourne with a Master of Science Degree, one of the first women to do so. She married Eddie Cameron in Melbourne in 1937 and moved to Queensland to manage 'Strathalbyn', a property at Hannaford on the Western Downs. Here they raised their five children and were very active in the Hannaford community.

In 1967, Jeane and Eddie retired to the Sunshine Coast which had been the family's annual holiday destination while they were living on the Downs. Settling in Buderim, they built a new home designed by the then unknown architect Gabriel Poole who subsequently won international acclaim.



## LIFE ON BUDERIM

Along with a group of keen artists, Jeane began doing pottery under a private house in Buderim. Shortly afterwards, the potters moved to a small hut on 'Bart's Land' in Church Street where they were joined by painters, spinners and weavers. This group raised money, primarily through an annual Easter market, to build a 'craft cottage' alongside the Buderim War Memorial Hall. The first stage was completed in 1974.

Jeane was a major driving force in the establishment and ongoing success of Buderim Craft Cottage, still an important part of the community with almost 400 current members practising various arts and crafts. She was a committee member and President for several years, and an inspiration to others throughout her long involvement. She influenced many to contribute in whatever way they could to ensure the group's success. Her influence is still present, with current leaders modelling their approach on Jeane's. And her influence was broad in nature. With her scientific background, she had excellent technical knowledge about clays and glazing, and was generous with her knowledge. She was also a very talented potter with a recognisable style. A fellow potter describes her pots as 'gutsy', as was the lady.

Long-term Craft Cottage members remember her as a very strong, direct and highly intelligent woman who said exactly what she thought. They also remember her great generosity of spirit. Her nature was to help others, to give people a go - particularly young people - and to get the best from them. According to one colleague, Jeane had a special quality. It wasn't just what she did. What counted more was the ethos she embodied and the way it permeated to others.

Jeane shared with Eddie an involvement with Endeavour Workshops, helping disabled people. After Eddie's death in 1987 and into her eighties, Jeane continued her craft as well as other involvements which included assisting less able seniors on shopping outings. She died in 1993.

A mural made by the Buderim Craft Cottage Pottery Group is dedicated to her generosity of spirit. It depicts the joining together of the people of Craft Cottage - in the love of their craft, the fellowship it creates and the natural beauty of the Buderim environment.