

❖ BERES HOWARD ❖

BACKGROUND

Beres was born in Nambour in 1931, her forebears having settled in the Dulong-Hunchy areas of the Sunshine Coast hinterland in the 1890s. Beres's family subsequently moved to Southport where she went to school. She worked in the photographic industry gaining an Australia-wide reputation for re-touching negatives and colouring black and white images. She married James 'Curley' Howard in 1952 and moved to a sheep station in the Barcaldine district for a couple of years, then to Brisbane – by this time with their two children. Working from home, Beres resumed her photographic work while James worked initially in the prison service then in business as a butcher. In 1969, they bought Acacia Gardens, a public swimming pool in the Brisbane suburb of Sunnybank, and operated it until 1983. During this period, she was a forerunner in establishing swimming classes for babies. She also involved ladies from the local Lions Club in teaching handicapped children to swim.



LIFE ON BUDERIM

Beres and James retired to Buderim in 1983 and Beres immediately instigated their involvement in a range of community activities, including the Lions Club, local ambulance committee and the Buderim War Memorial Community Association. She belonged to the Lion's auxiliary before becoming a Charter Member of the Buderim Lioness Club when it formed in 1990, and was keenly involved in most projects undertaken by those clubs while she was a member. She was Lioness President from 2000 to 2004 and, for 24 years, ran the 'Foster Club' which organised a monthly outing for senior citizens. She was awarded the prestigious James D Richardson Award for outstanding services and, in 2009, the Lions Legend Award – believed to be only the third of these ever awarded in Australia and the first to a woman.

She worked tirelessly for the Buderim Local Ambulance Committee for 27 years and led the committee as president for most of that time, raising funds, organising resuscitation courses for local residents and ensuring local ambulance officers had the support they needed. The Buderim station's first defibrillator was purchased from a \$20,000 amount that Beres and James raised in just one week.

For several years, she was convenor for an annual surf carnival held at Maroochydore Surf Club.

People who knew her describe her as a remarkable person with exceptional organisational skills. They knew her as a dedicated, down-to-earth person with a warm personality and a wonderful sense of humour, one who threw herself wholeheartedly behind the community activities in which she was involved. With these attributes, she was generally very effective in marshalling helpers and supporters. She was respected in both Lions and ambulance circles throughout the State for her well-considered views, suggestions and insights.

In 2004, she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her services to the community and, in 2009, an Australia Day medal for her work with the ambulance service.

Beres was diagnosed with a serious illness shortly after James died. She died 18 months later in April 2010.