

❖ JEANNE KEY MAC DONALD ❖

BACKGROUND

Jeanne Key MacDonald was born on 30 September 1922 in Perth, Western Australia, the second of the five children of Allan and Christiana MacDonald. Her siblings were Hildreth, Alexander, Ross and his twin Bruce. Allan MacDonald was a Scot who arrived in Australia in 1911. He volunteered for the AIF and saw action at Gallipoli. While convalescing in London, he met proud Englishwoman Christiana Hildreth, a wartime ambulance driver. The couple married in 1919 in London then settled in Western Australia the following year. An accountant who soon entered the political sphere, Allan MacDonald served two terms as a Senator for Western Australia.



Jeanne was independent, determined and resilient, traits developed perhaps at boarding school in Perth while her parents lived in Canberra. At 17, she trained as a nurse and shortly thereafter met a dashing young army officer from New South Wales. The couple married, settled in Sydney and welcomed their daughter, Caroline Justine. The marriage did not last, so Jeanne and Caroline returned for a time to Perth. Somewhat distinctive for her time, Jeanne had her own corporate career and supported herself and Caroline. Of her own accord, she relocated to Melbourne, working for 15 years in the federal members' rooms, where she was befriended by some of the most prominent political figures of the day. A move to the Melbourne Stock Exchange, then the Sydney Exchange in the early 60s was followed by a stint with British American Tobacco (later Coca-Cola Amatil) where Jeanne headed its large Accounts department. In Sydney, with signature determination and not a little charm, Jeanne managed to borrow for her own home, a matter almost unheard of in the 70s. She purchased firstly a harbour view unit, then a dwelling in Wollstonecraft. At retirement aged 65, she moved to her unit in Cremorne.

LIFE IN BUDERIM

After several visits to Montville to visit Caroline and her husband Brian Molloy, at their suggestion Jeanne moved to Buderim in 1999. She bought a home in Royal Drive and remained there until 2010, when she acquired her unit at Edenlea.

Jeanne MacDonald once said that although she'd led a varied and interesting life, it was not until she reached Buderim that she had truly found her place, her real home. She loved Buderim, its character, its people and its sense of community. Jeanne was responsible for greatly adding to that sense and strength of community. A proud Foundation Ambassador since 2009 and the most active one outside of the committee and board personnel, Jeanne offered her enthusiasm and determination to encourage others to join with her in promoting the Foundation's works. Jeanne's community involvement also extended to other community groups including the BWMCA, Probus and Bloomhill.

Jeanne was an early donor, having made a Gift in Memory following the sad passing of Caroline in 2010. She also left a bequest in favour of the Buderim Foundation.

Jeanne moved to the Buderim Views nursing home in early 2016. She passed away in March 2017, leaving behind her many friends and admirers with vivid memories of her special spirit.