

❖ TEIFI WALDEN ❖

BACKGROUND

Born in Wales in 1914, Teifi Jones emigrated to Lithgow, NSW, with her parents and four siblings when she was 12 years old. She embarked on a nursing career after school and became NSW's youngest triple-certificated nursing sister. She joined the Royal Australian Navy Nursing Service in 1942, serving in naval hospitals in Canberra, Sydney, and Brisbane over the period of World War II. She was on duty when HMAS Kuttabul was torpedoed in Sydney Harbour, and nursed the survivors. During the Brisbane posting, she met naval officer Lieutenant Commander Stewart Browne. They married in 1946 and moved to Stewart's farming/grazing property near Dalby.

Andrew, David and Mandy were born in the ensuing years. Teifi embraced life as mother, and as partner to Stewart in developing and running the family property. She enjoyed involvement in various community activities including the Dalby art group and as pianist for the local church. Annual beach holidays at Caloundra were memorable occasions for catching up with Stewart's sister 'Ma' Bendall and her family.



THE BUDERIM CONNECTION

Teifi and Stewart retired to the Sunshine Coast in 1965 and purchased 'Minamere', an acreage property in the northern foothills of Buderim Mountain, an area now known as Kuluin. They were soon involved in the very active Buderim community. Stewart was a keen golfer at Headland Golf Club and volunteered at the Endeavour Foundation. Teifi continued her artistic interests and became friends with several local artists and craft groups.

This disparate artistic community recognised the benefit in finding a home where like-minded artists could practise their arts together and learn from each other. In 1967, a small cottage on 'Bart's land' beside Buderim's War Memorial Hall was rented for a nominal cost and 'Craft Cottage' was born. Teifi was a founding member and started the painting group which continues to this day. She was also a talented potter, screen-printer and silversmith.

As an award-winning artist with works featured in regional, state and international galleries, Teifi was a real asset to Buderim Craft Cottage, encouraging fellow artists and arranging for well-credentialed teachers to provide classes to the painting group. In 1992, she was invited to contribute to a Royal Queensland Art Society exhibition entitled 'Women of the Nineties', and was a nominee for Australian Women of the Year in 1990 and 1991. She is listed in 'Artists and Galleries of Australia' by Max Germaine published in 1984 - a reference book on living Australian artists and galleries.

Sadly, Stewart died in 1972. Teifi married Woombye cane-farmer Frank Walden in 1974, acquiring a new daughter, Geraldine who lived at Winton and, in Frank, someone to share a love of gardening, travel and family activity.

Teifi loved her Welsh heritage and spoke Welsh fluently throughout her life, even attending university in Wales for a Welsh language course when she was aged 76. She continued to tend her garden at 'Minamere' into her mid-eighties and, until the end, retained her ability to play piano by ear. Teifi died in 2004.

Buderim Craft Cottage remains an important part of the Buderim community and a tribute to founding members like Teifi who had the vision and commitment to make it a reality.

Donor: Mandy and Noel Marginson