

# ❖ IRENE MARSHALL ❖

## BACKGROUND

Irene was born in Wagga Wagga, NSW, in 1919. She started school aged seven, riding horseback for the seven-mile daily journey. She won a scholarship to secretarial college on completing high school and commenced her working life at a wool-broking firm. Her career took a turn with the onset of World War II when she undertook aircraft maintenance at Bankstown Airport.

For almost 30 years after the end of the war, she worked in a clerical position at Sydney's Haymarket fruit and vegetable market. Her outside interests included rock fossicking and it was at a lapidary club that she met Jack Marshall.

## LIFE ON BUDERIM

Irene and Jack married in 1973 and moved to Buderim where Jack's son, Dennis, was living. Within a short time, Irene had joined Buderim Craft Cottage. She had previously learnt to cut and polish gems and set them in sterling silver. Finding others with similar interests, she formed the Silver Group which continues to thrive to this day as the Silver and Jewellery Group with more than 30 active members.

With interest in other crafts including wood-carving, flower-arranging and leatherwork, Irene maintained a twice-weekly attendance at Craft Cottage for the rest of her life. Silverwork was her primary passion and she held a leadership role in the Silver Group throughout her time with the group, training numerous members in basic silver-smithing skills. She was also a keen gardener and, as well as tending her much-admired garden in Sorensen Avenue, took cuttings and potted plants to sell at Craft Cottage fund-raisers.

Irene also loved to travel and, after Jack's death in 1989, continued to travel either independently or with family or friends. She did a 4WD east-west crossing of Australia with Jack's son Dennis and his wife Carolyn in 2000, continued to undertake overseas travel well into her eighties and was completely undaunted in driving herself to Sydney in the later stages of her life.

Irene died in 2010 at the age of 91, just two weeks after a successful Silver and Jewellery Group exhibition that she helped organise. She had embraced Jack's children as her own and they remember her fondly as an independent person, a strong-willed character and one prepared to try her hand at just about anything. As Buderim Craft Cottage's longest-serving member at the time she died, she is held in high regard for the significant contribution she made over an extended period. Her dedication and skills inspired many to further develop their abilities and passion for their craft.



*Donor: Dennis Marshall and Carolyn Cook*