

# JOAN INNES-REID

1915 - 2001



## Social Work

Joan was propelled by a desire to meet peoples of other nationalities and in 1938 sailed for Canada and the USA, where she spent the following fifteen years living and working. She completed her Master's Degree in Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago in 1940.

Joan arrived in Townsville in 1954 as the newly appointed Medical Social Worker for the Townsville General and Cairns Base Hospitals. For the next 8 years Joan travelled extensively as the only social worker servicing the regional communities of North Queensland.

During this time Joan supported and encouraged other women to enter the field of social work and actively advocated the development of regional welfare services and organisations.

Joan Innes-Reid was born in 1915 and grew up in the rural Victorian town of Branhholme before moving to Melbourne. Joan completed her first degree of Bachelor of Arts, at the University of Melbourne in 1936.

## Politics

In 1967 Joan entered politics and became the first woman to be elected to the Townsville City Council. In 1973 she became the city's first woman deputy mayor. Joan spearheaded many Council innovations including the establishment of child care facilities, access and facilities for disabled persons and promotion of the arts and heritage. Joan returned to academia in 1976 as the first fieldwork lecturer for the newly established social work course at James Cook University. In 1983 the Townsville City Council initiated the "Joan Innes Award" for the most outstanding Social Work Student of the year at James Cook University.

Joan has been honoured nationally and regionally, receiving the Order of Australia in 1983 in recognition for service to the community particularly in the fields of local government, social welfare and culture.

Joan Innes-Reid became the first woman deputy mayor and was instrumental in establishing community organisations and services.

