



Mrs Iris Estelle ADAMS

[1918 – 2005]



Mrs Adams is distinguished by being acknowledged as the Club's first female (Associate) Member.

Associate Membership was established (by unanimous vote) at the 23 November 1966 Annual General meeting - the wives and widows of Members over 21 years of age being eligible.

At its meeting on 6 February 1967, the Committee considered the first applications. 103 nominations had been recommended by the Membership sub-Committee, and a further 28 applications were received between the sub-Committee meeting and the Committee meeting - all 131 applications were approved directly by the Committee. The Applications were listed in alphabetical order, and so the first name could be considered as the first elected Associate Member.

The name heading the list was Mrs T.B. Adams.

Iris Estelle Adams was born in Toowoomba on 7 August 1918. She was the fifth of six sisters in the family. Her father Samuel Dunsdon, was a primary school headmaster, at Southbrook (Pittsworth) and Raceview (Ipswich). The family lived at Pittsworth and then at Corinda.

Iris attended Raceview Primary School and then Brisbane Girls Grammar School. After completing the Junior Certificate in 1934, she attended Business College before commencing work at Lloyds Insurance in Brisbane.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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As happened at that time, Iris resigned from Lloyds to be married in October 1945 at St. Thomas', Toowong. Her husband was Tony Bradfield Adams. He was born in Glen Innes, NSW, on 18 September 1918. He had served in the Second World War and rose to the rank of Captain in the 2/2 Commando Squadron. He was a keen golfer, and was an involved member of Legacy in the post-war years.

Tony joined the Union Bank in 1945 and moved many times as he progressed through the bank. Initial postings were at Childers, Pittsworth and Brisbane. The Union Bank and the Bank of Australasia merged in 1951 to form the Australia and New Zealand Bank. Further moves took the family to Toowoomba, Coolangatta (1955), Longreach and Southport. He was Manager at Quay Street, Rockhampton from 1965 – 68, returning to the State Head Office at Queen and Creek Streets, Brisbane - where he retired in 1977. On return from Rockhampton they lived at Couldrey Street, Rainworth until moving to an apartment at Toowong in 2006.

Iris and Tony had three children. Paul Bradfield was born in Brisbane in April 1947. Paul attended Church of England Grammar School (Churchie) in Brisbane. He is married with 3 children and lives in Melbourne. Paul is a member of the United Service Club. Judith (now Gardner) was born in Brisbane in April 1949. She has four children and lives in Sydney. Judith is a member of the United Service Club. A third child, Ross John, sadly died soon after birth in Toowoomba in 1951.

During their postings in various towns and cities, the Adams family was active in the local communities. They were involved in the Anglican Church, and enjoyed an active social life and music and dancing. In later years Iris and Tony became devoted to their grandchildren; and spent time caravanning in Australia and travelling overseas – especially to visit their son during his times in Japan and Brazil.

Iris joined the Club on 6 Feb 1967 as an Associate country member while living in Rockhampton. Tony had joined the Club on 4 May 1960. Iris Adams died in Brisbane on 26 January 2005, aged 86 years.

Her husband Tony died in Brisbane on 4 March 2006, aged 87 years.

Sources included:

- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- Interview with Ms Christine Anderson (niece) 14 December 2017
- Various web pages, including AWML and National Archives
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