

Ivy Norma Evans was born in Cooks Hill On 5th September 1921 .She was the firstborn child of Effie and Ernest Bear. Two years later she was joined by her much-loved sister, Audrey. The family was close-knit and loving. Even a visit to the corner shop was preceded by fond kisses.

Ivy left school at the age of fourteen and found employment at the Coo-ee store as a book-keeper. She excelled in this work because she had natural aptitude and a keen eye for detail.

During these early years Ivy and Audrey shared many happy hours with Jean and Norma Shepherd and the friendship formed so early continued throughout their lives. Ivy and Jean were especially close and this was a source of joy and strength to them both.

When Ivy was only seventeen she met a young man to whom she was instantly attracted. She waited patiently for him to realise that she was the ideal choice as his lifelong partner.

After a period of four and a half years they were finally married in 1942. Sadly their honeymoon lasted only a couple of days. Harold was sent to Cairns for jungle training prior to overseas posting in the army.

There were infrequent reunions during the war years but they did result in the birth of their firstborn son, David Bryn, and then their daughter Glenys Lee.

After the war Harold and Ivy decided to open their own business. Harold was ideally suited to be the salesman as he was gregarious by nature. Ivy however, preferred to remain quietly in the background. She was the book-keeper and made very few mistakes. However she was also involved in stitching rolls of narrow width carpet together and cutting lengths of linoleum. These were physically taxing tasks but Ivy never shirked from them.

These were busy years made more so by the arrival of three more sons, Haydn Warwick, Gareth Rhys, and Leighton Ross.

The business prospered and eventually Ivy was able to reduce her involvement to book-keeping only. This she continued to do because it gave her real satisfaction.

Ivy was secretary of the original Lifeline auxiliary and held many functions in the family home at Bar Beach. There were fashion parades, oriental sales exhibitions, Japanese banquets and other events too numerous to mention. They were enormously successful both socially and financially.

Audrey and Ivy decided to open a boutique in Darby Street, Cooks Hill. They thoroughly enjoyed these years working together.

After the decision was made to close this business, Ivy was able to express her creativity in many crafts. Many family members were recipients of her efforts in pottery, long-stitch and porcelain doll making.

In later years she worked enthusiastically with her daughter as a volunteer in the cathedral souvenir shop.

Ivy had a deep love of music and her family were accustomed to hear her humming as she performed her tasks in the home.

She also loved animals and there was a succession of pets, usually dogs. This passion was never shared by Harold who was a keen gardener.

Undoubtedly the greatest love of Ivy's life was Harold and her children. She was the ultimate mother, protective, forgiving and extraordinarily selfless .Her love embraced children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great-great granddaughter. They all felt blessed by that love.

No-one who knew Ivy failed to respond to her warmth and graciousness. This was most clearly expressed in her smiles which radiated from within and embraced the recipient.

The world is a better place for her presence in it. We all thank God for her!

This tribute to *Ivy Norma Evans* was written and submitted by Ivy's daughter Glenys Roser and Ivy's sons, Bryn, Haydn, Rhys and Leighton Evans.
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Ivy Norma Evans (05/09/1921 – 09/08/2011)