

Vale

Professor Tess Cramond AO OBE
1926 – 2016



Dr Tess Cramond, who died earlier this year, was a long-time supporter of BCHS. Tess was born in Maryborough, but completed her education at St Ursula's College Toowoomba, from where she won an Open Scholarship to the University of Queensland. She studied Medicine, graduating MBBS in 1951. After a short period at the North Brisbane Hospital, she travelled to England in 1955 to train as an anaesthetist. On her return to Brisbane, Tess quickly gained a reputation in the areas of pain management and resuscitation, and established a multidisciplinary pain clinic at the Royal Brisbane Hospital which she directed for 42 years. The Unit was renamed in her honour in 2008. She also worked at the Mater Children's and in private practice. She served as the medical adviser to Surf Life Saving

Queensland for 30 years and was a consultant in resuscitation to both Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Army Medical Corps. In 1978 she became the Foundation Professor of Anaesthetics at the University of Queensland, a position she held until 1993. She was conscious of her position as a role model for young women wanting to forge a career within the medical profession.

In 1985 Tess married Dr Humphrey Cramond, a GP from Dalby. Legend has it that they had first met when Tess was one of the medical students who served afternoon tea at Humphrey's graduation. Both were members of BCHS and supported the Society in many ways. They enjoyed 28 years of marriage before Humphrey's death in 2004. During her lifetime, Tess was the recipient of many honours, including an OBE and Officer of the Order of Australia. She was honoured by both the Surf Life Saving Society and the Red Cross for her work with these groups. The AMA, of which she was a very hard-working member, conferred on her the AMA Women in Medicine Award. Throughout her life Tess remained a devout practising Catholic, and had had an audience with two Popes. She was a founding member of the Queensland branch of the Order of Malta and oversaw many of the Order's health care projects. Despite her formidable professional career, she was essentially a loving, caring person much loved by her family, her friends and those whom she had helped over the years.

May she rest in peace!