Dorothy Vera Stickens
nee Roberts, formerly McPhail

Thank-you for attending today and sharing in the wonderful achievements of Dorothy's life.

Your support at this time of loss is of great comfort.

Please continue to spread joy in Dorothy's memory.

Dorothy was privately interred in the Charters Towers Lawn Cemetery.

The Life Celebration

of

Dorothy Vera Stickens

nee Roberts formerly McPhail

17 September 1941 - 21 July 2019

Jane Black Memorial Hall

Charters Towers

31 July 2019

Order of Service

Song - Barry Crocker 'My Country'

Introduction – M.C. Ian Dietrich

Reading

QCWA Motto and Creed

Song - Barry Crocker 'My Country'

Life Narratives

Hogg Family

John Clarke, School of Distance Education

Gloria Battle, QCWA

Song – The Seekers 'Another You'

Committal

Hymn – 23rd Psalm

Going Forth

Conclusion

Song – Billy Vaughn Orchestra 'Sail Along Silvery Moon'

QCWA Motto

Honour to God
Loyalty to the Throne
Service to the Country
Through country women, for country women, by country women

QCWA Creed

I would be true, for there are those who trust me
I would be pure, for there are those who care
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer
I would be brave, for there is much to dare
I would be friend to all – the foe – the friendless
I would be giving, and forget the gift
I would be humble, for I know my weakness
I would look up – and laugh – and love – and lift

The 23rd Psalm

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
My soul He doth restore again,
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake.
Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows.
Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me,
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling-place shall be.

by John Clark
Principal
Charters Towers School
of Distance Education
31 July 2019

Dorothy Stickens (McPhail)

In a historical context Dorothy was a primary teacher employed by the Qld Department of Education. She served in ~~Wherry~~ Weller's Hill SS, Maleny SS and then in the CTSDE until her retirement. Dorothy was appointed as one of the founding teachers of the CTSDE in 1987 and diligently served there until her retirement just over 20 years later. She provided the last radio broadcast of our school in 2002.

But this litinary of service does not reflect who Dorothy was or her standing in her profession. Rather than consider this sequence of service we should consider what made Dorothy an exceptional teacher, a mentor to many and a beacon for many families.

Dorothy was a person who knew she wished to teach from an early time in her life. She saw teaching as a vocation, in the true sense of the word.

She saw this as something not only to aspire to herself but saw her work as a way of ensuring the children in her care gained the necessary skills and personal attributes that would enable them to succeed in life and contribute to their communities. Dorothy was very clear that education was the means to avoid poverty, fulfil dreams and give back to the world in which each of her children (never referred to as students) lived in.

During her time at our school there were three groups of people Dorothy interacted with and made an impact on.

The first were her colleagues... Dorothy was responsible, in my eyes, for more education and training of her collegial teachers than any university or higher learning institute. Newly graduated teachers may have had degrees, but they didn't have a firm grasp of grammar or the teaching of reading! Dorothy in her own quiet, supportive way ensued that the next generation of teachers had the opportunity and guidance to gain further

knowledge, refine their skills, and through her kind and uplifting words, build their competence in working with young children. It is no small effort that through her working with her colleagues, she lifted the teaching standards of many. There are today a number of great teachers, who owe their standing and understanding to the mentoring of Dorothy.

In our school, the second leg of the teaching triangle, is the role of parents or tutors in the home classroom. In this area, Dorothy was no less supportive and spent significant time building the knowledge, skill and confidence of those who worked in the home. She was no easy touch! I can remember listening to one phone call to a parent, where Dorothy was adamant that while she understood the child was involved in the muster it was not appropriate nor fair to be absent from lesson or school work for so long. In her world the child's needs could be balanced with the commercial needs of the family business. She listened to mothers under stress, felt for the family and tried to offer workable solutions to support each child's learning.

At the school she was a strong advocate for families, their needs and ways to ensure they remained engaged with a child's learning. Many the time I would be confronted by Dorothy on an emerging issue – always respectfully, always in a professional manner, but also covered in assertiveness and compassion for the families she worked with.

Dorothy valued, even loved, her extended family made up of families across rural Queensland. I truly hope that they understood and valued the work she did for them in the background.

Of course, I now come to the third leg of Dorothy's impact in education. That of her relationship to the children in her care. With respect to

by John Clark
Principal
Charters Towers School
of Distance Education
31 July 2019

Roberta, Dorothy had many children. Each child in her class believed Dorothy cared for and nurtured them – children are perceptive because she did. Like any teacher she experienced periods of frustration and despair about some aspect of a child's development, but in Dorothy, this just seemed to invigorate her to try harder for that child. In all my time working with her I never heard her speak disparagingly about a child or believe a child could not be helped.

There are many people, some young, some old, who benefited from the work and affection of Dorothy. Her diligence in working with children, her focus on building the skills necessary to survive in today's world in each of them and her desire to see each child fulfil their potential made her, in my eyes, a great teacher.

Dorothy never sought positions of authority, public acclaim or even standing in her profession. She was capable of all three. In her eyes, she saw her purpose in working with children to build the foundations of their lives. Dorothy will live on through the memories of others, the values she implanted into the hundreds of young people she taught and the learning she supported in others. She was a great teacher, an inspiring colleague and a warm and compassionate human being.

All of us have stories to tell of Dorothy – giving her a dog to mind and getting a litter back – and all of these stories will be touched with laughter and a sense of wonder. We all will miss her but I know her legacy is evident in the people I meet who were taught by her.