

## **IPSWICH WOMEN TO HONOUR HEATHER BONNER**

The late Heather Bonner will be honoured by Ipswich women with the announcement today that all proceeds from the inaugural *Telstra Countrywide Ipswich Women's Dinner* will go towards the establishment of the Heather Bonner Memorial Scholarship for a young woman to study at UQ-Ipswich.

The Women's Dinner is being jointly organised by Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan and the Ipswich Region Chamber of Commerce with support from leading Ipswich women and organisations including Councillor Cheryl Bromage, Quota, Zonta and the Australian Institute of Office Professionals.

It will be held on March 23 at Brookwater with all 180 tickets already sold. Dr Heather Beattie is the keynote speaker.

Co-organiser Rachel Nolan said the event coincided with the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Queensland and aimed to celebrate 100 years of Ipswich women's achievements in politics and the community.

"Ipswich women have always punched well above their weight in politics, business and community life," Ms Nolan said.

"The second woman ever elected to State Parliament Vi Jordan was the Labor Member for Ipswich West Vi Jordan, the two most recent Ipswich Business People of the Year have been women and two of the city's three State MPs are women.

"While never directly elected herself, Heather Bonner, who sadly passed away last year was famous across Australia for her leading contribution to bringing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians together and her effort and spirit should be remembered as an inspiration to all women.

"She was an amazing, strong, bright, gracious local woman and as a group we thought that enshrining her legacy through a scholarship at UQ-Ipswich was a fitting cause for the first ever Ipswich Women's Dinner.

The idea of the Scholarship has been warmly welcomed by her extended family.

"We are touched by the special honour to our mother and grandmother and thank Rachel Nolan, UQ Ipswich and the splendid, hard-working group of Ipswich citizens who have brought it about," Heather's daughter, Shay Ryan said.

Telstra Countrywide is the major sponsor of the Ipswich Women's Dinner. Associate sponsors are The Queensland Times, Wingate Properties and UQ-Ipswich.