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Eternal accolade

Women who have shaped North Queensland into what it is today will be honoured at The Village, writes **Roanne Boldery**

THEY'RE from varying decades and disciplines but 13 women will have their names immortalised at Oonoonba's The Village.

Of the prestigious group to be recognised, only two are still living, local Order of Australia Medal recipient historian Dorothy Gibson Wilde and Canberra-based author Dr Helga Griffin, who will help launch the initiative in the form of an "outdoor art gallery experience" to be held next week.

The remaining 11 women, out of the prestigious group of 13, will all be formally announced at the event.

Economic Development Queensland (EDQ), the developers of The Village, will showcase one-of-a-kind abstract artworks that embody and celebrate the spirit and contribution of each woman at the invitation-only proceedings to be held at Wes Barrett Park on Riveredge Boulevard.

EDQ will also unveil 13 precincts within the Oonoonba housing estate that will be named after these women to coincide with Queensland Women's Week and Townsville's 150-year celebrations.

"All of their stories demonstrate their strength,

intelligence and determination to shape the city into what it is today and their tales embody the progression made in forging and maintaining the position of women in regional communities throughout Australia," EDQ senior development manager Meg

Macaulay said.

"Each piece of artwork will symbolise the women's individual stories of unwavering courage, their intelligence and their role in Townsville's history, with the artworks to be incorporated into the overall landscaping master plan for the estate and design elements will be included in the entry statement for each of their namesake precincts."

For the remaining women still living and singled out by this initiative, like well-known local historian Ms Gibson-Wilde, it's a beautiful honour that has been bestowed upon them.

"I am pleased to know that the family name will live on in Townsville because I understand they are going to call a part of the development Gibson-Wilde Pocket which is lovely because the Idalia area has a very rich wartime, indigenous and industrial history so it is a fitting tribute," she said.

At a glance

SIZES: Starting at 250sqm

PRICES: Land from \$123,000

LOCATION: Off Abbott St, Oonoonba

OPEN: Seven days from 9.30am to 4.30pm

PHONE: 1300 650 689

WEBSITE:
thevillagetownsville.com.au

In the area

On a beautiful bend of the Ross River, just 3.5km from the heart of Townsville, The Village features 1.6km of riverfront parkland, tree-lined avenues and walking paths. Positioned in the heart of an established suburb, The Village is minutes to all of life's essentials including schools, shops, James



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Cook University, The Strand and Townsville Airport. Designed as a vibrant inclusive community, residents live in a diverse range of high quality, smartly designed homes.

Check it out

The "outdoor art gallery experience" is invite only but the artworks honouring these 13 Townsville women will be incorporated into The Village's overall landscaping and entry statement for each of their namesake precincts. The initiative is part of a broader strategy to celebrate the history of the estate, with streets already named after significant community members linked to World War II, and park names dedicated to "Local Legends".

MY ESTATE

The Village Economic Development Queensland



Dr Dorothy Gibson-Wilde OAM is one of the women who will be honoured at The Village.

Picture: WESLEY MONTS