

# A professor of distinction

**TERESA RITA "TESS" CRAMOND AO, OBE**  
Anaesthetist, resuscitation pioneer  
**Born:** February 2, 1926.  
Maryborough  
**Died:** December 26, 2015,  
Brisbane

EVERY backyard pool in Queensland bears the legacy of Professor Tess Cramond. That legacy is a sign, prominently displayed and measuring at least 300mm by 300mm, with simple instructions for performing cardio pulmonary resuscitation.

The life-saving technique involving chest pumping and mouth-to-mouth breathing was standardised in the 1970s and its widespread teaching promoted through the Australian Resuscitation Council, an organisation she helped found. A decade earlier, Tess had helped transform rescue and resuscitation techniques in Queensland.

In 1961, with her colleague Dr Roger Bennett, Tess demonstrated new resuscitation techniques being developed in the US.

The pair anaesthetised four volunteer surf lifesavers, stopping their breathing to allow emergency services to work on them using the new expired air resuscitation method.

The demonstration – an experiment which would never be approved by today’s standards – ultimately transformed rescue services and dramatically increasing survival rates of rescued swimmers.

Tess was the third of four daughters born to William and Jane Brophy and a sister to Joan, Mary and Claire. Her father’s job as a railway superintendent took the family to Toowoomba in World War II, where Tess completed her education at Saint Ursula’s College.

She won an open scholarship and later moved to Women’s College in Brisbane to study medicine at the University of Queensland.

After completing her medical degree in 1951 she trained at the North Brisbane Hospital and then travelled to England in 1955 for advanced training in anaesthetics, first at Poplar Hospital in London, and then London Hospital.

She returned to Australia in 1957 to forge a career in anaesthesia, resuscitation and pain medicine through her positions with the neurosurgical unit at the Royal Brisbane Hospital, the Mater Children’s Hospital and private practice.

Tess became interested in pain medicine when her friend Dr Roger Bennett developed intractable pain from Hodgkins sarcoma. He died in 1967.

She channelled her passion for pain relief into a multidisciplinary pain clinic she established at the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1967 and directed for 42 years.

Tess was determined to provide equal access to pain management and wheedled every penny possible from the hospital’s budget to ensure her clinic could cater to all-comers.

She emphasised a multi-disciplinary approach, enlist-



ing the services of psychiatrists, neurosurgeons and physicians among others.

As well as caring for patients, her clinic trained anaesthetists and other specialists in pain management, now a recognised qualification.

The unit was renamed in her honour in 2008.

Tess’ early work with Surf Life Saving Queensland led to her serving as its medical adviser for 30 years.

She also gave medical advice and regular lectures to the Queensland Ambulance Service during the 1970s and early 1980s and served on the Electricity Commission’s Safety Advisory Board for 10 years from 1976. Tess could often be seen supervising rescue and re-

suscitation up in cherry pickers, in the back of an ambulance, down in cable pits and behind switchboards.

She was a consultant in resuscitation to the Royal Australian Navy and a consultant with the rank of colonel to the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps from 1978 to 1986.

She served in many representative positions including dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons from 1972 to 1974.

Tess was president of the Australian Medical Association (AMA), a position she says she accepted the second time it was offered, fearing it would never again be offered to a woman if she declined.

In 1978 the University of Queensland made her the Foundation Professor of Anaesthetics, a position she held until 1993. She acknowledged she stood on the shoulders of other great women, most notably her mother who championed education for girls.

Joan Dunn, the first Director of Anaesthesia at the Royal Brisbane Hospital from 1951, inspired a young Tess Brophy to train in the discipline.

Professor Brophy changed her name in 1985 at age 59 when she married Dr Humphry Cramond, a widower practising in Dalby. They had known each other from university days, when Tess served afternoon tea at Humphry’s graduation ceremony. They reconnected through their involvement in the AMA.

Humphry moved to Brisbane and continued in general practice while supporting Tess in her career. Tess would say “he was worth waiting for”. They enjoyed 28 years of married life before Humphry died in March 2014.

Tess, a devout Catholic, had audiences with two popes.

A founding member of the Queensland branch of the Order of Malta, Australia, in 1979, she oversaw many projects, including the Order of Malta Mt Olivet Hospice Home Care Service (now St Vincent’s) and the Mt Sion Eye Project in New Guinea.

The professor had a fearsome reputation among junior hospital staff. She managed patients’ treatment with an iron fist. Any young doctor on

nightshift would meddle with the drugs and dosages she prescribed at their peril. But those same junior doctors benefited from her genuine interest in their careers.

Tess was available to discuss patient care at any hour of the day or night and expected to be consulted – always.

Tess’ life story is punctuated with many accolades and awards, including an Order of the British Empire (OBE) and an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO), an Advance Australia Award, a Red Cross Long Service Award and the AMA Women in Medicine Award.

Surf Life Saving awarded her life membership of Queensland in 1983 and of Australia in 1997, making her the first female to receive national life membership.

But to her family she was just Tess, the affectionate, overachieving aunt who could barely operate a washing machine and relied on her parents, sisters and later nieces and nephews to do the cooking and shopping.

She loved children and was an adoring great-aunt to successive generations, who delighted in educating a laughing Tess about wedgies and other matters non-medical.

Tess died peacefully in her sleep at Hendrina Nursing Centre, Boondall.

She is survived by her nieces Elizabeth Carrigan and Barbara Twomey and nephew Robert Ritchie and stepchildren Elizabeth Luescher and Gordon Cramond.

ANGELA BENSTED

## BRIDGE with Tony Jackman

The Northern Suburbs Bridge Club, founded in 1958, is our oldest in a continuous sense. the QCBC’s roots go much further back but are convoluted. Like most of our clubs the NSBC started small – but it has grown to be a massive success with a fine site, excellent clubhouse and large membership. Last Sunday the club hosted the January Teams. A strong finish saw victory to J. Peach/ M. Perrin with J&P. Evans ahead of C. Lu/ W. Zhou and C. Qin/ P. Chang then C. Palmer/ G. Olsen and A. Morrison/ H. Baker. B grade went to C, Snook/ D. Hartwig and I/Jesser/ J. Wood while C winners were T, Fletcher/ I. Cameron with S. Gardner/ D. Williams. Meanwhile, in Canberra the

National Open Teams Championship is close to the finals. With a couple of qualifying rounds to go, the visiting Lavazza team are well in front, easily justifying their number one seeding.

W Dealer, All Vul

### NORTH

♠ AKQ  
♥ 108  
♦ AKQ109865  
♣ –

### WEST

♠ 876532  
♥ 64  
♦ 73  
♣ AJ6

### EAST

♠ J104  
♥ AK973  
♦ –  
♣ 109653

### SOUTH

♠ 9  
♥ QJ52  
♦ J42  
♣ KQ742

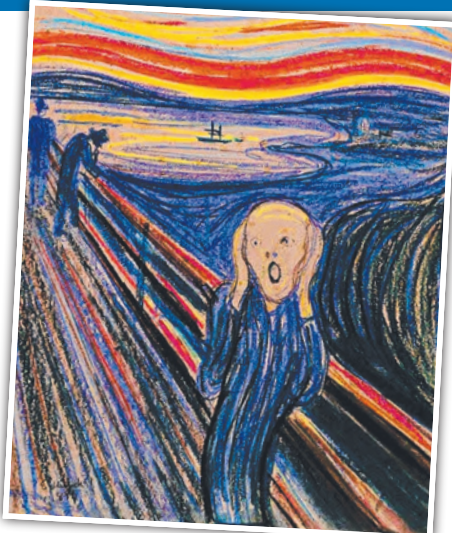
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Pass	2C	2H	3C
Pass	3D	Pass	3NT
Pass	???		

I was North on today’s hand from the Northern Suburbs event. What would you have bid? You have a giant, 11 tricks in your own hand and partner has shown positive values. His bidding could indicate something like the South hand shown and you would lose the H AK. I could think of no way to find if partner had HA (or HK) so settled for a safe 5D. Would have been right if he had held the hearts shown, but turned out to be a disaster as his hearts actually were K942 while East’s were AQJ73 and 12 tricks easily made. Ah well, we were having a bad day anyhow.

## ON THIS DAY

Today is Saturday, January 23, the 23rd day of 2016. Highlights in history on this date:

- 1806 - Death of William Pitt the younger, who at the age of 24 became Britain’s youngest prime minister.
- 1849 - English-born Elizabeth Blackwell becomes the first woman in America to receive a Doctor of Medicine degree.
- 1920 - Holland refuses to surrender Germany’s former Kaiser William II to Allies for punishment as a World War I criminal.
- 1931 - Death of Anna Pavlova, Russian dancer and one of the most celebrated prima ballerinas of all time.
- 1943 - In World War II, the British under Field Marshal Montgomery capture Tripoli, Libya; After nine days of talks in Casablanca, US President Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill agree to put an invasion of Italy before a second front in northwestern Europe.
- 1944 - Death of Edvard Munch, Norwegian painter of *The Scream* (pictured).
- 1950 - The Israeli Knesset approves a resolution proclaiming Jerusalem the capital of Israel.
- 1960 - The US navy bathyscaphe Trieste dives to a record depth of 10.911km in the Pacific Ocean.
- 1963 - Harold “Kim” Philby, British journalist in Beirut, disappears. It later emerges he was the third man in the Burgess-Maclean spy scandal and had been granted asylum in Moscow.
- 1964 - Indonesia and Malaysia agree to a ceasefire in their undeclared border war.



- 1968 - North Korea seizes US Navy ship Pueblo and holds crew as spies.
- 1973 - US President Richard Nixon announces an accord has been reached in Vietnam War; George Foreman takes the world heavyweight boxing title from fellow American Joe Frazier in Jamaica.
- 1983 - Soviet satellite Cosmos 1402 enters Earth’s atmosphere and crashes into the Indian Ocean.
- 1989 - Surrealist artist Salvador Dali dies in Spain, aged 84.
- 1996 - Yigal Amir confesses in court to killing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; South Korean prosecutors formally charge ex-presidents Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo Hwan with sedition over events surrounding the 1980 army massacre of pro-democracy activists in Kwangju.

## DO YOU WANT TO HONOUR SOMEONE?

Write to Obituary Editor, The Courier-Mail, GPO Box 130, Brisbane 4001, email [Obituary@thecouriermail.com.au](mailto:Obituary@thecouriermail.com.au) To organise a funeral notice call 132 202.

NEWSQUEENSLAND, as publisher of The Courier-Mail, reserves the right to edit contributions, and has the right to license third parties to reproduce in electronic form and communicate this material. Contributions must be received and published within three months of the date of death.