



# Precious offering

## Paspaleys rewarded

By NADJA HAINKE

**M**ARILYNNE and Roslynn Bracher would be sure to argue that pearls — and not diamonds — are a girl's best friend.

The sisters were born into Australia's multimillion-dollar pearling family.

But their interests and services to the community reach far beyond the business, which produces 70 per cent of the nation's gem quality pearls.

Ms Paspaley travelled and acted on stage and television before devoting herself to the family company.

And Mrs Bracher established herself in the arts world through her involvement with the Darwin Symphony Orchestra and National Gallery of Australia Council.

The two directors of the Paspaley Group of Companies have now been appointed Members of the Order of Australia.

Ms Paspaley received the award for services to business and commerce through the marketing and promotion of pearls and Australian designed jewellery.

She has been honoured for developing and expanding Paspaley's retail network, including the establishment of an jewellery workshop, development of the Paspaley jewellery collections and the publishing of the *PASPALLEY* magazine.

The businesswoman said gaining world recognition for the quality of the company's pearls was a great achievement.

"That's what I've been working for the last 20 years," she said.

The Paspaley family has pioneered Australian South Sea

Pearls since 1952.

Mrs Bracher was honoured for service to the community through support of arts, research, health and social welfare organisations and to the promotion of cultural relations with Japan.

She became a member of Menzies School of Health Research early this year and served as director for the NT University Foundation for three years.

In 1999 she was a founding member of the Government House Foundation in Darwin until becoming honorary Consul-General for the Japanese Government in 2002.

But Mrs Bracher said she had done nothing to deserve the award.

"Unless you run into a burning house and really save someone's life, I don't believe you earn the honour," she said.



VALUABLE ROLES: Roslynn Bracher (right) and Marilynne Paspaley