

James Thomas McMahon

Honorary membership of the Rotary Club of Ipswich North is bestowed upon individuals who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals.

The Rotary Club of Ipswich North believe 50 years of Rotary Service speaks for itself. We therefore would like to acknowledge Jim's service with an Honorary Life Membership. If any new Rotarian wants to see what epitomises a good Rotarian, then look no farther than Jim.

I would like to read a few words put together by Jim's brother Peter and his daughters about Jim's life.

The city of Ipswich has been a big part of Jim's life. He was born 13th September 1940 and grew up in Ipswich and raised his family here. He attended St Mary's convent and St Mary's Christian Brothers for his primary years before heading to the big smoke of Brisbane and experiencing the life of boarding school at Nudgee Junior and completing his Junior Certificate at Nudgee College.

With the family business of McMahon's Soft Drinks continuing to grow, Jim joined the business in 1958. During this time, he continued to develop his sweet tooth as he assisted his dad Frank ensure the syrups and soft drinks maintained their high standards.

Jim lived with his parents during his 20's and was well looked after. Like most young single men, Jim was known to be a devoted supporter of a local drinking hole, being the North Star Hotel. He pleased his parents by always attending Mass at St Mary's Church every Sunday morning at 7am. Although, rumour has it that he was there 'in body' although the 'spirits' of the night before were very evident to the people around him!

Being the laid-back kind of guy, Jim was in no rush to find the perfect woman until he met his country girl, Beryl. They soon married and had 3 girls – Cassandra, Andrea and Amber. During these years Jim continued to assist his brother Peter in the building of the family business and becoming the second biggest home delivery operations for soft drinks in Queensland.

When the multi-nationals such as Coca-Cola and Pepsi started to dominate the market as well as the convenience of supermarket availability, the challenges of being a small family run business took its toll and the business closed in 1991. Jim then joined Schweppes before drawing on his knowledge of Ipswich heritage and joining in the Real Estate sector.

Since retiring, Jim has continued to hold his connections to Ipswich. Sadly, Beryl passed away in 2008. With his daughters living afar, Jim decided to relocate to be closer to family and moved to the Perigean Springs to be closer to one of his daughters and grandchildren.

Thanks to the family for putting this together.

Jim's Rotary story is displayed very well in the images that have been put together from information provided by the editor of the 50-year history of the Rotary Club of Ipswich North, Honorary Life Member PP John Walker PHF. Thanks John.

It is easy to see that Jim and Beryl were involved in the Club at every level. The days when fun and frivolity lead to the Club's reputation as the IN Club. Looking at these photos it tells me why I was happy to accept Jim's invitation to join Rotary and Ipswich North in particular.

This invitation came about as we were both on the Ipswich Committee for Life Education. The person who got me involved and ran the Ipswich van for many years is here tonight also my good friend Cheryl Klaassen. Jim was a key player in keeping Life Education on the road in the Ipswich

region and was involved right up to the final closure of the Ipswich committee only a year or so ago. It was also the reason he was acknowledged as Ipswich Citizen of the Year in 1988. Jim was integral in the fundraising efforts for Ipswich Life Education.

Jim was inducted into the Rotary Club of Ipswich North on 14th November 1968 and has remained an active member with a great attendance record-even if he was often a little late arriving for meetings. Although it was a battle in my recollection who was the latest - Jim or Garth.

So, what was happening in the World in 1968 when Jim was inducted as a Rotarian?

- Rev Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were assassinated
- The peace movement had continued to grow as a reaction to the war in Vietnam,
- The Beatles and the Rolling Stones were leading the world music scene and the Seekers were Australians of the year.
- Queensland had 4 Premiers and Australia had 3 Prime Ministers following the deaths of Harold Holt (not much has changed)
- Mail deliveries were reduced from 2 to 1 per day - now we get two per week!
- Australia's population reached 12 million now over 25million
- Boxer Lionel Rose become world bantamweight champion.
- Duncan Armstrong, Scott Morrison, Kylie Minogue and Hugh Jackman, were born.

AND Jim McMahon became a Rotarian.

Not much more to say except thanks Jim for your friendship and support and 50 years of abiding by the 4 Way TEST. Congratulation on your life membership.

I would like to invite Jim to come forward to say a few words and accept this plaque and Certificate.

The DG also has something to present to you from the RI President and the Club would also like to bestow on you a Ruby PHF.

(Ruby equates to the allocation of \$7000 in your name to Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Foundation grant)