

## **Michael Jameson Memorial Eulogy.**

Friday 19 February 2021, at St. James Church, Woburn.

Jenny, family and friends. I am Robin Fenwick, and it is my privilege to speak on behalf of Michael's Rotary Club, Eastern Hutt. As you can see, I am supported by many of our worthy membership. I am also supported by an intrepid band of trampers, including our President Jan, who are on the Queen Charlotte track and who are sharing this time with us.

I first came across Michael when he was looking for an adjudicator for a Rotary debate. I did the job and found that Michael was in the team from Eastern Hutt. I then had the audacity to judge that the other team won. Michael was never sure about that judgement. We were later to debate together and I never put myself in that position again.

Nevertheless, he later had a role in recruiting me to the Club. Later still he had a role in encouraging Shayne and I to grow our emerging friendship into our eventual marriage. In retrospect many of us have comparable memories of the quiet background interest that he had in people he knew. And that was a thing about Michael – he was an influencer. He had ideas too about things that should be encouraged, and about things that should not. Like the Prada Cup yacht racing which is about money and elitism but not about sport; or so he said.

He was, for 30 years, a member of Eastern Hutt Rotary, earning the respect of us all, and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 2016.

He had a tolerant sense of humour. The Sergeants over the years were forever fining him for being a proud Cantabrian. If the Crusaders won, he got fined. If the Crusaders lost, he got fined again. That seldom happened, so he was safe in his loyalty.

If you met him some place you would see him as a likely Rotarian.

- Rotarians maintain high ethical standards in their profession – so did he.
- Rotarians maintain high ethical standards in their private life – so did he.
- Rotarians support their motto “service above self” – so did he. And he did it quietly. Many of us did not know about his service to the Christine Taylor Mental Health Foundation.
- Rotarians look for ways to get involved – so did he. We have photos of an untidy Michael painting the picket fence that surrounded the little

kids' playground at Avalon. There is another photo of him planting trees on the Hutt River Walkway.

- Rotarians commit to the community and to the world – so did he. As a young man, through Volunteer Service Abroad he worked with Jenny in Borneo. More recently his commitment to St Pauls, Waiwhetu has been exemplary.

Michael, on the assumption that you can still somehow be aware of our feelings, we are pleased to have known you as one of us. Thank you for the many things that you have done. Thank you for the companionship you gave us.

We are proud of your 30 years, a Rotarian. We grieve for you.

Robin Fenwick

For Eastern Hutt Rotary