

Russell Dockrill Eulogy 22nd Jan 2021

My name is Paul Dewsbery and I'm a member of the Rotary Club of Timaru

While it is a sad time for all of us I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak on behalf of the club and the good times shared with the tramping and cycling group

Unfortunately our president Jess Hewitson is unable to be here today and sends her sincere apologies and condolences to you Margaret and your family

Russell joined Rotary in 1997 at a time when members were assigned a classification associated with their profession which for Russell was accounting

When joining Rotary you are asked to give of your time and talents to the organization for the betterment of the community and humanity

Russell fulfilled his obligation with ease and professionalism during his membership of Rotary

In 2006 he served as a director of the club for two years

He was a member of the Eric Hall Trust for over 10 years and served much of that time on the trust as treasurer

Our club was instrumental in establishing a values based programme in Sth Canterbury schools called Kiwi Can. Russell assisted in setting up the financial aspect of the trust and was treasurer for some time. His firm also did the administration required for the payment of wages at no cost. A tremendous contribution!

Russell gave of his time to many other committees, projects and working bees over the years

After Russell's resignation of membership due to health issues in 2009 he was bestowed with an Honorary Membership signifying the esteem to which he was viewed within the club

Several apologies have been emailed in from members and past members.

I thought I would quote from one email that read "he was a person of sound principals and qualities. How true!

Tramping

A tramping group mostly of Rotarians was started around 1985.

Russell and Margaret joined us on many of the trips

I think the first was 1997 The Queen Charlotte Track

1998 was the Hunter Valley at Hawea an area Russell knew well from his many years of fishing down there

Mavora Lakes in 1999

5 of us went to the McCauly hut at the head of Lake Tekapo in 2007 for a 2 night trip and day walks. I recall us needing to drive through the river. Russell was the cautious one who promptly climbed out of his vehicle and waded knee deep across the freezing river to check the depth was safe enough to proceed.

Not sure I ever thanked him for that.

Russell and Margaret were on the trip to Glenorchy for day trips in 2009 which included a walk on part of the Routeburn Track

2011 again we chose to stay at one location this time Te-Anau and do day walks

2013 saw us ditch those heavy packs to do the Otago Rail Trail which I think was Margaret and Russell's last trip with the group

As any tramper will tell you every trip is a great one in our beautiful back country
It's just the getting there and back that knocks the shine off it.

Russell by the way was very good on BBQ duty

We enjoyed the company of you both on those memorable trips

In conclusion and on behalf of all our members past and present we thank you Margaret for supporting Russell in all his activities with Rotary.

We also wanted to say how much we enjoyed your company on all those trips we did and also for your entertaining story telling on several occasions at club functions.

We offer you Margaret and your family our sincere condolences and wish you well.

Russell - may you rest in peace