

## David Cheney presented this Eulogy at Ron's funeral

Vale Ron Phillips – Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020.



Standing here, I can't help feeling that - without the present virus restrictions - these rooms would be filled to overflowing with Ron's friends from Rotary - Melbourne Probus - Spring Valley Golf Club - Sackville Grange - Deloitte's and the Savage Club. Standing room only!

I am very privileged to have been asked by June to say a few words about Ron's record in Rotary - not an easy thing to do for such an outstanding Rotarian.

In his nearly 30 years with North Balwyn Rotary - Ron was a very committed and active Rotarian –

- chairman of various club committees
- treasurer for 3 years
- auditor for 8 years
- club vice president twice
- grapevine editor,

and - at district level – he served several years as treasurer and auditor.

Additionally Ron was District youth committee chairman for 10 years including one year when he and June hosted the exchange students on their tour of Central and Northern Australia.

To cap it all off, Ron received the Club's President's Award in 2011 as well as receiving Paul Harris Recognitions on three occasions.

In 1991/92 Ron was Club President - the year that Greg Ross was our District Governor. As the Host Club's President, he was one of the key organisers of the 1992 Conference that was held in Adelaide and which was widely regarded by the 1200 Rotarians present as the best ever. Ron and many of us would modestly agree! The organising committee met on many occasions in that big room under his home in Central Avenue – alongside that huge barrel of port.

Under Ron's stewardship, that year was one of the club's most active, having to run the district conference in addition to all of its usual projects. Ron used to boast- "we had no grizzles that year – everyone was too busy to grizzle!"

Ron will be fondly remembered for his enthusiastic running of the club's golf tournaments for many years. These fellowship weekends were held throughout Victoria, and Ron - without too many arguments - but with June's thoughtful input – managed to arrange both the draw and the handicapping - no mean feat!

Possessed of a fine singing voice, Ron - for over 20 years - was the mainstay behind the carol singing at the Club's annual Christmas Dinners. Unfortunately, he always insisted that the club sing its agonising version of the 12 days of Christmas - loved by some and loathed by others!

On a personal note - for the past ten years - I continued to see Ron weekly for 9 holes of golf at Royal Ivanhoe Golf Course - provided it was not too hot, too cold, or too wet. Irrespective of the weather, we then met for a long lunch at the Harp of Erin Hotel in Kew.

Always good for a luncheon, Ron was - along with a group of his long time Rotary friends - a foundation attendee at the monthly Tom Wing Young - Yum Cha lunches which have been held now for over 20 years.

Additionally - for over ten years - Ron and June joined the Mollison's, Matthews and Cheneys for New Year's Eve on the Mornington Peninsula. It was at one such function that Ron introduced me to Glayva – from which I eventually - some hours later - recovered but have never touched since. It is the only time I have ever woken up to find all our guests had gone home!

Speaking for myself, I count the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1985 - the day that Ron joined Rotary - as a blessing, and consider myself most fortunate to have had the pleasure of his and June's company for all of those 35 years.

Never without a smile on his face;

- never other than positive in his outlook;
  - always great to be with;
  - always ready to listen and offer valuable advice when asked for;
  - and always wonderfully supported by June.
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- All those who knew Ron well will deeply mourn his passing.
  - We will miss you, old pal! R I P.