

3 on Me – Joy Newling

What to say? Especially when I've already had "90 seconds with Joy Newling" published earlier in Koongga.

I spent my early years with my Mum and Dad and younger twin brothers Don and Garry in happy, caring, family homes in Thornleigh and then Pennant Hills so I've always lived relatively locally. My dear Dad died in 2008 but we are lucky to still have Mum with us and she is doing okay for 95. My brothers have just turned 60 and are both very different. Don is a civil engineer and Garry is a magistrate.

I completed my Leaving Certificate at Asquith Girls High School, having started there in its first year in 1959. At its 25th anniversary one of the history teachers described me as "walking history". Seeing we celebrated the 50th anniversary in 2009 I don't know what he would have called me then!

After high school I trained as a secretary and worked at O'Donnell Griffin in Concord West before we were married, and afterwards at Rheem in Hornsby. I have always found my administrative, accounting, typing and shorthand skills very useful – if you write your Christmas present shopping list in shorthand no-one else in the family can read it!

It won't surprise you to learn that Greg and I met on a committee! It was 1967 and Greg was the Methodist rep and I was the Congregational rep on the committee organising the National Christian Youth Convention to be held in Sydney in 1969. We married in 1972, lived in Hornsby Heights and then Mt Colah for 32 years before Wahroonga, and are blessed with two offspring; Sarah who is brilliant with children and works in childcare, and now has her first mortgage, and David who is a dedicated history teacher as well as enjoying travel and the great outdoors. They had been involved with Girl Guides and Scouts over the years, and I was a District Commissioner with Guides and later on the Scout Group Committee.

People often asked Greg when he was going into uniform and his reply was always that "3 in uniform were enough." I'd like to add here though, that without his support at home I wouldn't have been able to do the fun things that I did, such as participate in 2 International Guide camps held here in NSW. Another big plus for us both was being volunteers at the Sydney Olympics in 2000, a one-off amazing experience.

I like to think that we have always been a good team and I worked with Greg in Hamble Human Resources when it started in 1990, on a part-time basis mainly at night to begin with as well as working in an admin role in another business owned by friends. When Greg's business partner, Barry, retired at the end of 1998 I became a director and more involved in Hamble. Now we are concentrating on network marketing instead of hr as the bureaucracy and costs, especially insurance, had escalated and the personal aspect of recruiting had gone.

That's my life till now in a nutshell but I just wanted to add a little on my fantastic travel and Rotary experiences so far. When I was younger my overseas travels were limited to a week's cruise to Noumea, and a 3 week coach trip in New Zealand. I had never really wanted to go overseas as Greg had always dreamt of doing, and did before we were married. In fact, he remembers that when he told me he was actually going, I was in the middle of washing up at my parents' home and I just told him that was good, and continued washing up! Our courtship was often "up and down", particularly when Woolworths moved Greg back to Newcastle.

Overseas travel really opened up for me in 1996 when we spent 3 weeks in the UK, attending a conference in Harrogate, exploring a little of England and Scotland, and experiencing the unforgettable Braemar Highland Games. That really gave me the bug, and at the end of 1999, we had an amazing

family holiday travelling with Sarah and David in the UK for 4 weeks before leaving them there to work. We then spent 3 days in snowy, picturesque Prague and a few days in beautiful Paris, and then with my cousin in the little village of Sardan near Nimes in the south of France.

When Michael asked Greg to join this Rotary Club in 2001, another avenue of service, volunteering and travel opened up to us. Pat and Ivan Skellet encouraged us to attend the 2003 International Convention in Brisbane and we thought it was an opportunity too good to miss, after all it was just up the road.

Many of you have heard before how that opened our eyes to the bigger picture of Rotary, and more opportunities to travel overseas. If we hadn't been in Brisbane, gone on the ferry ride where we met our Swedish friends Joran and Margareta, we probably would never have travelled to Copenhagen/Malmo for the Convention in 2006 or experienced their generous hospitality. This year we were lucky to return on another 5 week trip and stay with them again, as well as visiting friends in London and Norfolk and having a ball in Paris and Provence.

I am pleased to say that I have really developed the travel bug! Where to next? Now I am a Rotarian and feel privileged to be a member of this Club and call you wonderful people my friends and fellow Rotarians. There is so much great work that you all do, and so much more to achieve, fun to have and more travel to enjoy! As I once heard, and have used myself many times:

Rotarians really are "ordinary people doing extraordinary things."