

Tribute to Tim Philips

Tim was inducted as a member of the Rotary Club of Ku-ring-gai in November 1998. His membership classification was 'Hospital Administration'.

Part of our club's induction ceremony reads as follows:

"Whilst we can make you a member of our Rotary club, we cannot make you a Rotarian. That is an honour which you must gain for yourself. The community will know you, and will judge Rotary, by your commitment to the ideal of "Service Above Self".

Well, Tim became an exemplary Rotarian. Looking back, the extent and range of his involvement in our club's activities is extraordinary.

He served on the following committees:

Club Service, which is concerned administration of the club;

Community Service – carrying out projects for the benefit of the local community;

Vocational Service – promoting high standards in all areas of work;

International Service – supporting projects in the developing world;

New initiatives – a special committee set up to develop new projects for the club after our previous major annual project ceased to be viable; and

The Ku-ring-gai Garden Festival – our club's current major annual project.

Tim also took responsibility for, amongst other things:

Arranging guest speakers, which is a vital part of successful club meetings and a very demanding role; and

Publicity – how the club presents itself to and communicates with the community.

Tim joined the club board in 2000 and was very active as a director in charge of some of the areas I've just mentioned.

In 2005 the club revived the role of Vice President, which had fallen into disuse. Tim was elected to the position and served with distinction from 2005 – 08, setting the standard for others to follow.

Much of the time Tim was a quiet achiever, beavering away in the background, getting things done. He was always willing to do whatever he could. And when he undertook a task, you knew that he would complete it and do it thoroughly.

He is particularly remembered for his major contribution towards the establishment of the Ku-ring-gai Garden Festival. Past President Ross Egan, who was chairman of the organizing committee, described Tim as "a mainstay of the start of the Festival". He was our principal liaison with Ku-ring-gai Council and negotiated many of the arrangements which are fundamental to the success of the Festival. In addition, he personally secured a lot of the stallholders, without whom the Festival could not have been held.

But Tim didn't just hide in the background. He was always an active participant in discussions at club and board meetings. He had strong views and he made them known. And we appreciated his

commercial common sense, derived from his years of experience as chief executive officer. Our presidents in particular valued his assistance as a sounding board for ideas.

One part of the object of Rotary is 'the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service'. Rotarians call this 'fellowship' and it's at the foundation of everything we do. Tim was always good company, a good listener and a thoughtful contributor to discussion.

We particularly admired him for the way that, in recent years, he determinedly maintained his attendance at – and his participation in – our club meetings. Despite his illness (about which he never complained) he'd always be there, listening carefully to debate or to the guest speaker and contributing with apposite comments and searching questions.

In summary, our club is proud to have had Tim as a member and as an outstanding Rotarian. He richly deserved the recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow which was awarded to him in 2007.

I'd also like to pay tribute to Sharna for her dedicated care of Tim, especially during the past year, when she went out of her way to drive him to and from club meetings. I know that Tim really appreciated being able to attend and we were very glad that he could still join us. Sharna, as you know, Rotarians' partners are all part of the Rotary family. We've enjoyed your participation and hope that you'll maintain your association with the club in years to come.