



### ***PAST PRESIDENT JOHN HIGGINS***

***MEMBER OF RYDE ROTARY CLUB 1991-2022***

***PRESIDENT 1997-1998***

Yesterday week we lost a great friend and a great contributor to the success of the Rotary Club of Ryde when Past President John Higgins succumbed to an inoperable brain tumour. We will keep Elinor and the entire family uppermost in our thoughts during this period of grieving but we will also contemplate how we are diminished by the loss of a man who was such a part of what we do in Rotary.

John's Rotary journey began in 1991 when he was inducted, in the classification of "Surveying", by then President Bill Payne. He proved to be a hard working and involved Rotarian, helping on many committees and in July 1997 he was inducted as President of the Rotary Club of Ryde by President Ross Rocca.

John's year was busy. He saw the Club purchase a "Youth Outreach Van" to be run by Ryde Council and the formation of the Ryde City Combined Probus Club which began with a staggering 140 members on their waiting list. If this was not enough, John oversaw the donation of Talking Books to the Royal Blind Society, money to Jacaranda Lodge - Ryde Hospital and a replacement water service.

Our weekend away during John's year was at Port Stephens. President John and Elinor catered for 40 Rotarians and partners at their second home in Corlette. In recent years, their Port Stephens home became more and more their base. An outstation was retained in Ryde and it was always a delight to mix with John in the club meeting on the odd occasions permitted by the pandemic.

The icing on the cake in John's presidential year was the Club's three District Awards; a Presidential Award for Constructive Activity in all Avenues of Service, an Award for Support of Matching Grants Program and Support for the 'Children of Russia' Project.

John did not relax after his year. He was always there with help and advice. A few years ago, he was instrumental in sorting out the positioning of the stalls for the Light Up East Ryde. Only a month or so ago, he surveyed the site for the new community garden which is soon to be established. A man who was always helpful and always with a laugh in his voice.

John, a warm and loving person, will be sorely missed not only as a great and modest Rotarian but also as a great friend to so many. Vale John Higgins.

- Past Presidents Duncan Taylor and Geoff Brennan

