

Vale Wal Edwards

WAL EDWARDS
(WALLACE FREDERICK)
22.11.1916 – 25.7.2021
104YRS 8MTHS 3DAYS
ROTARIAN
ORDER OF AUSTRALIA
(OAM 2015)
LIFE MEMBER RSL
SPECIAL AGENT OF GOD



DG Lindsay May with Wal Edwards at Wal's 104th birthday celebration

A Message from Lindsay May

Dear President Lyndall and Members of St Ives Rotary.

At 104 what an amazing life PP Wal Edwards OAM had and what a remarkable life of Rotary service and beyond.

This is such sad news given that the first and only time I met Wal, I felt he was indestructible.

The celebration of his 104th birthday was one of our Rotary highlights and to hear such an articulate man give snippets of his life and successes was truly inspiring. We were particularly taken by his ability to accept friendly interjections, answer with a just as cheeky reply, then continue his speech from right where he left off.

The line that will remain with me was his reference to, *'as a boy of 6 he took his billycart to the local bakery and collected horse manure that he then sold in the suburb for sixpence a bag'*.

The interjection was; *"And you've been selling horse [insert alternate for manure] ever since"*.

I've checked his date of birth, 22 November 1916, eighteen months after Gallipoli, and the height of World War 1 and can only marvel at what Wal must have seen in his 104 years

What a shame this pandemic will not allow his Rotary family to join with wife Joan and Wal's family to provide a fitting farewell.

This idea has been bubbling away as a *thought bubble* as to how we acknowledge the service of members upon their passing.

I believe we can honour their service by introducing new member(s) with the same zeal and commitment to **Serve to Change Lives** in the stamp of Wal Edwards, and encourage these new Rotarians to maintain the projects so dear to Wal and put forward contemporary projects, just as Wal would have in his 56 years of Rotary service, since 5 February 1965.

RIP Wal Edwards OAM

A remarkable man.

DG9685 Lindsay May OAM and Tania May

A Message From Wal's Son, Ian

Wal's son Ian asked that the following words let people know of the passing of his father, Wal. The words were compiled by Ian, with the consent and approval of Wal, in February 2021. Australia's oldest ACTIVE Rotarian, Wallace Frederick Edwards OAM, passed away peacefully in the late afternoon of Sunday, 25th July 2021. He was the sole surviving Charter Member of the Rotary Club of St Ives Inc which was chartered on 27th March 1965. A true gentleman and greatly respected by all who knew him. Photo of Wal taken at a Rotary meeting on the 25 November 2020. Ian advised that there will be a memorial in time to come. Wal would want that we all meet together and celebrate his life over a drink at Diggers when the time is right

Last Wednesday our meeting was dedicated to Wal Edwards OAM and the wonderful contribution he made to the Rotary Club of St Ives over 56 years. At age 104 year 8 months and 3 days Wal had lived a full life. To all who knew Wal his passing is a loss. To know him was to love him and those who knew him well will never forget Wal and the wisdom he shared.



Three on Me by Wal Edwards

My proudest achievement is “being still able to call on and help so many sick, sad, lonely and poor people in convalescent homes and aged care facilities as well as DVA pensioners in trouble in War Veterans Homes.”

My life won't be complete until "I have a hole-in-one at golf."

My favourite book is “the Holy Bible.”

The three things I want with me on a desert island “my wife, plenty of water and enough food.”

My most devastating moment was “at 7am on 6 June 1985 when I had a phone call from Hornsby Police asking if I was the owner of a certain car, which I was. The Policeman asked me to come and identify the driver who had been killed in the accident. He was my son Ross!”

My favourite part of our Rotary meeting is “the opportunity to have continuing fellowship with people who want to give Service Above Self and do so.”

I was drawn to Rotary because “Rotary is world-wide and there is immediate fellowship anywhere you travel, plus great opportunities to help serve. Rotarians are leaders and workers, NOT drones.”

If I hadn't joined Rotary I would “never have known about the great work that Rotary continues to achieve world-wide in all Avenues of Service.”

My favourite cartoon character is “(or rather was) Mickey Mouse.”

The person who has made the greatest impact on my life is “Jesus Christ.”