

Eulogy by Mayor Logan K Howlett, JP
Mr Howard Shepherd Fremantle Cemetery
19 April 2024

I am honoured to provide a eulogy for Howard Shepherd reflecting on some aspects of his volunteering in the community over the 35 years or so since I first met him.

A family man, businessman and community volunteer extraordinaire. His life of giving knew no ends as he consistently ensured excellence in all he did.

Before providing an overview of Howard's volunteering, I well remember Howard seeking a referee report to support his application to become a Certified Practising Accountant or CPA given his long-standing involvement in the profession. Howard's extensive knowledge and experience together with his business acumen ensured his success in his application – an appropriate recognition for his extensive professional work over many decades.

Some of the areas where Howard immersed himself as a volunteer included:

Local Government which he followed very closely, particularly at the City of Cockburn where he sat in the public gallery during meetings, and on occasions, asking some very pointed questions.

His detailed knowledge of finances meant nothing missed his scrutiny whether through a series of questions or by email to the City's administration or directly to the elected members.

He nominated for the December 2000 local government elections for the then East Ward picking up 12.96% of the vote (1362 votes) in a large field of candidates.

Unsuccessful at that time he continued his scrutiny of local government, in fact all levels of government with a series of wide-ranging commentary.

I particularly enjoined talking with Howard, wiling away an afternoon or two solving the world's problems until we were brought back to Earth by the girls, Betty and Pat.

In another venture, Howard joined the newly formed North Lake Residents Association Inc contributing to the many community projects that encouraged the 'locals' to join in. He was also actively involved in

lobbying, and on occasions, protests in order to protect the natural environment that made North Lake the unique part of the world it is.

I recall one afternoon when Pat and I were visiting and talk centered around a swing out in their garden. Before we knew it thoughts of how we were to get it to our home about 150 metres away raced through our minds. The option was to go and get the trailer or simply carry it. You would never guess how many times Pat and I were stopped, tooted, and asked if we wanted a hand as we manoeuvred the swing to our home.

After cleaning off the rust and cobwebs and the application of several coats of paint and a new wooden seat (painted fire engine red) our grandchildren delighted in using it every time they visited – year after year – with anxious grandparents watching closely as they tried to take off for the moon.

I know that swing had been used for years before and it now rests at the Azelia Ley Homestead Museum.

Howard joined the Historical Society of Cockburn Inc. bringing his unique style to the committee – often sitting there quietly before making a comment that got everyone talking.

In December 2023, Howard along with several other members were made Life Members of the Historical Society of Cockburn Inc. recognising his long-term contribution to the Society, including the preservation and promotion of local history.

Howard also volunteered at the Aviation Heritage Museum of Western Australia in Bullcreek receiving visitors and taking them on tours and responding to their questions. He also volunteered in the Shop, although this was not one of his true loves.

Continuing his interest in history, Howard was a long-time member of the Friends of Woodman Point Recreation Camp just south of Fremantle. An historical site, formerly a Quarantine Hospital it has an intriguing range of buildings and artifacts dating back to the turn of the twentieth century. The preserving and promotion of this history combined with the new activities available to schools, group tours and others always excited Howard.

I am aware that Howard had many other interests throughout his life, today I have just touched on a few inspiring contributions Howard made to the community.

And like all successful men, Howard enjoyed the wonderful support of his wife Betty in all that he did. Wherever Howard went Betty was there by his side, in fact, on many occasions Betty 'brought him into line' such was his commentary on almost everything.

A proud Nasho, Howard was always busy on ANZAC Day and other commemorative occasions. Organising parades, getting the boys together, enjoying a relaxing drink Howard was quintessentially an amazing person, and as I said earlier a volunteer extraordinaire.

As a neighbour he was a rare find in today's world.

Howard you will be fondly remembered by Pat and myself and the many people who met you on your amazing journey through life.

In closing, I leave you with a quote about volunteering:

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.

You make a living by what you get.

You make a life by what you give.

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving of one another."

Thank you.