

7.2 MAYORAL MINUTE - THE LATE CHRIS HOPWOOD

MEETING DATE: 13 AUGUST 2018

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the Mayoral Minute on the passing of Christopher John Hopwood.

2. MOTION

It is with much sadness that I inform the Chamber of the passing of Chris Hopwood. Chris was a real character of Castlecrag and will be missed by many. I attended his funeral on Friday 3 August and it was wonderful to see so many locals farewelling him in great Chris (Chop) style.

We are indeed fortunate to have a large number of volunteers in Willoughby City all making a contribution to our wonderful lifestyle and Chris was one special guy that really stood out.

Chris Hopwood was born on 6 November 1948, living in The Bartizan, Castlecrag, from age two, attending Castlecrag Infants School, then Willoughby Public School and North Sydney Boys High. After exploring the world, including jumping on a cargo ship to Panama then hitchhiking down to Tierra del Fuego, and walking into Machu Pichu over 14,000 foot mountains wearing thongs, Chris met his lifelong partner Ruth Kendon. They settled back in Castlecrag with son Jesse and daughter Kitty in an unusual ship's quarterdeck home built by Bim Hilder for his younger brother, Ship's Captain Brett Hilder.

Bim Hilder designed and built the "Walter Burley Griffin Memorial Fountain" at the traffic island on Edinburgh Road and Sortie Port which was dedicated in October 1965 as the major artistic work celebrating the Centenary of the incorporation of the Municipality of North Willoughby in October 1865.

For over 30 years until a few weeks before his death on 25 July 2018, Chris was the unofficial "Keeper of The Fountain". He would clear leaf debris from the pump filter and jets each day and scrub it each week. Recently, finding the task beyond him, Chris recruited some locals to take over his custodian role.

Chris' wider involvement in community affairs included the campaign to retain the Infants School via Green Bans caravan picket that saved the site from medium density development in the early 1990s. He was part of the community volunteer labour force which rebuilt the Haven stage and undercroft in 1992. He also maintained the bushy triangle on the corner of The Citadel and Edinburgh Road.

Chris' dedication to one small part of our daily lives is a microcosm of what happens in scores of places throughout Willoughby City.

Tonight, we celebrate Chris Hopwood's life and contribution to community wellbeing in Castlecrag and the wider Willoughby community, while extending deepest sympathy to Ruth, Jesse and Kitty.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the Mayoral Minute on the passing of Chris Hopwood and write a letter of condolence to the family.

MOVED COUNCILLOR GILES-GIDNEY

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