

Vale Ross Brown AM

Ross Brown passed away peacefully with his family around him last Saturday 23rd September.

Ross joined the Rotary Club of Strathfield in 1978. He was an active and proud member of the club and together with his wife Joan frequently hosted our club members at their property in the Yarramalong Valley.

Ross was a major supporter of The Rotary Foundation. He never accepted our encouragement to be club president, primarily because of his very significant commitment of his time and energy to a number of other worthy outside organisations.

Ross qualified as a pharmacist in 1952. Whilst at Sydney University he was a member of the University Regiment and in 1981 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of "Service to the Army Reserve" . He retired from the Reserve as a Lt Colonel.

At 29 years of age he was elected to the Board of Australian Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd (API). In 1963 he became a Councillor of the then Pharmaceutical Society of NSW and in 1970 he became President of the Society. In 1976 the Pharmaceutical Society awarded him a Fellowship of the Society in recognition of his service to the profession.

In 2009 the University of Sydney conferred the title of "Honorary Fellow of the University" on Mr Esmond Ross Brown AM.

His citation included the following :

"Mr Ross Brown has been a tireless ambassador in the promotion of the University, especially the Faculty of Pharmacy for over 50 years since he qualified as a pharmacist in 1952. Not only does Mr Brown give selflessly of his time but he has also been a generous benefactor to the university through his philanthropy. Mr Brown's donations have allowed the Faculty to expand and improve its facilities, provide support to its students and so much more."

Due to deteriorating health, Ross was unable to maintain his active membership of our Rotary Club and in 2022 he became an Honorary member of the Rotary Club of Strathfield.

And finally a thought from one of our long serving Rotary Club members :

"I will remember Ross as a generous person - always ready to assist.

But perhaps more significantly, he was just plain likeable! He was very much admired by our members and partners alike.

He had a great sense of history and was known for his knowledge of, and respect for, tradition. I will always remember his love and knowledge of flags! Although perhaps that is a little trivial."

PDG David Croft