

VALE: Brian 'Vern' Reid

Brian 'Vern' Reid passed away a few days ago. It is understood he suffered a heart attack whilst exercising on a rowing machine and did not recover. A memorial service for Vern with the scattering of his ashes is scheduled for July 5th at Surfers Paradise Rowing Club, QLD.

Vern Reid became involved with Leichhardt Rowing Club through a school recruitment program in the early 1980's which attracted his teenage son Cameron, a student of Balmain High School.

Vern and his then wife Jenny took an active interest in the normal club activity but Vern excelled in his support of coaches like Mick Lowrey (deceased) through his close attention to detail in the specialised repair and maintenance of rowing shells.

Vern's earlier career as a merchant seaman saw him restore many old timber boats and in no time at all, he became the Clubs Property Master.

He spent countless hours on club and wharf maintenance and his quiet and patient manner won many friends from the general rowing community. He enjoyed similar respect from his fellow employees at the CSIRO and Sydney University.

Vern supported Cameron when Cameron received severe electrical shock on club premises in 1986, encouraging his return to the sport in the 1987-88 season in time for a NSW premiership win by Leichhardt RC.

A brand new scull won at the Windsor Sprint Regatta by Cameron was christened the 'Vern Reid'.

Vern was made a Life Member of Leichhardt Rowing Club in 1989 where in spite of his hospitalisation in 1995 he continued to nurture young novice scullers through his rope tether to aid their retrieval from the Iron Cove.

As family commitments lessened, Vern retired to the Gold Coast where a close association with the Surfers Paradise Rowing Club maintained a close connection with the bright and still waters he loved so much.

Barry Moynahan.