

30th November 2018

Hi everyone I've been asked to say a few words on behalf of the Brighton Golf Club about our well respected Life Member Beau Roberts.

For those of us that knew Beau he'll be remembered as a very astute gentleman, he had very fixed ideas on a wide range of subjects but he was the type of guy who was always willing to listen to someone else's point of view, without interrupting; with the one exception being the Geelong Football Club. Any discussions on that subject were very one-sided.

Beau held a number of committee positions including being Club Captain 2006-2011, President 2013 -2015 plus Vice President and House Manager at various times. He also supported the Club in the field being one of the team which brought home the VGL Handicap Pennant flag in 2013.

Like everything that Beau did he put 100% into all of those demanding activities. He was well organised, he was prepared and he set himself to do the very best he possibly could without fear or favour.

Beau was also involved in many Club projects:

He was instrumental in having the Club logo changed in 2010. This was a huge change for the Club where it became a contentious task to bring the membership yelling and screaming into the 21st century. It was a time of change in many ways and not all of the Membership were happy about opting for a contemporary design and letting go of a remnant of the past.

Towards the end of 2014, Beau (as President of the Club) supported a proposal put to the committee of management to have a Leaderboard system installed. This would provide a running list of Members scores as soon as they arrived back at the clubhouse after finishing their round of golf. A TV was installed for the purpose and has since been very popular with members who can also so view their scores online.

In April of 2015 a sub-committee was formed to try and influence the Managers of the Golf Course and Bayside City Council into improving the state of the course which at the time was suffering badly from lack of maintenance and rain. And we were losing Members because of that. Beau was a member of

this committee and contributed greatly with thoughtful ideas and active involvement. He attended all meetings and with the wonderful powers of recall that he possessed often reminded Bayside City Council reps of the ill-fated decision to shelve a similar project three years previously in 2011. This sub-committee was successful in having a 3.5M Water Harvesting System installed which is now in operation. I'm really glad that Beau recently got to see the results of his and our efforts to bring this to fruition.

I believe the first job he had in Melbourne after moving here from Geelong was involved with the initial planning of the Melbourne Underground. After that he became part of the first National Service intake and spent the next two years in the Australian Army – one year of which was served in South Vietnam. Like many returning service men from there he found it difficult to properly fit back into Australian society, as it was then. He worked in a number of different capacities, whilst spending most of his time and money pursuing motor sport adventures.

He was an interesting conversationalist and I remember him bringing much knowledge, wisdom, humour and at times controversy to conversations. He loved a joke and they were nearly always politically incorrect. He had high opinions about religion, politics and yes the Collingwood Football Club and that, to some extent was OK, because you knew exactly what to expect.

Beau didn't change much in the 26 years that I knew him and from my perspective you knew exactly where you stood with him; if he didn't agree with you he'd let you know in very short fashion.

But he was a team player he loved a beer, car racing, Geelong Football Club and of course golf but he really loved the Brighton Golf Club and will always be remembered in our hearts as a person you could rely on. I can't remember him ever being late or not fulfilling a promise. In a totally voluntary capacity he did a lot around this Club. A lot of it you can't see but this Club is all the better for having Beau Roberts as one of its Members

Someone asked me the other day if I'd say something about Thailand. My reply was that what I knew about Beau's fateful trips to that country was probably best left unsaid. But, what I can say about his final trip there is that in spite of increasing health issues he was determined to go one more time. He just loved

going there. He just wanted to play golf in Thailand with his mates Mark Person and Bear Wilks one last time. But even though he was told that was bad idea the stubborn bugger just wouldn't listen to good advice to stay at home, and we all know the rest, and sadly that's when things really he went downhill for him.

A few of us were in close contact with Beau in the final 2 or so weeks of his life which brought us into contact with some of his family and whilst I don't know what the big picture really is all about what I am confident of is that love is what's important in this life and it lingers long after death.

We'll miss you Beau Rest In Piece mate.

Keith Beggs