

Kevin Howell



We Remember

Kevin Charles Howell

24/07/1940 - 06/11/2020

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Kevin Howell Eulogy 11 November 2020

Good Morning my name is Graham Bailey and I am President of the Blackall Range Horseless Carriage Club.

The Car Club has clubrooms on the Pioneer Village site and shares the site with the Maleny Cultural and Historical Society and the Maleny and District Mens Shed.

So, if you are sitting there with a classic car and looking to join a Club come and see me after the funeral.

I have been asked to speak on behalf of the Car Club and the Maleny and District Mens Shed and Maleny Cultural and Historical Society.

I have known Kevin since I joined the Maleny Lions Club back in 2008 and one of his many roles in the club was Safety officer.

I think he took on that role after he saw, at one event we catered for,- a finger nearly severed while cutting onions, hot oil splashed over a Lions legs from a chip deep fryer [we had to assure the Lions Club member that the hair will grow back] and me try and blow up a 20 litre drum of boiling oil from the same chip fryer. All in the space of a day. We needed help-big time.

Kevin, as safety officer, provided us some sage advice on physics and suggested we be a bit more careful-which is the calm way that Kevin dealt with most issues.

Kevin was passionate about the Pioneer Village site and the history displayed there. Kevin had been Secretary of the Maleny Cultural and Historical Society and for the past few years President. The site and collections have progressed under his leadership and he certainly knew how to work with a local volunteer to secure Grant funds to help. The Society was recently bequeathed \$50,000 and in Kevin's laconic style he said to me- "not much chance of getting a grant now.

If I may paraphrase what the President of Lions Helen Johnstone wrote to her members; *We will remember Kevin Howell for his generous heart, his wonderful service to our club, his love of repairing items for Erowol Aged care . Kevin was not a person who looked for glory in what he did serving others but served unobtrusively to support whoever needed help.*

The President of the Maleny and District Mens Shed Kevin Trevarthen writes; *Kevin was an integral part of the group, he was popular and highly respected as a true gentleman and characterised the values of the Mens Shed movement. He loved the blacksmiths shop and even though he was quiet by nature, loved making a lot of noise around the forge. He was a mainstay of the smithies, instrumental in setting up the shop and leading a small band of artisans turning out artefacts like his favourite cow bells-He will be much missed by all members of the shed.*

I know Kevin was looking forward to this weekends Open Day at the Pioneer Village Site, and belting out that anvil and making a racket for the spectators. Kevin was a key supporter of the day and attended every planning meeting we had over the past several months. There is a great photo in the most recent Hinterland Times of Kevin at the anvil.

As for the Car Club. Kevin joined in 2014, his pride and joy was an MG he purchased from Des Donnan. Previously Kevin had owned a Fiat 2300 and a replica 3 wheeled Morgan.

Kevin was very active in the Club, usually there every Wednesday and Sunday and on our regular club runs and breakfasts. Kevin was also a very regular visitor to the alternate Mens Shed-Ben Munnekes workshop at Reesville.

I can only echo the comments of the Lions Club and the Mens Shed. He was a quiet achiever, extremely well liked, great to work with and someone who could be trusted to do the right and fair thing.

To our club he was more than that however - he worked tirelessly to have the 3 groups that are located on the Pioneer Village site form a community that would benefit the whole site. He has achieved this and I know the wider Maleny community will benefit from his efforts.

Kevin was inwardly very strong, he was receiving Chemotherapy each month and he would set his meetings up to be about 2 weeks after the treatment as that was when he felt the best-there was never a thought given to giving up or not pushing ahead with plans.

To Rita and the family, thank you for sharing Kevin with us.

To his friends here , see if you can come to the Open Day on Saturday- Kevin was so keen on it happening-wander up to the blacksmiths shop and I am sure you will be able to picture him banging away and making a lot of noise.

Kevin -rest in peace mate.

