

Vale - Athol Moore

(1928 – 2016)



Warialda Rotary Club mourns the loss of Athol Moore, a Charter member of the Club from 1980 until his death on 24th February, 2016

Athol Moore, born on July 4th 1928, was the second eldest of seven children to Beatrice and Roger Moore. Athol attended primary school in Warialda and high school in Inverell. Not being able to complete his schooling, he was always anxious to learn from reading, interacting with others and later by travelling.

After leaving school, Athol worked in the family business, which included the generation and supply of electricity to the town. He helped his father and brother, Keith, build a freezing works to supply ice and freeze up to 20,000 rabbits a week for transport to Sydney. In 1946, he started learning motor mechanics in the garage which two years later acquired the General Motors agency for Vauxhaul cars and Bedford trucks. In 1951, his father acquired the franchise for selling Holden cars and Athol relished the move from mechanic to salesman. In the same year, he married Betty and helped to construct a new home on the corner of High and Market streets, on land provided by his grandfather.

In 1965, he bought land at Mylestom (near Bellingen) and built a beach house for family holidays. In 1966, Athol purchased “Kyle”, a property on Mosquito Creek Road and in subsequent years two other properties, “Alma” and “Kylie”. He bought his first shares around this time and became passionate about both farming and the share market thereafter.

Athol and Betty had three children: Pam, Sue and Margaret. In 1978, Betty died from cancer and Athol took on the role of both mother and father to his children. Towards the end of the last century, the business was flourishing and in 2008, Athol won awards for his car sales and celebrated 60 years of Holden production in Australia.

Athol was active in the community, serving on the Hospital Board as well as in Rotary, having joined on its Charter Night on 26th April 1980. Athol has been a loyal, active and valued member of Rotary ever since then. He has served as Sergeant for the Club, been regular in attending meetings and his contribution to planning and discussions has always been thoughtful, constructive and appreciated.

Robbie Burge moved to the house next door to Athol in 1994 and soon became a great companion and partner, as they shared their love of travel, entertainment, fine food and good company. Together they have been tireless workers for Rotary. Robbie has been a great source of happiness to Athol and provided stability in his life. Having Robbie constantly caring for him at home during his final weeks was very special to him. Athol was a humble man whose business, farms and contribution to the community are a testament to a lifetime of work and dedication. At the age of 87, Athol had a long and full life, dying happy in the knowledge that his legacy will continue.

We will miss him.

Information kindly supplied by Sue O'Neill and Bill Owen