




SUNDALE
60
YEARS
OF CARE

This year Sundale celebrates its 60th birthday. To commemorate six decades of caring for the community, we will be sharing the stories of 12 remarkable individuals and revealing their amazing contribution to Sundale.

Sir Clem Renouf
Treasurer (1964 – 1987), Patron (2000 – 2013)

Sir Clem was a truly remarkable man whose list of extraordinary achievements reveal a life of generosity, compassion and vision.

Born in Ingham, Sir Clem enlisted for service in the Royal Australian Air Force shortly after the outbreak of WW2 and served for more than five years as a bomber pilot and flying instructor.

After WW2, Sir Clem set up his accounting business in Nambour and practiced for 27 years.

Sir Clem's contribution to Sundale cannot be understated.

In 1961, Enterprise Estates (a joint venture with J.D. Grimes, Roy Charlton and Sir Clem), supported the Nambour Apex Club by helping to fund the purchase of an almost 18-acre site by Doolan and Carter Roads, which would become home to Nambour Garden Village.

Sir Clem's daughter, Judy said Sundale's founding fathers, which included members of the Nambour Apex Club were ahead of their time.

"They all realised there was no aged care home in Nambour, despite the elderly population," Judy said.

"Back then the elderly had to move to Brisbane if they needed care, which was really disruptive for local families, so the Nambour Apex Club, Dad, J.D. and Roy joined forces to build Nicklin Lodge."

When the Doolan Street site reached capacity, history repeated itself, with Sir Clem and some of his friends playing a pivotal role securing 15 acres of land neighbouring Windsor Road.

The group discussed the possibility of donating the land to two local Rotary Clubs, which had already fundraised \$80,000 towards establishing a second aged care home in Nambour.

A new not-for-profit company was incorporated, but before construction began the question was raised: 'Why create a competitor for Sundale? Why not join them?', which is exactly what happened.

Judy said her father was a modest man, who wore his honours lightly.

"Dad would always say he was 'fortunate'," Judy said.

"He believed when you're given opportunities, you should do something about them. He'd had opportunities, so he felt he had an obligation to pay it forward."

Perhaps the most striking example of Sir Clem's humility was his response to Sundale's request to name a clubhouse in his honour.

"He wouldn't have it," Judy said.

"He eventually compromised and allowed Sundale to name a rotunda after him. He found that more acceptable."

While Sir Clem did not spend his final years in Nambour, he would often reminisce about his life there.

"He would talk about Sundale, the construction of Rotary Garden Village and his close relationship with J.D Grimes," Judy said.

"It's wonderful to think Dad and others have left such a legacy.

"I don't think any of them could have imagined what Sundale would become and the care and services it provides to the community.

"I think Dad would be immensely proud."

A lifelong Rotarian, Sir Clem was the President of Rotary International (1978-79) and played an instrumental role in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which has reduced polio cases by 99.9 per cent since 1979.

In 1979 Sir Clem was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) and knighted in 1988 for services to the community.

Judy said the Sir Clem Renouf Scholarship, which is awarded to Sundale team members so they can pursue further education is the most fitting way to honour her father's contribution to Sundale.

"Dad was passionate about education, and that's exactly the sort of thing he would've loved to know about. He would've been thrilled," Judy said.

