



Doug receiving his Life membership award

Congratulations!

Chairman of the Board Doug Barton receiving the honour of Life Membership at Ardrossan Community Hospital Annual General Meeting November 2017.



Jodie Luke – Executive Officer / Director of Nursing congratulating Doug on his Life membership



Margaret Tomsen Vic-Chairman presenting Doug with his Life membership



Doug, Yvonne (Doug's wife) and Susie (Doug's daughter).

Please read below for Doug's story and congratulations letter from Belinda Carter

Doug's Story

2006 - current

Margaret Tomsen's speech at the AGM.

As Vice Chair of the Ardrossan Hospital Board it my great honour to announce that the Board has voted to award Life Membership to our Chairperson, Doug Barton.

This is highest honour that we can bestow on a member of our organisation and to my knowledge, it has only been awarded once before and that was 15 years ago so, you can see it is certainly not treated lightly.

It goes without saying that the honour is reserved only for those whose contribution has gone beyond the ordinary (or even in Doug's case, beyond excellent!) for an extended period of time ---- for someone who has participated to a much greater extent on a regular, consistent and reliable basis than the average member does.

Doug's contribution to our hospital has been consistently "above and beyond" that of any mere mortal. In my opinion, without him, the hospital would have ultimately closed its doors when the State Government withdrew our A & E funding 10 years ago and left us in a situation where we could barely afford to even pay staff their wages.

At a time when many people his age would (indeed probably should) be putting their feet up, Doug took it upon himself to lead a vigorous campaign (a virtual personal crusade if you like) to keep the hospital open..... and ever since then the hospital has been his passion, his vision and, dare I say, his life.

Doug has begged and cajoled anybody and everybody to obtain sponsorships, donations, and other forms of funding; he has used every one of his extensive contacts to at times save the hospital thousands of dollars on large purchases; he has come up with visionary suggestions and made most of them work; he has always been and still is, on the lookout for positive opportunities. (our new partnership with the Mary Potter Foundation is a very recent example of his foresight)

Doug you arguably the one person responsible for guiding us to our present financial situation where finally we have been able implement many long overdue improvements to the facilities (which undoubtedly has considerably enhanced client and staff comfort) .. and where for the first time in many years the hospital can look to the future with some optimism.

There's so much more that probably should be said, but on behalf of everyone connected with the Ardrossan Hospital, I simply want to say a huge "thank you" and "Congratulations". There is no one more deserving of this honour.

Belinda's letter of congratulation to Doug:

Congratulations Doug on receiving a life membership of the hospital, an accolade that I know you will hold very near to your heart.

We commenced working together in 2008, you as Vice Chairman and myself as Director of Nursing, however we both soon found ourselves in the positions of Chairman and Executive Officer/ Director of Nursing. The Next 4 years were hard, rocky, fun and one big rollercoaster. The one stable component in this roller-coaster was your passion and a dedication to the hospital.

Your role of Chairman was not only a title to you but a tribute to your place of birth. You worked tirelessly on financials, fundraising, liaising with the community, establishing better systems for the Hospital and Health Centre.

From selling raffle tickets, hot chips and donuts for the Hospital Foundation to working endlessly on the books and the transition of the financial programs, nothing was ever too much.

You lobbied the government, enticed sponsors to the hospital, worked on grants and came up with all sorts of wonderful and some very weird ideas to make the hospital more feasible and above all keep its doors open to the community.

One of your biggest achievements, in my time, was probably the opening of the second dental chair. This may sound like a minor thing to others but Doug, you could see the financial reward as well as the benefits to the community, of having 2 Dentist's working in the health centre and making it more prudent. This took a lot of convincing that it would work, be viable and benefit of the facility. It took a huge amount of work between Board and staff to established this and ensure its functioned well. Within months it had proven its worth. It was able to provide large returns off owed and borrowed moneys to the Hospital, ensuring the hospital in a far more stable fiscal position than it had been.

Doug, you also had a knack of selling the hospital to everyone. Sponsors always gave into you, either with your fantastic persuasion skills, or maybe just so you would have stopped pestering them. If there needed to be an item purchased, Doug always knew someone. You would get it at either an outstanding price or you would convince them that it would be something that they needed to do, and donate the item to the facility.

So many people have dedicated time and effort to the Hospital and Health Centre as volunteers, but would be hard pressed to compete with your hours of service. As I recall the residents and staff once awarded you as Employee of the month. In saying that, the one whom stood by you through all the good and bad times was Yvonne, who also deserves the recognition of this award for allowing the facility to have you.

Congratulations on your life membership, a well-deserved honour that I know you will be absolutely thrilled to have received

Belinda Carter