

Vale: Ronld George ETHERDEN

19?? - 2015

passed away on Thursday 5th March 2015.

After many years of steering Rocky Touch around multiple venues throughout Rockhampton and Gracemere, Ron Etherden played a huge role, working with Tom Wyatt and the Rockhampton City Council, in the creation and establishment of Cyril Connell Fields, current home of Rockhampton Touch and in building the clubhouse where it stands today. This complex was officially opened by the Mayor, Jim Webber on 26th April 1987 and Ron Etherden couldn't be prouder.

Ron was very passionate about Touch and worked tirelessly to build and promote the sport not only here in Rockhampton but in Central Queensland and Queensland as well. He sat on many committees and boards and travelled anywhere in the state where he was needed to help get something done.

Ron was an 'ideas' man, always thinking of bigger and better events to promote the sport – many of us will remember the Rocky 5000, the Qld Country Championships, the 24 hour Touch tournament and Red Rooster Junior Carnival to name a few of the concepts that Ron came up with to excite the true "Touchies".

But most of us who knew him will fondly remember Ron as the very down to earth, hardworking, long time administrator of Rocky Touch who definitely wasn't afraid to roll his sleeves up and get the work done. He loved this sport; he loved this complex; he loved a pie and his old ute; he definitely loved a chat. He was a steady mover, loud and friendly and had a way with words and many an exhausted referee crept around the back to their cars to avoid being 'talked' into doing just one more game – but they came back next week and did it all again for him.

Ron's whole family was involved in the running of this association in one way or another. Noelene and her band of sisters, daughters and friends were very well known throughout the state for their friendly and efficient service in the canteen during carnivals and all of his children and most of his grandchildren played at some stage in their life – Ron's son Terry and a number of his grandsons still play today.

He told us he didn't think he would come down to the fields again once he retired because he expected he would be saddened by changes the new administrator/committee may make to his beloved complex. It hasn't been

necessary to make too many changes and we always hope that he did sneak down to see the small improvements and in particular, the addition of the office upstairs which Ron actually planned for.

There was so much more to Ron Etherden than what is written about above but Touch was such a major part of his life for such a long time and those of us who knew him will always fondly remember him and the legacy he left for this association.

This is a very sad time for Noelene and his family and friends and we send our thoughts and prayers to them.

RIP – RONALD GEORGE ETHERDEN

