

Phil Hawke's notes for citing Graeme Howieson for Paul Harris Sapphire Pin award, 24th June 2010

A MEMBER I HAVE KNOWN FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS – LONG BEFORE EITHER ONE OF US WAS A ROTARIAN..

THIS MEMBER IS AN IT BUFF – I WONT CALL HIM A GEEK BUT HE HAS, I THINK, THREE GREAT LOVES IN HIS LIFE - HIS FAMILY, ROTARY AND HIS BEAUTIFUL 1974 TRIUMPH STAG.

I AM TALKING OF COURSE OF GRAEME HOWIESON (GRAEME TO COME FORWARD)

GRAEME WAS BORN AND BROUGHT UP IN SYDNEY. ON FINISHING SCHOOL HE AND THREE OR FOUR MATES TOOK OFF OVERSEAS, TOURED EUROPE AND , IN ENGLAND, HE JOINED PLESSY. In 1966 he moved to the us with plessy and remained there until 1971. VERY SENSIBLY, HE MARRIED AN AUSSIE GIRL THERE AND THEIR FIRST SON, WARWICK, WAS BORN THERE.

WHILST WITH PLESSY GRAEME BECAME MUCH INVOLVED WITH EL;ECTRONICS AND PARTICULARLY WITH EARLY COMPUTERS. THIS SET HIM ON COURSE FOR THE REST OF HIS PROFESSIONAL LIFE. FROM PLESSY HE MOV ED TO BURROUGHS AND, ON COMING HOME, HE JOINED BURROUGHS WHICH, IN TURN, WAS ABSORBED ON A WORLDWIDE BASIS BY UNISYS. THAT BROUGHT GRAEME AND FAMILY TO CANBERA WHERE THEY SETTLED IN CURTIN.

BY THEN WARWICK'S DAUGHTER, LOUISE HAD BEEN BORN AND HIS CHILDREN, AND MINE, ATTENDED CURTIN SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL. WE MET ON THE P & C ASSOCIATION WHERE HE WAS, I ASSURE YOU, A FEARSOME ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SCHOOL'S FACILITIES.

WE HAVE REMAINED GOOD FRIENDS SINCE THAT TIME AND IN 1992 HE NOMINATED ME FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THIS CLUB AFTER WORK PRESSURES HAD FORCED ME TO LEAVE THE CANBERRA CLUB.

YOU WILL ALL KNOW THAT GRAEME IS THE CLASSIC ROTARIAN. HE HAS SERVED IN EVERY POSITION AVAILABLE ON THE BOARD INCLUDING PRESIDENT IN 2000/01. THE EVIDENCE OF HIS CONSISTENT ADHERANCE TO THE ROTARY MOTTO OF 'SERV ICE ABOVE SELF' WAS SO CLEAR THAT IN 1999 GRAEME WAS MADE A PAUL HARRIS FELLOW. SINCE THEN HE HAS GIVEN EVEN MORE SERVICE TO THE CLUB. HE IS ON EVERY COMMITTEE. HE IS UBIQUITOUS IN HIS ATTENDANCE AT CLUB, DISTRICT AND EVEN INTERNATIONAL ROTARY CONFERENCES. HE NEVER FAILS TO VOLUNTEER FOR EVERYTHING IN WHICH THE CLUB IS INVOLVED. BUT HE IS ALSO MUCH GIVEN TO NEW IDEAS FOR PROJECTS IN WHICH THE CLUB IS INVOLVED R ANGING FROM A FUND RAISING DAY FOR THE PUBLIC TO TOUR THE (THEN) NEW MAGISTRATES COURTS, HANDYHELP, BOWEL SCANNING (HE DID NOT DO THE SCANNING HIMSELF) AND, MOST RECENTLY, WITH PRESIDENT JOHN, IN STOMP. HE IS THE STALWART OF THE CANDLE FESTIVAL. WHAT MORE CAN I SAY?

GRAEME IS MARRIED TO MY FAVOURITE OTHER MAN'S WIFE, SUE, AND HE NOW HAS FOUR ADULT CHILDREN, ALL OF THEM ENORMOUSLY SUCCESSFUL

GRAEME YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE CANBERRA BURLEY GRIFFIN CLUB HAVE AGREED THAT YOUR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE SHOULD BE RECOGNISED BY THE ADDITION OF THE SAPPHIRE PIN TO YOUR PAUL HARRIS FELLOWSHIP. THIS IS ONLY THE THIRD TIME

ONLY THREE TIMES.

IN THE 23 YEAR HISTORY OF THIS CLUB THAT THIS PIN HAS BEEN AWARDED. The first was to tony waring, the second to our charter president, bruce timbs, and the third to you.

May I ask you all to rise. Congratulations