

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE

"ROY HENDERSON"

BY BARRY GOUGH & ROBERT GRAHAM

"ROY" OR "ROYBOY" AS HE WAS KNOWN BY SO MANY, JOINED THE BAND OF ENTHUSIASTS IN BASIL BOWES GARAGE AT THE REAR OF 21 EDGAR STREET IN GLEN IRIS, TOWARDS THE END OF 1956. HE OWNED AND DROVE AS A FAMILY CAR, HIS BELOVED 'BERTHA', A 19.82 SILVER EAGLE SALOON.

THE GROUP THAT HE HAD JOINED UP WITH, CONSISTED OF ABOUT TWELVE PEOPLE, THEY COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN CALLED AN ORGANISATION BY ANY STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION, THEY JUST LOVED THEIR CARS AND ANYTHING TO DO WITH THEM.

ROY RECOGNISING THIS, VERY QUIETLY & DIPLOMATICALLY SET ABOUT PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER. AND IT DID NOT TAKE A BRAIN SURGEON TO IMPRESS UPON EVERYONE WITHIN THE GROUP THAT BY RECRUITING ROY INTO THEIR RANKS. THEY HAD INDEED STRUCK GOLD.

UNDER HIS GUIDANCE THINGS TOOK A HUGE 'U' TURN IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE GROUP. BOB MORROW, THE ORIGINAL INSTIGATOR OF THIS MOTLEY CREW, COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE DELIGHTED IN THIS TURNAROUND. ROY INSTIGATED SUCH THINGS AS A CONSTITUTION, CLEANED UP THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE FLEDGLING CLUB & SO MANY OTHER NECESSARY THINGS THAT WERE NEEDED TO MAKE US INTO A VIABLE ORGANIZATION. AS AN AMBASSADOR AT LARGE HE REPRESENTED THE YOUNG CLUB WITH MANY OTHER LIKE MINDED PEOPLE & CLUBS. HIS ACTIVITIES DIDN'T STOP WITH JUST THE CLUB. HE WAS AN HONORARY MEMBER OF SPRINGVALE RSL. HE WAS ALSO PRESIDENT OF THE 'SIGNALS 7 DIV SERVICEMANS ASSOC' FOR MANY YEARS, THESE COMRADES THAT HE SERVED WITH DURING HIS WAR SERVICE IN THE ARMY, WERE VERY SPECIAL TO HIM.

THIS THEN WAS THE MAN WHO PLACED IN POSITION FOUNDATIONS UPON WHICH THE CLUB OF TODAY WAS FOUNDED. ROY TOOK PART IN EVERY FACET OF CLUB LIFE HE WAS AN EXCELLENT EDITOR, CLUB CAPTAIN, TREASURER AND OF COURSE CLUB PRESIDENT, AT BBQ'S & SOCIAL EVENTS HE WAS IN HIS ELEMENT, THERE WAS NO BETTER AFTER DINNER SPEAKER & YOU COULD FEEL HIS AUDIENCE'S APPRECIATION OF WHAT HE SAID, WHEN HE WAS SPEAKING. HE BROUGHT HUMOUR & PLEASURE TO EVERYONE HE MET. HE WAS VERY JUSTIFIABLY ELECTED AS A LIFE MEMBER FOR HIS SERVICES TO THE ALVIS CAR CLUB OF VICTORIA. ROY WAS BORN IN ENGLAND HIS FAMILY MIGRATING TO AUSTRALIA WHEN HE WAS FOUR YEARS OLD. IT WAS IN THE DEPRESSION & LIFE WAS EXTREMELY HARD FOR THE YOUNG ROY, PUBLIC SCHOOLING WAS HIS EDUCATION & LIKE SO MANY OTHERS HE LEFT SCHOOL TO START WORK AT 14 YEARS OF AGE. AFTER MANY DIFFERENT JOBS, HE BECAME AN APPRENTICE PLASTERER & LATER HE WAS TO TEACH THE TRADE AT COLLINGWOOD TECH, WHERE HE WAS PROMOTED TO CHIEF OF THE BUILDING CRAFTS DEPARTMENT. A CONSIDERABLE JUMP UP THE LADDER, FOR SOMEONE WHO STARTED OUT WITH A PUBLIC SCHOOL UPBRINGING. SADLY A SERIES OF MAJOR HEART PROBLEMS BROUGHT HIS TEACHING TO AN END. THROUGH THE CONSIDERABLE SKILLS OF THE SURGEONS & MEDICAL STAFF AT THE ALFRED HOSPITAL WE WERE ABLE TO ENJOY THE PLEASURE OF ROY'S COMPANY FOR MANY, MANY MORE YEARS. OF ALL THE THINGS IN ROY'S LIFE ONE THING STOOD OUT ABOVE ALL ELSE & WAS SELF EVIDENT RIGHT FROM THE VERY FIRST. THAT WAS HIS DEEP & ABIDING LOVE FOR HIS FAMILY, HIS WIFE JOAN WAS HIS ROCK, & EVERYTHING IN ROY'S LIFE REVOLVED AROUND THIS LOVELY LADY & THEIR CHILDREN JOHN SUE & PETER, EVENTUALLY OF COURSE WITH THE ADVENT OF HIS GRANDCHILDREN, ROY'S LIFE WAS COMPLETE HE WAS LITERALLY OVER THE MOON WITH JOY. YOU REALLY DID HAVE TO BE A PART OF THE FAMILY CIRCLE TO TRULY APPRECIATE THE DEEP LOVE ROY & JOAN HAD FOR EACH OTHER. THIS MAN, WHO WAS BELOVED BY SO MANY, PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY IN HIS SLEEP, AT HOME ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2007.

"THE WORLD IS A MUCH SADDER PLACE WITHOUT HIM"

VALE ROY 18/10/1922 ~ 27/09/2007