

Keith Hall

Eulogy Ian Reade 22/6/2020

My friendship with Keith began in 1958. He had been transferred from Cohuna to the city and we met at the State Bank Footy Club. We became friends through our interest in sport, especially The Bombers, and we were both from the bush.

Keith played footy for 5 or 6 years when his knees gave way and he had to permanently retire. He would have played about 100 games in that time including the 1961 premierships side.

He also played cricket, tennis and golf. He played with The Bank cricket side and then with Blackburn from 1970 to 1986.

Terry Dynes has provided me with a brief resume of that time as well as tennis with Marcellin Old Boys.

At Blackburn Keith won 4 batting averages: Third Eleven – 1975/76 and 1978/79. Fourth Eleven – 1983/84 and 1984/85.

His biggest performance, of which he was justifiably proud was when he top scored with 82 to help seal the 1981/82 premierships. (This event occurred on Moreton Park Oval, which is right next to this church. It is worth noting that his captain in that team – John Cotta – is here with us today.)

Tennis.

Keith played for Marcellin College Old Boys for 20 years, in the highly competitive Public Schools Old Boys Competition, and played in a winning premierships there.

A highlight of his playing days was mentioned in the Herald-Sun, under the heading – “a birdie at tennis”. Keith was serving one of his big serves and as it crossed the net it struck a bird, killing it instantly. The serve landed in the service court and could have been called an ace. But after consultation and removal of the bird it was decided to replay the point.

Back to me.

His latter days were taken up playing golf at Riversdale, where he played regularly with Reg Clarke.

While all this sporting stuff was going on he found time to meet and marry Cathie in 1966. This surpassed all of his sporting achievements. I was privileged to be his best man.

Some of the things I will remember him for are his thoughtfulness for others and a bit of class when dining and drinking; he was a good man to sit next to!

At Loretta and Greg’s wedding, guests were treated to a glass of champagne when leaving the church – very classy!

I recall a few years ago a group of us spent a few days at Mansfield. One of the days we went to a winery up in the hills. Most of us took ½ dozen stubbies to sustain us ... Keith and

Cathie arrived late because they went to a delicatessen on the way up and bought enough food to feed an army; thoughtful and classy!

When he visited me he never came empty handed; always brought some food, usually something different, but classy.

Keith and I were born a couple of months apart, started work a couple of weeks apart, and we finished work on the same day, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1992. I recall we met at the MCG that day with 2 or 3 others for a quick lunch.

While we never worked together in our bank life, we did work together part time at an Albert Park pub, and we went back to the CBA and worked part time for 6 months.

I will miss him at the footy. Every Essendon home game I met up with him and Cathie. They were always at the same table, sharing a bottle of red. The bottle was always on Keith's side of the table.

I will miss him at the Grand Final; he and I met there for perhaps the last 20 years, always at 11.00; had to have one at 11!

A lot of people will miss him at our regular lunches, and a lot of people will miss him at Riversdale where he spent his last conscious moments – a classy way to go.

He was a bloody good bloke.