

PROFILE - RON JACOBS

Lived in Chelsea since the age of 11 years. Educated at Chelsea Primary School and Mordialloc-Chelsea High School.

As a teenager joined local Fire Brigade, and Life-Saving and Football Clubs.

Captain of Chelsea Junior (under 18) football team, before going on to senior team, then Collingwood Seconds, then VFL football umpiring.

Wife Margaret (nee Inchley), having 2 sons and 1 daughter, and six grand-children.

Employed for 40 years with Transport Regulation Board, retiring in 1983 from senior posting of General Manager Regional Administration.

Fifty years' service with Chelsea Volunteer Fire Brigade, including service as Brigade Secretary, and Chairman, then 10 years as Secretary of the State Association of Urban Volunteer Fire Brigades.

Received Australian honours with conferral of the Australian Fire Service Medal (A.F.S.M.) in 1992 for Distinguished Service as a member of the Victorian Fire Services.

Also recipient of the National Medal (1974) and Bar (1989) and Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (1964).

Always interested in community affairs, served as a Councillor of the City of Chelsea from 1980 to 1994.

Served three terms as Mayor - 1984/85, 87/88, 93/93.

Represented Council on many local organisations and public bodies.

Currently is Chairman of Chelsea Concert Band; President Chelsea Historical Society; Secretary Chelsea Probus Club; member of City of Kingston Special Advisory Committee; Chairman of the Chelsea/Chelsea Heights Village Committee; member of Police/Community Consultative Committee; Treasurer Chelsea Youth Week Committee.

# Ron's a real fine fellow

CHELSEA identity Ron Jacobs was invited along to a regular Rotary Club of Chelsea dinner meeting recently to receive a cheque on behalf of the Chelsea Historical Society of which he is a life member and current board of management president.

Ron thought it was all fairly routine but got a bit of a surprise when he saw several members of his family also at the Rotary meeting.

In actual fact, the Rotary club had invited Ron along so that it could bestow him with one of its most prestigious awards, a Paul Harris Fellowship, in recognition of his almost unbelievable record of community service.

Ron was born on July 31, 1928 and lived in Alphington before moving to Chelsea when he just 11 years old in 1939.

He attended Mordialloc High School and left after Year 10 to join the Transport Regulation Board.

He continued to study after the arrival of his young family some years later and obtained both his leaving and matriculation certificates.

Ron stayed with the TRB until he retired from a senior executive position involving the licensing of buses and taxis.

His community service history almost reads like a directory of local clubs and organisations.

He is a current member of the



PAUL Harris Fellow Ron Jacobs is presented with his award by Rotary Club of Chelsea president Graham Musgrave.

Chelsea Concert Band, Historical Society, Chelsea-Chelsea Heights Village Committee, Chelsea Benevolent Society and Chelsea Probus Club and has had a long association with the Chelsea Youth Week Festival.

Ron is a past member of the Bonbeach Life Saving Club, Chelsea Football Club, Bonbeach Junior Football Club, Chelsea Urban Fire Brigade, Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association, Carrum Rotary Club, Red Cross Appeal and the City of Kingston Advisory and Executive Committee.

He also served three terms as

Mayor of Chelsea during his 16 years as a councillor and was council's representative on the Bonbeach High School Committee, Chelsea Primary School Committee, Neighbourhood House Committee, Chelsea-Mordialloc Library Committee and the Southern Weights and Measures group.

Ron told applauding Rotarians and their guests he felt extremely honored and humble to have been presented with the Paul Harris Fellowship and said it was an award he would always sincerely treasure.

## Paying tribute to a Chelsea "icon"

**One of the last duties of former Mayor Arthur Athanopoulos was to publicly recognise at a Council meeting the longstanding community service of Ron Jacobs who retired as Chairperson of the Chelsea/Chelsea Heights Village Committee. The following is an edited version of his speech dedicated to Mr Jacobs.**

"Ron's retirement as Chairperson of the Chelsea/Chelsea Heights Village Committee draws a curtain (for the time being at least) to some 40 years of outstanding and voluntary community service.

Ron's involvement in community groups and organisations over the years are too numerous to record here, and I know that I am only skimming the surface when I mention his being a very prominent member of the Probus Service Club, a guardian of history with the Chelsea and District Historical Society, a volunteer fire fighter with CFA and a keen member of a multitude of Council related organisations and committees.

Ron is one those people who are natural leaders. When he gets

involved with a group, he seems to progress from being an ordinary member to performing a leadership role quickly. He never shied from the challenge and he was an outstanding leader of the former City of Chelsea during three terms as Mayor in the 1980s and 90s.



Ron Jacobs

I think every suburb in Kingston has its own "icon", an individual with a special knowledge about the place who is known and liked by all who live there. Ron is Chelsea's icon. I would also like to pay tribute to Ron's wife, Margaret who has been by his side every step of the way and who has also made an outstanding contribution to the local community.

KINGSTON "YOUR CITY" JUNE 2001