

**TRIBUTE TO FRED BORG OAM**  
**13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 24Hr FIGHT AGAINST CANCER MACARTHUR**  
**21<sup>st</sup> October 2017**

- Distinguished guests, sponsors and supporters
- There are thousands of people who come into our lives - but if you are very, very lucky, you will meet a few that will have an incredible and profoundly positive impact on you
- Today we are going to take a little time to pay tribute to such a man....Fred Borg, OAM - the one that brought us all together for well over a decade, united and committed to this fundraising cause that aims to support those in our local area dealing with cancer.
- Sadly, we lost Fred last December to advanced cancer, the very illness he had beaten before, and the illness that he worked tirelessly to help our family and friends overcome. Thankfully his symptoms were few and for his sake, I am grateful that the end was quick.
- Losing Fred rocked us all. He almost seemed invincible. His absence here today is hard to comprehend, but at the same time, his presence is very real.
- And that's because he left his mark on each of us - we know what he stood for, what he believed in, what he treasured and what he wanted to accomplish.
- For Fred's family, he was their world, the go-to man on any problem, the proudest father and grandfather, the most caring son and husband, the fun loving and supportive brother, cousin and uncle.
- For others of us, he was our close friend, our confidante, our loyal supporter, the one who was always quick to encourage and praise and push us into the limelight, but who also had the strength to tell us when our path may not be right.
- And for thousands of others that met Fred over the years he was a man of moral courage who would do whatever he could to help in any way possible because he genuinely wanted to make a difference in people's lives.
- Fred had unabashed optimism and a can-do attitude that gave him the drive to see things through, but at the same time he was grounded enough to know when the best results possible in any given situation had been achieved. He knew when to cut his losses.

- His wicked grin and cheeky smile got him out of many a sticky situation and he had the uncanny ability to get what we wanted while making the other party believe they had 'won the race'. He had emotional intelligence and that is rare.
- Fred believed that the community of Macarthur was a great place to live and raise a family and as such, he was prepared to defend it and devote much of his time to ensuring we had the services we needed.
- I don't have enough time to list all of his contributions but here's a few
  - successful businessman and local employer - screen printing business
  - past Deputy Mayor and long serving local Councillor
  - President/member of the Chamber of Commerce for many years
  - Director, President, Secretary, Treasurer of umpteen clubs and community organisations
  - founding Member of the Catholic Club
  - fundraiser of literally millions of \$\$\$ for Careflight, medical centres, Paralympic bid and individuals in need
  - a man of deep faith and a supporter of his church and local schools
  - mentor of talented young people in entertainment and sports
  - patron of many, many community organisations and, of course, the founder of this charity, the 24 Hr Fight Against Cancer Macarthur.
- Fred believed that a good cause was worth fighting for, and woe betide anyone who said no to him on an issue about which he felt strongly
- And that's exactly how 24Hr came about.
- This amazing organisation **was founded by Fred in 2005** because of his dissatisfaction with another cancer charity. Fred had raised \$1m for the Cancer Council's Relay for Life on the agreement that a significant portion would be returned to local hospitals. This agreement was broken by the Cancer Council.
- Fred was convinced that we could do better - and we did. He took on that huge organisation single-handedly, under threat of massive legal action and showed them that a group of volunteers, backed by caring local businesses and a generous community can look after their own. **That took strength, intelligence and moral fibre.**
- Fred showed us how to start small and build on our successes.

- This year will see us go close to the \$4 million raised mark. We have achieved this under a brand that Fred engineered at that very first meeting in 2005 - that we have to be able to say, and mean, that 100% of the money raised stays local. He said it will be what brings people here and what keeps them donating.
- It is 13 years later and we can clearly see the wisdom of those words.
- At last year's opening, Fred told us all in his speech, that this cause was bigger than any one person and that it needs to go on... and he knew that it would go on because of all of us present and the quality of his committee.
- I remarked to a friend at the time that it was almost like a farewell speech and then dismissed the thought.
- Maybe Fred had an inkling that he was unwell and he was preparing us for a time without him. We'll never know...but I do know that his committee and family have taken this sentiment to heart and have endeavoured to do all we can to carry on his work.
- On your behalf I'd like to acknowledge the commitment and work of Warren Morrison in the role of Chairperson and all members of the committee over this difficult time.
- I personally feel blessed to have been the receiver of Fred's unwavering love and his unconditional support over many years, through joyous times and devastating times, and this means more to me than I can express.
- Today I bear public witness to Fred's capacity, drive, integrity and selfless concern for those around him.
- I know that Fred is resting in peace, enveloped in the love of his God, and safe in the knowledge that his time on earth was well spent.
- We could do a minute's silence but that's not who we are!
- Please join me in showing Fred's family how much he meant to us by holding his picture high and making as much noise as you possibly can.

Thank you  
Sue McGarrity

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