

# ❖ DAVID CHATFIELD EDWARDS ❖

David Edwards and his twin sister Susan were born on 26 October 1944 to Sergeant Bert Edwards of the 2/2nd Tank Attack Regiment and his wife Dorothy, who was formerly a physiotherapist with the 2/5th Australian General Hospital. In 1949 when David was five, the Edwards family, then comprising six (and later seven) children moved to Buderim where Bert Edwards had purchased a half acre block in 1943. With the help of local builder Arthur Townsend, Bert built a large family house which is still in the Edwards family today.

David started school at Buderim Mountain State School in 1950, had a year at Sherwood State School in 1957, and passed the State Scholarship Examination at Buderim in 1958. Early on, David showed an interest in electronics and radio, probably learned from neighbour Max Lindsay, a world class ham radio operator. David enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy in 1962 and, after initial training, he was posted to HMAS Vampire as a radio electrical mechanic. A mark of David's generosity emerged here when he arranged for a portion of his wages be sent to his widowed mother. His naval nickname was 'Fuse Box'; he was an efficient electronics officer throughout a successful career which saw him rise through the non-commissioned ranks to that of Lieutenant Commander. He served widely, including on HMAS Melbourne, HMAS Sydney (where he saw service in the Vietnam War) and on HMAS Supply.



In 1998 David returned to live permanently on Buderim and quickly found himself deeply involved in the community. He spread himself evenly over five broad areas of interest: the Buderim War Memorial Community Association (and some of its affiliate organisations), the Buderim Foundation, the War Memorial Hall (and other BWMCA buildings), the ANZAC committee and the Sunshine Coast Barbershop Chorus. He joined the management committee of the BWMCA in 2001 and served continuously for the rest of his life. He was Treasurer of the BWMCA for ten years, Vice President for two years and President 2016. He was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 2008.

When the Buderim Foundation was set up in 2004, David was one of six prominent people appointed as 'Members', with the responsibility of the appointment of the board of directors and succession planning. He proudly held this position until his death in 2016.

David had two other major interests – his love of fine wine and his love of singing. He collected fine vintage Australian wines during his years in the Navy. His philanthropy with this collection was demonstrated to the Foundation firstly at a gala fundraising dinner planned in 2004, when he offered to donate all the red wine and some of the white. In 2008 he offered a collection of iconic aged wines for a raffle. In total there have now been nine hugely successful dinners and 5 wine raffles. The raffle prizes have included many aged bottles and magnums of Penfolds Grange.

He also had a fine singing voice. Close friend Graeme Ensoll recalls, 'In the year 2000, David and I were working on refurbishing the Old Buderim Post Office. When I found out David loved to sing I invited him to come to a practice of The Sunshine Barbershop Chorus. From then on, to my knowledge, David never missed a practice or sing out, except for a major reason.' He took on a number of roles in the club, particularly as bass section leader and coach. He had an excellent rich bass voice and helped many new singers over the years. In addition his technical expertise with sound systems and other electronics was useful to the club and also, it must be said, in keeping the Buderim War Memorial Hall sound system operating.

Many accolades and comments following David's passing were tributes to his selflessness in volunteering to help when no one else could be found, and his willingness to drop everything when the BWMCA called.

Simon Whittle, a lifelong friend of the Edwards family, said that for 16 years, the community had been David's life. 'David seemed to be driven by a sense of duty and responsibility,' he said. 'He was a true philanthropist, giving endless time and material things without any desire of return or recognition.'

*Donor: A collective of more than 50 friends and family*