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Millthorpe eNews

FAREWELL TO AN OZZIE LEGEND

One of Millthorpe's finest community members, engineer, passionate farmer, Ozzie Knowles, says goodbye to a family and community he dearly loved.

Oswald Aloysius Knowles was born in County Down Northern Ireland as the third child and first son of Thomas and Winfred Knowles on the 7th of November 1936.

He grew up with seven siblings in a humble house in Cranfield on the shores of Carlingford lough and today the house still exists with an extension of a kitchen, bathroom and laundry. Ozzie always spoke of Ireland like it was a spring day - a magical place with leprechauns, rainbows, green rolling hills and sunshine. It is here where he grew to love his sea ventures which later in life extended to his family sea side holidays in Australia.

Upon finishing his formal education, he was given a choice – go into priesthood, teach or get out. He chose the latter and went to England to pursue his Engineering career.

He worked in the factories around Leicester and Coventry, playing a bit of rugby exploring the world.

Ozzie upon learning about Australia took on the magical ten pound fare and started a new life. He took any working opportunity that came to him and included his sea side skills in sailing on Sydney Harbour. Then an offering of a new job in the small country town of Orange appealed to him working at the Email plant.

In true Australian form, he became Ozzie. There he soon met his soon to be wife, Iris and upon marrying Iris, Ozzie purchased his first property in Eve's Lane Millthorpe. The farm in true tradition contained all the right ingredients - a milking cow, chickens, ducks, geese, bees, and a few poddy calves on top of all the various fruit trees and vegies.

Ozzie forged a career with Email which soon became Electrolux and his career with Email/Electrolux spaned 33 years with many work colleagues fondly remembering his work ethic and his 'people person' ability. His true passion lay with his farm and formed an important part of his life especially with his special fat lambs.

Ozzie soon retired from work at Email around 2000 shortly after becoming diagnosed with prostate cancer. He took the positive and took many overseas trips with Iris and thankful he returned to his homeland of Ireland to see his siblings.

His greatest achievement is to see his sons and daughter develop into their own careers, marry and expand their family with grandchildren.

His wife Iris, sons Damien and Broderick, daughter Mellita, grandchildren and friends across the community are mourning the loss of a dear man, husband, father, grandfather, work colleague and friend.

His love of Millthorpe was renowned. He enjoyed over four decades living and enjoying the community contributing to the Millthorpe Historical Society and museum and the local church.

CHANGE OF THE GUARD

Four years ago, the Lang family came to Millthorpe from Mudgee and changed the face of the general store in the heart of Millthorpe.

Elwyn, Liz, Matthew and Catherine Lang developed the general store into the thriving business it is today becoming the hub of Millthorpe seven days a week.

People from across Millthorpe and the district venture out to their favourite corner store to meet and greet and now the general store has become the meeting place and height of activity for all locals and people alike.

The community counts on being pumped up with their favourite coffee or simply sample the best burgers and fish and chips across the district. Whatever is needed the local store accommodates.

With Elwyn's infectious personality, the store attracted many admirers and customers and he instigated the forge ahead with the makings of Millfest.

With the change of guard, we now welcome our new owners of Millthorpe General Store - Tim Johnson and Sharon Leahy.

Tim is a long time historical resident of Millthorpe with his family and Sharon is the pastry chef to beat all pastry chefs. They reside outside Millthorpe with their two children and we will soon witness local bread and pastries to sample from the general store.

SOMETHING FOR THE ENEWS?

Do you have a local story for Millthorpe Murmurs? Contact Pip Frogley on pip@pipcomm.com , 0411 137 201 or PO Box 166, Millthorpe 2798

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