

A MEMBER of 24 years' standing, David Henderson, died in Royal Brisbane Hospital on Tuesday, 10 June.

The following obituary was provided by his family:

DAVID HENDERSON OBITUARY

David was the only son of Simon Waverley and Gladys (nee Muller) Henderson. Simon had a Scottish background, and Gladys was a descendant from Southern Germany where a certain individual villager moved to Australia as indentured hard labour and wrote encouraging letters back home such that 25% of that village migrated to Australia.

David went to Ascot State School and Church of England Grammar School where he excelled academically and in sport, representing the school in the First VIII rowing and placing 3rd in the GPS 800m running. After school, he went to the University of Queensland and graduated with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering.

At age 27 he went on a NSW skiing trip and met the only love of his life Helen Wright who had journeyed from Sydney. It was love at first sight and they married in Brisbane on 12th of June 1964 with George Boileau as his best man. The first years of marriage were spent in Tarragindi where Claire was born in 1965 and Robert in 1968.

David worked as an electrical engineer for the Queensland Government, initially SEA where he designed the power grid systems. Years later, when driving in Southern QLD he would occasionally point out a substation or power lines that he had designed but it would be fair to say that he rarely talked about his work.

In 1970 David and Helen moved to Toowoomba where he lived until 2023. Initially working for SWQEB (and much later Ergon), David was a team player and made lasting friendships, including Noel Griffin who was a regular drinking partner many years later. That year of 1970 saw the birth of Andrew, and, for ever more David became the 'family man'. A key career move to Dalby did not eventuate, probably due to his children's schooling and perhaps limited his opportunities to rise to the top in his chosen field of electrical engineering.

David will be remembered as a very generous man in the Toowoomba community in both words and action. In the period from age 64 to his passing at age 88, he made the most of his time. When not travelling on walking tours with Helen, he loved his children and grandchildren and wrote letters and called them regularly.

David's community and volunteer work in Toowoomba over a long period defined him as a generous and well respected man as so many have said in recent weeks. Toowoomba Rotary and later the Probus Club (where he was a key person to introduce new members), Cobb & Co volunteering, the board of the Toowoomba Show Society, the Toowoomba Grammar School board of trustees, driving for the disabled, body corporate positions, and the Society of St Andrews in Toowoomba, the last of which deserves special mention as he was very proud of his Scottish heritage and the Henderson clan (of which historically it is hard to find too much that is worth highlighting!)

David leaves behind Helen, his three children and eight grandchildren. Rest in peace to a much loved man who understood that volunteering, service, community and family are the key to happiness.