

## Life Members

Frank McNamara - Charter Member- President 1967-1968, D.G. 1972-1973

Harvey Gahan - President 1992-1993

Jim Anderson - Charter Member- President 1971-1972

Ron Glass - Charter Member- President 1970-1971

Graham Plath - Charter Member- President 1972-1973

Noel Searle - Charter Member- President 1986-1987

George Wood - Lion Member August 1975 - President 1987-1988



**Life Membership Presentation - June 1997(L-R) Lion Graham & Lions Lady Annis Plath, Lion Jim & Lions Lady Eva Anderson, Lion Ron & Lions Lady Kit Glass, Lion Noel & Lions Lady Wendy Searle.**

## **Australia Day 2000**

**Jim Anderson received Burnett Shire Senior Citizen Australia Day Award.**

**Australia Day 2006**

**John Colin CROSSLEY**

**Charter Member and President (1966-1967) of Bundaberg Lions Club**

**Award: Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)**

**Date Received: 26 January 2006**

**For service to the communities of Bundaberg and Noosa, particularly through Lions Australia**

**Pictured below Lion John Crossley (OAM)**

**Queens Batten Runner 2006**



**Lion Noel Searle receives J D Richardson Award on 6th Sept 2006.**



**Lion Noel Searle (Charter Member and Life Member)**

Noel has started and organised many of Bundaberg Lions Club projects for many years. If Noel didn't organise it he was the first member there working and the last to leave. Noel is more reliable than the Postman, rain, hail. or we dont get snow but it is bloody hot out there sometimes. Noel was still helping on crutches with our BBQ's.

Noel has been involved in some of these projects for decades.

The major projects include

Meal on Wheels â€™ many projects over the years.

Bundaberg Show Food Stall

Fashion Fantasia now called Style Spectacular.

Smoke Alarm Installation

Rats of Tobruk Monument construction.

Lions Remembrance Park construction and maintenance.

Blood Cord and Bunnings BBQ

As quoted by Lion Alan Sanderson in his Presidents Report 2004

The best until last - Lion Noel Searle. To sit in the President's chair and see the work, time and effort that Lion Noel puts in is outstanding. He has made the president look good on many occasions and has made my job as president so easy. Thank you Noel and Thank You all for your support.

Presented

James D Richardson Honour Award

By

Bundaberg Lions Club 6<sup>th</sup> September 2006

In Recognition of Your Commitment and Organisation of Lions Projects.

**Lion George Wood receives Life Membership On 6th Feb 2007.**



**President Tony Kimber presenting Lion George with Life Membership with Lion Lady Dawn. Lion George is now a Life Member of Apex and a Life Member of Lions. George has over 55 years of Apex and Lions Service.**

**Lion David Dempster receives J D Richardson Award On 20th Feb 2008**



**President Grant MacDonald presenting the JDR Award to Lion David with Lady Lioness Leonie. David received the award for service to Lions and the community.**

## **Lion George Wood receives Melvin Jones Fellowship 1 Oct 2008**

### **Australia Day 2009**



**George Wood received Bundaberg Regional Council Senior Citizen Australia Day Award for 2009.**

**George has been involved in most major events as a volunteer in Bundaberg for more than half century. George was given a Life Membership of Apex on his retirement from this Service Organization when he turned 40. Shortly after George joined the newly formed Bundaberg Lions Club of which he is still an active member. George received Life Membership of Bundaberg Lions Club last year and this year was presented the prestigious Lions Award of a Melvin Jones Fellowship.**

**George at 76 is still not afraid to do a good days work for the benefit of others. George's achievements over more than fifty years of volunteering and serving the Bundaberg Community is inspirational to those following. George is perhaps the longest serving volunteer in Bundaberg. Organizations such as Meals On Wheels were helped to start and supported by George over the years. George was there for the Lions Parks, Rats of Tobruk, Memorial Park, even the Entrance to the Japanese Gardens.**

**George is the typical unsung Community Hero being there when needed and helping others his entire life. The entertainment for the 2006 Australian Day Awards was provided by George and other members of the Lions Club. The Bundaberg Community has been well served by George and he has not finished yet. When you look at what the Service Clubs have accomplished it is amazing. None of these accomplishments would have succeeded without volunteers such as George. George has been a quiet achiever and a great Australian.**

## Australia Day 2009

### Noel Searle received an OAM (Order Of Australia Medal)



This is a great honour for any Australian and we are privileged to have Noel as a Lion.

# Noel forever in their hearts

## Loving tribute to family man and community hero

GEORDI OFFORD

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A HUSBAND, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and a community-minded man.

William "Noel" Searle has been described as a marvellous and loyal man who considered his friends as friends for life.

He was a founding member of Meals on Wheels in Bundaberg, a member of Bundaberg Lions Club since it began and received an Order of Australia Medal in 2009 for his service to the Bundaberg community.

Last week, after a 12-month battle with his health, Noel passed away and his life was celebrated yesterday as 500 of his family and friends gathered for his funeral.

Wife Wendy and daughter Andrea Playford spoke with the *NewsMail* about the man they adored and shared some of the memories they made.

Wendy and Noel met in 1954 on a Saturday night at the Lewis Bros "Dance Palais" and were together until the day he died.

"Everybody went there (the

Dance Palais) on Saturday night and at 10 o'clock when the bar closed that's when everyone would really start dancing because the boys would come up," she said.

"It was a wonderful marriage, I can't ever look back on any trouble, he'd back you up and I'd always back him up.

"We love our kids, we love the people they married and we love the grandkids and great-grandkids."

Noel was a hard worker, having worked at the Fairymead Sugar Mill and later for Massey Ferguson, a cane harvester manufacturer.

Andrea said his career with the harvester company took him across the world to Cuba and the US.

"For a person born in 1933, in those days you didn't think about travelling the world," she said.

"What he ended up doing

### NOEL SEARLE

April 27, 1933 -  
February 20, 2019



The Bundaberg Lifesaving Team Noel was part of.

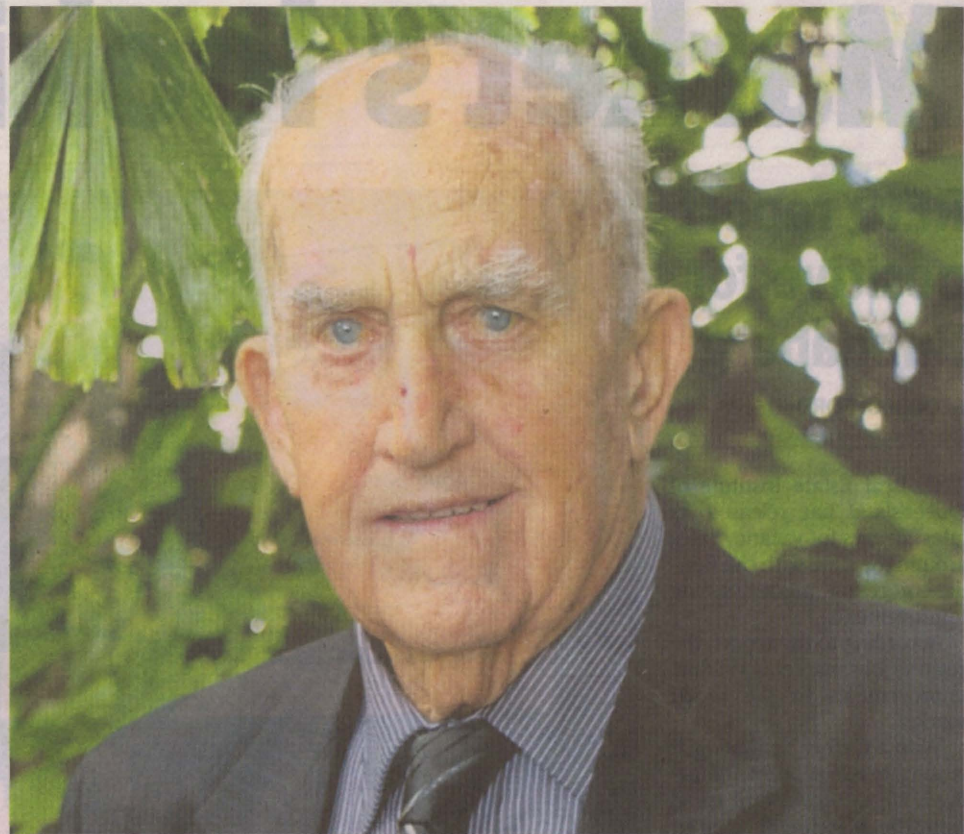
and the people he had to meet, like world leaders, that is quite an amazing life.

"To only have an education up to Grade 9 and achieve what he did is pretty amazing and he was very community-minded as well."

During their time in Cuba the Searles were the only Australians living in the country and Wendy said Noel had a close encounter with former Cuban communist Fidel Castro.

"At the time the sugar industry in Cuba was the biggest in the country and we were treated very well because of that," she said.

"One day Noel was on the harvester and Fidel came to have a look at them.



SADLY MISSED: The late Noel Searle OAM was farewelled yesterday by 500 of his family and friends after his passing last week.

Photo: Contributed

"Noel didn't know he was there and he looked up and he was standing on the harvester and he thought, 'Ooh this is a good opportunity to get a picture of Fidel!'

"He was just about to get out of the harvester to go and get it and the soldiers guarded him with their rifles and guns and said don't get out so he couldn't get it."

Wendy said in the midst of their travels Noel became a charter member for Bundaberg Lions Club, where he helped

establish Meals on Wheels.

"It was the first club in Bundaberg," she said

"He's been made a life member of the Lions Club and the Meals on Wheels Club."

At the age of 16 Noel found a love for surf lifesaving and enjoyed the fun that went with it.

Andrea said Noel was a member of the Bundaberg lifesaving march past team that won the national title four times in a row from 1959-62.

"He used to train us at swimming club, family to him was

everything," she said.

In 2015 Noel was awarded the Community Spirit Award by then-mayor of Bundaberg Mal Foreman.

To Wendy, Noel was the perfect man.

"He was loyal, he never had an ego ever," she said.

"He had a great sense of humour right until the end.

"We're married 62 years this year and it's very very good to think we could get there, he was the perfect man, you had it all in one."