

A tribute

Sidney Taylor: Achiever

- He gave of his best, regardless of the activity
- A man who had an informed and well-considered opinion on topics that he chose to participate.
- A loyal and dedicated person
- A man with a vision, who knew right from wrong.
- Not scared to preach the virtues of his convictions.

A defining aspect of Sid's character was, *'he didn't stay silent when he ought to speak'*.

Born: 25th June 1922

Raised in the Auburn/ Lidcombe district of New South Wales.

He was 15 years of age when he commenced an apprentice as a fitter and turner.

Sid served in World War II, in the Fourth Battalion and later joined the Air Force as an instrument maker and repairer.

In 1943 he married Ita and later had a daughter Dawn, and a son Paul.

On leaving the services in 1945, Sid returned to his engineering trade.

During his late thirties and early forties, Sid and Ita made their home in Sans Souci, a Sydney beachside suburb not far from the Sydney International airport.

In 1984 they relocated to Queensland, where they fell in love with the Great South East and to be closer to their son and daughter.

Sidney suffered a stroke which caused many difficulties in his life; however, he didn't allow it to eliminate him from his sporting activities.

Some of Sidney's achievements were:

In swimming, he graduated to become a swimming instructor and represented New South Wales in the state swimming team.

He organised and ran swimming carnivals, as well as coaching upcoming Olympians

This wasn't enough for Sid, he became involved in learn to swim classes. He introduced New South Wales to the now popular sport of water polo.

Still today his photo is proudly displayed in the San Souci Surf Club where he, as the captain of the club, was the flag bearer on many occasions.

In 1946 Sid's activities included basketball. He played for St George district in the Channel 10 tournaments.

He became a basketball referee, officiating at district, state and international levels, that included the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, 1968 Mexico Olympics and the 1974 World Championships in Perth.

In 2004 he was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Sid was an author of many basketball articles in national magazines and journals. The articles were reproduced for international publication and helped shape the game as we know it today.

Still not enough to satisfy the hunger of a man who wanted to make a difference, Sid went on to be an interpreter of Basketball Rules for Australia and the International Body.

He organised many Oceanic Basketball Tournaments, and in 1988 Sidney Taylor was awarded the Medal of Honour for his contribution to Oceanic Basketball.

In 1992, the Governor General of Australia honoured him as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

In 2000, he was awarded an Australian Sports Medal

For 26 years he was the Patron of the Australasian Police Basketball Association and organised many of their tournaments.

Sid also enjoyed golf, where he became known as a competitive player. On one occasion at a company golf day, he told his playing partner how incompetent the CEO of the company was, only to find out later his playing partner was the Chairman of the International company.

In 1986, Sid joined the Jindalee Bowls Club where he became active and held the majority of positions on the committee at some time. He proved to be as competitive in bowls as he was in life generally.

Sid always spoke proudly of his son Paul and daughter Dawn and of their achievements, of Paul's rising through the Queensland Police Force to become Deputy Commissioner serving in North Queensland.

It was with fondness, each Saturday, he looked forward to his Sunday lunch date with wife Ita and daughter Dawn. His grandchildren held a special corner in his heart.

He was a proud man and one full of respect for others.

There are but a few that could say and be able to celebrate their life of over 93 years and with 72 of those married to Ita, and with modesty Sid would say:-

'I had a wonderful wife, family and great friends.

My life was full of experiences; I had disappointments, but no regrets,

There are those in life, wishing they had the courage to do more.

Sidney Taylor AM, is not one of them'

Paul Funnell OAM

The information was provided by Sid Taylor in 2014