



City of Ipswich

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CONDOLENCE MOTION FOR TO MERV STUMER

On the 21st of August 2025, Mervyn Alan Stumer passed away. He was husband to first wife Pat, and father to Gary and Annie, Warren and Janelle. He was also husband to his second wife Kath and step-father to her daughter Catherine.

I first met Merv at a Norths Tigers Juniors Presentation Night in my first year as the State Member for Ipswich West. I didn't know too many of the attendees and Merv took me under his wing.

He was an absolute gentleman and I was impressed by how immaculately he was dressed. I was fascinated by his stories about his games for Ipswich in the Bulimba Cup days.

I loved hearing Merv's stories about men from my neighbourhood who also played for Ipswich in the Bulimba Cup. Men like Brian Rashleigh and Johnny Brown, who gave no quarter on the football field.

Merv was born in Marburg on the 18th of December 1937. Like many Ipswich residents at this time, he came from a coal mining family.

Merv started his electrical apprenticeship with the Queensland Rail North Ipswich Workshops in 1954. Later he moved on to the position of Head Electrician for the Haigh Moor Colliery Mine at Tivoli.

After the 1974 floods, the mine went into caretaker mode. New Hope took over the operations and ran the mine as an open cut. After production ceased, they transferred all the men to the Jeebropilly Mine at Amberley where Merv finished his coal mining career in 1997.

Merv's football story began back in 1954 when he started playing with the Railways Football Club, which later merged with the Northern Suburbs Rugby Leagues Club in 1968. The Club we now know as the Norths Tigers or as I prefer to say the Mighty Norths Tigers.

Merv played Junior and Senior Rugby League for Railways and Northern Suburbs from 1954 to 1969.

There are many stories about Merv's rugby league career. Some of them ending with him being involved in disagreements on the field and subsequently sent off. They were very different times back then.

Once he hung up his boots, Merv, had the love for Rugby League in his veins, and went on to coach Railways and Northern Suburbs Seniors from 1967 to 1971.

He taught players not just about playing the game of league, but respect and how to tackle life in general.

He introduced the 3 B's – No Bad Language, No Booze and No BS.

He was a tough but firm coach and some of his players told of him saying things like "Look at me when I am speaking".

But that respect that he demanded went both ways.

Over the years Merv held various positions and roles within the Ipswich Rugby League fraternity. They ranged from Coach, Selector and Administrative Duties.

Merv's continuous commitment to Ipswich Junior and Senior Rugby League extended to 64 years, 1954 to 2017 and he would not have changed a thing. The game of League was Him and His Life.

Merv also served his Country being a National Serviceman from 1956 to 1960.

But if Merv had a say in it, I might not be telling his life story at a Council Meeting, because with his end was in sight, he made it clear he did not want any accolades or fanfare.

His wish was no funeral, no eulogy ... just a ... go down to Norths Clubhouse and have a beer on him.

But as they say, you don't have a say in how you are remembered, and I think Mervyn Alan Stumer deserved better than that.

Vale Merv and thank you to Gary Stumer for the information he provided to me about his Dad.

August 1, 2025

The 33rd Prayer for Piece Concert
Mayor's Address

Good evening, everyone. Thank you for coming to the 33rd Prayer for Piece Concert.

Eighty years have passed since the end of World War II. I apologize for starting with my own story, but I was born after the war and returned from Taiwan with my parents a year after Japan's defeat. My parents lost all their assets and had to return to Japan with nothing, so it was a very hard struggle for them. Fortunately, however, there was no fighting in Taiwan, and all I know about the last war is from old footage and documents. So I imagine for most people in this country who are younger than I am, war is a historical event that happened a long time ago.

But when we look around the world, there is no end in sight for Russia's invasion of Ukraine and conflicts in the Middle East. Japan's neighboring countries are also rapidly building up their military, developing nuclear weapons, and strengthening their missile capabilities. Not a day goes by without wars and regional conflicts in the world.

The peaceful daily life that Japan enjoys today is a precious time rarely seen in history, but it's not something that came about naturally. In fact, it is just barely being maintained thanks to the hard work of many invisible people. I think it is of utmost importance that this work is continued diligently.

Today we will hear from Mr. Akihiko Nishimura, who during the war lived in what is now Kotake-cho in Nerima. Mr. Nishimura experienced the war when he was in elementary school. He will talk about his life during the war when food was scarce, the air raids he experienced, and life at his place of wartime evacuation. I hope this will be an opportunity for all of us to reflect on war once again.

Today, we also received messages from Haidian District in Beijing, China, and the city of Ipswich in Australia, with whom Nerima has had exchanges for over 30 years. We believe that such exchanges between local governments involving the citizens also contribute to peace. We will continue

to place value on this kind of international exchange with citizens, including children, playing a central role.

The concert today will feature saxophonist Takuya Tanaka and pianist Shota Nakano.

Please enjoy their performance.



Mayor Teresa Harding

City of Ipswich
Queensland, Australia

**33rd NERIMA PRAYER FOR PEACE CONCERT
1 AUGUST 2025**

**PEACE MESSAGE FROM MAYOR TERESA HARDING
CITY OF IPSWICH, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**

Mayor Akio Maekawa, senior leaders and the Nerima community, it is my pleasure as the Mayor of the City of Ipswich to send a peace message to the people of Nerima City.

As our world continues to face challenges, we must actively spread peace and hope within our nations. Our cities have shared a beautiful friendship spanning 31 years and I look forward to our cities continuing this strong, ever-peaceful relationship long after we are gone.

In the spirit of peace and friendship, I'd like everyone to take the time to honour and appreciate friends and family who nourish our peace daily. Our relationships help us all through the good times and the hard times. We must take the time to look inward and trust we are the type of person we want others to be.

As we hear the news daily, we are saddened by war and crime but today is a reminder that there is peace within ourselves and our world that must be appreciated and protected. Let's spread kindness to the people around us to nourish our own souls, minds and bodies and foster this way of living now and into the future. Let's focus on mutual respect for ourselves and others to promote peace within our society.

I thank Nerima for peace and prosperity over the past 31 years of our Sister City relationship. On behalf of the community of the City of Ipswich, I continue to offer my support and friendship to the citizens of Nerima City, especially in the spirit of the 33rd Prayer of Peace Concert.

Yours sincerely,

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