



**City of
Ipswich**

- **5 Condolences - Mr John Whitehead and Mr Graham Broom**
Attachment 1 Condolence Motions - Council Ordinary Meeting 19 January
2023 3

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Condolence Motions | Ordinary Council Meeting Thursday, 19 January 2023

Opening

It has been a sad start to the year with the passing of two local residents who have significantly contributed to the Ipswich community in very different ways.

Therefore, I will be putting forward two condolence motions today.

But firstly, I would like to acknowledge Kate Mandala's Augustine Heights family who had a really harrowing start to 2023.

I would like to thank the Queensland Police, SES and the h of hundreds of local volunteers and SES volunteers from around the area. I saw volunteers from the gold coast as well, who searched tirelessly for Kate since her disappearance on 30 December.

While the whole city was hoping and waiting for a positive outcome which unfortunately didn't come, our thoughts and prayers are with Kate Mandala's family during this difficult time.

Condolence Motion for Mr John Whitehead

Mr John Whitehead was a third-generation photographer in the well-known family business - Whitehead Studios.

John's grandfather started the photographic studio in 1883 and John began working in the family business when he was 18 years old.

He ran the studio for more than half a century until his retirement at 70 years of age in 2002.

There wouldn't be many Ipswich residents John would not have met at least once in his lifetime.

He photographed more than 4,000 brides and countless more babies and family groups.

This enormous volume of photographic work is in addition to the hundreds of thousands of school children he photographed while being commissioned to provide the school photography services for the vast majority of the kindies, pre-schools, primary and secondary schools in the Ipswich area.

The Whitehead family donated 6,000 glass negatives, negatives and photographs to Ipswich City Council to commemorate 120 years of Whitehead Studios in Ipswich, something John was immensely proud of.

Ipswich Libraries' Picture Ipswich hold the treasure trove of local history images which formed a coffee table book published in 2010 called The Whitehead Legacy.

This visual record of our history will continue to provide a priceless memory of our past, for future generations.

John grew up in the family home in Karragaroo Street - adjacent to the old Ipswich Golf Club, which is now Limestone Park.

He attended Ipswich Central State School and later Ipswich Grammar School completing his senior year in 1949.

He loved all things sport and was a member of both the Ipswich Grammar Cricket and Tennis firsts teams in high school captaining both teams and was an excellent golf player.

He also enjoyed playing tennis and would often tell the story of the Headmaster of Ipswich Grammar School taking him out of class during afternoon lessons to go and have a hit of tennis with him.

In 1955 John married third-generation singer Blodwyn Edmunds at the Ipswich City Uniting Church and they moved to Lloyed George Street in Eastern Heights.

John was for many years, an active member of the Ipswich Rotary Club and was awarded Rotary's highest honour of being made Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of his Rotary service.

John is survived by his sister Denise, his son Greg, daughter Andra, four wonderful grandchildren and four equally wonderful great grandchildren.

I offer them and their families our condolences.

While John may be gone from us now, he certainly won't be forgotten, with his legacy tucked away between the pages of family photo albums in many homes throughout Ipswich.

Condolence Motion for Mr Graham Broom

“Broomy”, as he was known to his mates, embodied everything that is great about the City of Ipswich.

Someone who quietly went about making our city a better place to live - simply by sharing his warmth, energy and positivity with everyone he met.

Graham’s contributions to our city came in many forms, as a senior officer in the Queensland Police Service, as a formative figure in the Ipswich sporting community - and in his role as Santa in his epic Christmas Lights displays, where children from across Ipswich would flock every year.

Graham selflessly served in the Queensland Police Service, rising to the rank of Sergeant (First Class), in a stellar career that spanned more than forty years.

The majority of that service was spent in the Ipswich District, where his deep, slow voice and ability to talk to anyone would bring calm to those who unfortunately found themselves at the watch house.

Graham retired from the Queensland Police Service in August 2009, but his contribution to the Ipswich community continued.

Across rugby league, softball and baseball, many saw Graham not just as a coach or an administrator – but as their mentor.

He shaped many young lives through the endless hours he devoted to promoting and advancing local sporting clubs.

Most notably, Graham was a founding member of the Raiders Softball Club and was an integral part of growing the club to the largest in the Ipswich Softball Association.

The Raiders were honoured to make him a life member in 2018, where he was known to many as their “softball Dad”.

Graham passed away peacefully at St Andrew’s Hospital on 4 January 2023, aged 73 years.

He will be greatly missed by his loving wife, Sharon, his children, Peita, Kate, Rory and Darcy, and his seven grandchildren of whom he was immensely proud.

On behalf of the City of Ipswich, I offer our heartfelt thanks for Graham’s decades of service, and our deepest condolences to the entire Broom family.

It takes a special kind of person to give their time so generously and selflessly to improve the lives of others.

Ipswich is now a richer place thanks to Graham’s contribution to our city.