

Words by Stephen McCarron.

Hi Everyone,

With Di Greys funeral coming up, I thought it would be a good opportunity to say a few words about Di.

She really was a tremendous positive for of our club Norths Cricket and a person who had a substantial influence in our club to help precipitate the club to where we are now.

In the early 2000's the club lost a lot of good men (as we seem to do in those years having a change over of personal every decade or so) and this included most of the committee, clubmen and players. We seemed to have no way of going forward as we did not have a committee, we did not have personnel.

We had a couple of meetings with one of our neighbouring clubs and they could smell blood and a take over was on the cards. They had the senior players, where we had the infrastructure (clubhouse, ground and some juniors). In the last extra ordinary meeting we had with them there were 23 representatives from their club, we had 3. It was obvious then that if both clubs joined together whilst we were to be a joint club, Norths as an entity would be lost forever. We asked for a bit more time and was given a week. We decided to remain as Norths by ourselves (with no idea how we would do that). We knew we had John Baldwin to run juniors and Di to run the canteen, the rest was anyone's guess.

Cricket clubs have a number of moving elements to them that all needs attending too. (Seniors, juniors, committee members, canteen, registrars etc. etc.). We needed a lot of things to get going, but one of the main things was we needed the canteen open and running for seniors on Saturdays and Sundays to firstly comply with Townsville cricket rules at the time that senior clubs needed a canteen and plus we needed to make money. The club had no money.

This is where Di came into her own and she put her hand up to be that person to run and organise the canteen. We managed to pay her a small very minimal amount which would have hardly paid for her petrol. But for the next 5 years she ran the canteen every Saturday and Sunday when there was senior games on. This allowed others to worry about other issues within the club.

Di ran the canteen like it was her own kitchen. She liked to run it her way which suited us down to the ground. She worked bloody hard and she opened on a Saturdays at 1130 when games started at 1pm. She was usually the last to leave at night, after making us toasted sandwiches after play. I remember many times being there at 8pm at night still having a few quiet drinks (usually to get over my lack of runs) and Di would make us something to eat and then get us going home. She would then back up again if 4th grade played in the morning and 3rd grade in the Arvo. She did this every cricket weekend for us for 5 years.

I remember once when she was sick for the weekend and couldn't come. She felt so bad, she was so apologetic about it. Di you are allowed to have a weekend off! But that was Di she didn't ever want to let anyone down, she always wanted to do the best job she could. All the boys respected her so much and even though they would be drinking etc. after games Di would always be part of the celebrations. I remember many times sitting around in a circle drinking after games etc and Di would be bringing plates of food, getting us drinks, and she would often sit in with us. When she told me she couldn't do the canteen any more (for health reasons) she was inconsolable. She felt like she was letting us down.

She was also quite funny and I remember once her telling us how we needed to get Rod a girlfriend. Rod wasn't playing at the time but we all cracked up at Di as she was deadly serious and was telling us how we needed to help rod . Obviously Rod has been married to his beautiful wife Roxanne and has 2 great kids so I am sure Di would be extremely satisfied in what Rod has done. But it was funny at the time Di looking for a girlfriend for Rod Grey.

It is always important to remember our history as it is a way to appreciate our future. Di Grey was an enormous part of our history, especially so in getting the club to where we are now. There is no doubt that John Baldwin and Wade Sadler have been huge contributors to our juniors and John Short to our seniors and all three have shaped our club to where it is now. But it is important to also remember significant and vital people like Di Grey that had done so much for our club. On behalf of Norths Cricket club we offer our condolences to Rod , Roxanne Grey, Lachy and family on the death of Di. She was a remarkable lady, one full of honesty, integrity and thoughtfulness. Di's legacy will live on through our club through Rod and Lachy whom are both doing amazing things for our club. May you rest in peace Di, you are not forgotten.