

Vale, Roger Clark

It is with immense sadness, The Society of Women Writers Victoria farewells Roger Clark, a great friend.

Shortly after he started up *The Waterline News*, this remarkable person with the vision to set up his own independent not-for-profit community newspaper and the ability and commitment to do so, Roger approached me for contributions to an Arts, Books & Writing section he wanted to set up. When he couldn't find enough writers in his local area which stretches from Tooradin to Koo-Wee-Rup to Wonthaggi to Phillip and French Islands, to fill his needs, I offered to approach fellow members of the SWWV to contribute poems, short stories, articles and book reviews.

Members embraced the idea, and working with Roger proved to be a mutually-beneficial relationship. Many members welcomed the chance to be published in an attractively-presented quality print publication and e-publication. Not only that, they were able to work with an encouraging and supportive editor who showed he appreciated their work and who gave them feedback.

In January, 2018 when Roger was shortlisted for the Bass Coast Citizen of the Year for his huge contribution and commitment to the community, members were delighted to learn of his well-deserved success. At the Awards night, Roger publicly and generously thanked the society for its support. He said contributions from its members to the Arts, Books & Writing section of *The Waterline News* had led to it becoming 'one of the most popular segments'.

In its nearly six years of life, Roger's newspaper has grown from 12 pages, including two colour pages, to 48 pages, including 12 pages in colour in the print issue and all pages in colour in the e-issue.

Roger, congratulations on your success, thank you for including us on your journey and a fond Vale from us all. You have left the community a great legacy, one you have ensured will live on. Deepest sympathy to Vicki and family and to all those who have loved and supported you in your journey.

Meryl Brown Tobin on behalf of The Society of Women Writers Victoria

Roger Clark's Celebration of a Life

On a cold winter's day, Tuesday June 25, over one hundred relatives, friends and members of the local community turned out at the Grantville Hall to honour Roger Clark.

Only 70 years of age, he had passed away after a long battle with ill health. His older brother Geoff talked about Roger's early life and the loss of his mother when he was only thirteen and of his father only eighteen months later. Roger's son Ryan spoke of his happy memories playing football with his father and of their shared love of the Collingwood Football Club. Those paying tribute to Roger also included a former brother-in-law, one of Roger's proofreaders for *The Waterline News*, the paper's computer guru Gordon Chase, and a fellow Jazz Club enthusiast Robin Blackman. Because of Roger's long journalistic involvement covering all things to do with Greyhounds, a long tribute from his Greyhound associates was also read out.

Further Tributes to Roger Clark from Individual SWWV Members

Betty Caldwell: It was mid 2015 that Meryl Tobin suggested I submit to *The Waterline News* a couple of articles that may prove suitable for publication. To my surprise Roger was delighted with my contribution and requested a continual supply. It was disappointing to me that I never met him, a sick man during most of our postal contact but I feel he was a wonderful inspiration to

us all. Now with his suffering at an end, I join with all who knew him in saying “Thank you, Roger, may you rest in peace.”

Nalini de Sielvie: Roger Clark really was an exceptional person. I really appreciated what he did for me [publishing my work]. He was so helpful and supportive whenever I sent him my contributions. Also, I didn't know [until a long time afterwards] he had read my book [*Thistles in the Wind*] and then written the review of it. It was so good of him, and I wrote and told him so. I am pleased that his good work will continue, as it is a great way for the community to be connected. My thoughts and prayers are with Roger and the family.

Razmi Finn: It is sad news. He was a determined person, managing to wrap up *The Waterline News* and selling it while he still had the wherewithal. At the moment I don't think I can write a tribute. All I can say is that I am appreciative, as a writer, to have a place to share my work, and Roger created that place.

Margaret Pearce: That is extremely sad and depressing news—I feel for his wife and would like to extend my most sincere sympathy to her.

Roger must have been a very gutsy and determined human being to keep working until he couldn't. So inspirational.

Maree Silver: Although I didn't meet Roger in person, many emails went back and forth between us. He was a friendly man who loved to publish items of interest covering all fields, including articles, stories and poetry. Although I did have an occasional poem published myself, my contact with Roger was to send him articles each month written by my prolific friend Betty Caldwell who doesn't own a computer. I typed them up into Word and emailed them in time for inclusion in each *Waterline News*. This arrangement worked happily for quite some years and I began to know a little of the interesting man behind this mammoth monthly publication. I along with others was saddened when hearing that he was so very ill that he had to relinquish the ownership of his paper because he could no longer oversee its production himself. It was with a very heavy heart I read his goodbye to all his readers in the May 2019 issue. We were in email contact until right up to the time that he sold *The Waterline News* to Geoff Ellis who has most capably taken over from Roger.

May his wife Vicki feel the support of all his readers and contributors in her loss.

Collated & Submitted by:
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