



Ron Lutman
1924 – 18/12/2005
Vindi 1941

Ron who died in December 2005 is seen here at the unveiling of the MN memorial plaque at the Garden of Remembrance in the grounds of the Heidelberg Repat hospital in Melbourne.

Ron was born in 1924 at Handsworth near West Bromwich.

He joined the Vindi in 1941 and served in the MN throughout the war and for a few years after. Unfortunately I don't know a great deal about his early life despite visiting him twice in April of last year.

He married in the UK in the 50s and has children & grandchildren there, but he came out to Australia in 1972 by himself. He had a number of jobs; he worked for a time at the Crest Hotel in Kings Cross later settling in Melbourne becoming a Tram Driver on Melbourne's famous Trams.

Ron loved tram driving it gave him a job he liked to do and the daily opportunity to chat to lots and lots of people.

About 1981 he fell in love with his 'Clippie' Bonnie, they became inseparable lifelong partners.

He was always active on the ex-MN front being a member of RSL MN Sub branches and other ex-service organisations doing his best to promote ex-MN matters.

He tried for a year or two to get a Victorian Vindi Branch going but it wasn't to be, the embryo group met once or twice then just faded away.

By this time I got to know him about 1996 his beloved Bonnie was ill and needed lots of care and Ron devoted most of his time being her carer but during this time he got involved with Garden of Remembrance at the hospital and helped to get the MN memorial erected there.

His picture is also on one of the hundreds of small glass panes in the remembrance screen that shields the garden. He had got to know the artist making the screen and I suppose she couldn't resist that beard of his for the Merchant Seamen's window.

Ron was well known in the neighbourhood, he liked to walk to the shops everyday and talk to everyone.

For years he was the very popular Father Christmas (that beard again) at the nearby McCloud shopping centre. Many of the people from the shops came to his funeral and his name is to be inscribed into a Flagstone in the forecourt of the mall, which gives you a warm feeling in the heart to know that someone can be so well respected, just for being happy and being nice.

Ron liked his computer but it was getting old and slow and on Ron's last day Sunday the 18th. of December some of Bonnie's Grandkids were playing on the computer and complained to Ron that the old computer was dying, Ron retorted 'Bloody computers I'm going for a lie down' he went into the bedroom, the kids heard him fall and ran in but he had passed away.

As Bonnie said when I phoned her today "he was always a lucky blighter, right to the end".