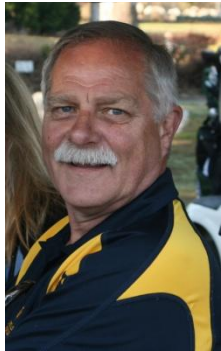


The Tony Freeman Story



Tony was born in Melbourne and moved to NSW which he called “home” from 1953 until 2003 when he and Marilyn moved to Queensland following a corporate move of their daughter and arrival of their first grandchild, Lauren.

He has great memories of living in a small country town of Woolgoolga (on the Pacific Highway about halfway between Brisbane and Sydney) during the 1950's. He had the run of 20 acres of land, with a creek on the edge of the property where they caught plenty of fish to feed the family of 6 including two brothers and a sister. Tony (and the family) moved to Sydney in 1961 where he finished High School in Sydney at Marsden High School in the suburban area of West Ryde before he chose a career in Advertising and Marketing. At a young age (18) he saw the benefits of people assisting others in need, and joined Ryde Apex club and he remained in Apex for about 8 years until increased family responsibility and university studies suggested he withdraw. After a series of Diplomas (in related fields of Advertising and Industrial Design) , he went onto what is now known as University of Technology in Sydney where he obtained a Bachelor of Business Degree with a business admin major and sub-majors in Marketing Law and Computing – another one Economics subject would have seen him be the first four-part major.

Tony was invited to join his local Thornleigh Rotary in Sydney where he held various positions before being President twice and an Assistant District Governor to work with 8-9 other clubs in the area.

He has a great passion in Rotary with ROMAC – a Rotary Overseas Medical Aid for Children project which brings children in need to Australia for medical attention and to be patched up. He says that when he was President in Thornleigh, he had the opportunity to meet a young Philipino boy who had been brought to Australia to fix a herniated brain. The lad had a swelling around the bridge of the nose that was about the size of an orange; it was brain material. Amigio ran around and acted like a normal 9 year old – and even more so the next month when he had had an operation to correct the swelling and he was on the road to recovery.

Tony and his wife Marilyn recently had “significant birthday” celebrations – and instead of presents at their party, they invited birthday guests to throw a few dollars in a pot to expand the work of ROMAC. Get him started on Romac and Tony will tell you untold stories of children they have brought to Australia to have surgery that is not available in their own countries. ROMAC, which is one of many Rotary projects, has helped over 300 children and teenagers to be repaired and returned to their own countries.

On a personal note, Tony and Marilyn have two adult children Karen and Christopher, both of whom now also live in Brisbane; they have three delightful grand children Lauren (8); Alex (6) and Samantha (3) who live not too far away at Albany Creek.

Why did Tony join Rotary: he sees a need for people of all walks of life to help others. There are many that suffer and battle to simply live with major disease, without running water or electricity or the things we take for granted. As a Rotarian, we can combine our total efforts and seek support from the general community to help others. With floods and catastrophe's earlier this year Rotary was able to make a significant contribution and to encourage others in the community to support.

At Rotary Tony meets people with similar attitudes - we can combine and make a huge difference through a wide range of support projects – from fighting Polio, to putting freshwater into areas of dirty water; we can make a difference for the betterment of mankind through Australia and many countries.

Tony works with local Samford company, Retailquip, is vice president of the Samford Chamber of Commerce, and in his spare time he helps ROMAC raise funds; he develops Rotary Clubs through their future vision strategic planning; writes the weekly Rotary newsletter and assists with Rotary training programmes.

Come to Rotary and meet many Tony and many other people who see parts of the world need help.