

VALE Colin Kennedy

With the passing of Colin Kennedy, aged 81, on 12th August, 2011, The Entrance lost one of its finest citizens and quietest achievers.

Old Infants School For many years, Colin and Norma, together with Keith and Helene Ford and Tom and Elisabeth Lyons, had been at the forefront of negotiations between the NSW Department of School Education (who wanted to sell the site for housing), environmental groups who wanted the rainforest preserved and community groups who wanted a community centre there. Colin went to see Grant McBride, the then Member for The Entrance, on a number of occasions to lobby for retention of at least part of the school site in community ownership.

An article in the Central Coast Express Advocate of 22 July, 2009 – reporting the opening of the Community Centre:

"The Entrance Community Centre has proved a big hit with the community. Wyong Council has transformed the former infants' school site in Oaklands Ave into a modern community centre which is home to a host of groups and projects. The Entrance Community Precinct Committee spent years convincing the Council and the NSW Education Department to redevelop the site for all the community. The centre includes The Entrance Neighbourhood Centre, modern conference and training rooms, a men's shed, barbecue facilities and an outdoor playground."

Colin's name does not appear in the credits ... but his consistent interest and efforts are certainly acknowledged by those around at the time.

Both Colin and Norma also enjoyed long involvement with **WATCH** – an organisation established to oppose excessive high rise in The Entrance.

Colin was among the inaugural members of **The Entrance Peninsula Community Precinct Committee**; when high rise construction started in The Entrance, Colin was extremely active in reporting builders' refuse being washed into drains (and the lake) and excessive use of water from properties with no water meters.

Colin was actively involved with such issues as The Entrance Peninsular Planning Strategy, proposals for a seawall, opposition to the construction of Fisherman's Wharf and detailed discussions with the developer over proposals for The Entrance Resort on the El Lago site.

Colin also served on the Steering Committee which established both **The Entrance Men's Shed** and **Bateau Bay Men's Shed** and was an inaugural member of both Sheds.

Bridging the generation gap between modern day computers and spreadsheets and maths, calculus and slide rules, Colin also devoted many hours to the **Planit Youth** school mentoring program where he intrigued students with problem solving and arranged many work placements for students.

Colin Kennedy made many significant contributions to his community. He is regarded by many as a 'quiet achiever and a thorough gentleman'.

He is survived by his loving wife Norma, son Stephen and daughter Suzanne and their families.

Kevin Armstrong