

A Few GOOD MEN

There are so many kind hearts within Club Clipsal. They give their time, their dollars and their all. Here are a few of your fellow members who think nothing of doing a good turn.

BIG HEART, BIG SCARE

Bill Rigby has often put the interests of others before himself. When his life was in danger he was lucky that others were able to help him.

In the southern suburbs of Sydney you will find a Club Clipsal member who is one of the most popular and well known figures about town. A member of Club Clipsal since it started back in 1996, Bill Rigby has been giving his time to run community sports groups and to raise money for charities.

He has been an electrician since he started his apprenticeship as a 15 year old and emigrated from the north east of England to Australia in 1975. He started his own company over 25 years ago and has worked on some iconic projects.

"I worked on the fit-out for the restaurant at the Centrepoint Tower for many years, but my core business was working on TAFE computer rooms. About 25 years ago the

former building manager of TAFE gave me a call to ask if I would be interested in working at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. I worked with many artists, including Brett Whiteley on his last installation."

A good sport

When Bill isn't working with Australia's elite artists he has been heavily involved in sporting circles across Sydney. He has a long history of coaching football (soccer). He was the coach of numerous local cricket teams and is a NSW grade cricket umpire, who has umpired at the SCG. In 2000 he was a pioneer volunteer at the Olympic Games in Sydney, a role which he will reprise next year in London.

Bill Rigby and cricketing umpire legend, Dickie Bird.



Well raised

Bill is involved in a number of charitable fundraisers, including the Cure for Life foundation, the McGrath Foundation and A Start in Life (which supports disadvantaged kids with educational support). He allowed local youths to be photographed with his 'baggy green' cap (signed by current and



legendary Australian cricketers) for a gold coin donation to the Primary Club, which gives disabled people the opportunity in sporting activities.

Bill has worked behind the scenes on many other charitable events and functions. If he hasn't been offering his electrical expertise for free then he has been using his many contacts to organise sporting memorabilia and other prizes for charity auctions and raffles.

He was due to hike the Kokoda Trail with Club Clipsal this year to raise more funds for a range of cancer charities, but has been advised by his doctors to postpone this because of ongoing health concerns.

Scary times

Early last year Bill was up in a scissor lift, working on the lighting for the Archibald Prize when he realised something was wrong.

"I'd had slight headaches for a while, but I had ignored them. I did the bloke's thing and just took tablets. All of a sudden I lost sensation in my right arm and I couldn't work the scissor lift."

He was told he had secondary level four lymphoma, but they could not find the primary tumour and only four days to live. Bill was given no guarantees of survival, but



Bill Rigby, far right, with members of the Ethiopian Olympic Team, 2000 Sydney Olympics.

the famous Dr Charlie Teo believed that he could be saved. The primary tumour was discovered and removed with keyhole surgery.

After the operation Bill still ended up on life support twice due to an aggressive regime of chemotherapy before his prognosis improved. I asked him if he thought other club members are guilty of not acknowledging their health concerns quickly enough.

"They should go and get checked up. What's there to be embarrassed about? I should

have gone earlier. If you've got symptoms, don't be a man and say you're alright; do the right thing, it might save your life."

Despite Bill's health setbacks, and possibly the end of his career as an electrician, he still remains upbeat on life and his aim to complete the Kokoda Trail to raise funds.

"It would be fantastic to do it with the Clipsal lads, because they have been great. I have to listen to medical advice, but one day I will do it."



Their first attempt in March 2009 raised nearly \$5000, but the following year's event was thwarted by the arrival of a massive storm. Hail, strong winds and rain left over 60,000 homes and businesses in Perth without power and flooding of roads. The company was inundated with customers who were desperate for help.

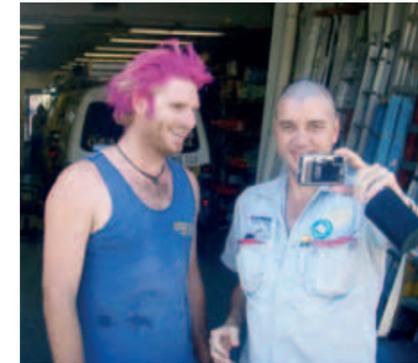
Steven Murphy and his team of electrical contractors at Steven Murphy Electrical Contracting became involved in the World's Greatest Shave in 2009 because a family member of one of the electrician's contracted leukaemia that year. Unfortunately, he succumbed to the disease and sadly passed away. When the firm began planning their first hair-changing fundraiser they discovered that leukaemia had touched more than just the one person.

"Upon seeking our staff's support for this fundraiser, we astoundingly found several people had close family members affected by this disease at some stage. Everyone was eager to get behind the event and willing to shave their heads or colour their hair."

Steven and his team worked round the clock to help local residents restore the homes back to normal, but the window of opportunity to participate in the World's Greatest Shave had elapsed.

More determined than ever, on Wednesday the 23rd of March this year Steven and his team were back in action, raising over \$1,000 on the day, with more money collected in the following months. All the electricians and apprentices joined in, as did Karen, their accounts lady, who had her hair coloured pink on one side and blue on the other. As you can see from the pictures they really embraced this challenge head-on.

"We had tremendous support from Clipsal, with six of their staff members attending and five of those persuaded to part with their crowning glories. Thank you guys!"



“Everyone was eager to get behind the event and willing to shave their heads or colour their hair.”

Always available to help

Hiddlestone Electrical has been on the go since Clipsal was formed back in 1920 by Vern Hiddlestone's father. Before the turn of that decade the company had begun supporting the community and haven't stopped.

A former councillor, Vern has been involved in a number of community and charity events like Riding for the Disabled, where disabled children get to enjoy horse riding for free. He was the president of the Horse and Pony Club for over 25 years and still helps to set up the venue, food and refreshments for this special cause.

He not only uses his connections to make things happens (like offering the company's accountant for free to help out a charity); Vern also leads by example, by providing his electrical skills for free. He provides his skills for free for local concerts during the summer and also for individuals who are in need.

"I don't charge service charges for pensioners. I go to help at night time, when no one else will. I still do it at 70 years old and go."

I asked Vern if he can remember the first time that the firm was involved in supporting the community. Charity begins at home they say, and for Vern's family business their

community involvement started in the suburb where the company is located and where Vern was born.

"We ran the St John Ambulance in Subiaco when it first started, around about 1925. I have been making myself available all the time for many community projects."

Amongst all the events that Vern is involved in I asked him about his latest community project, which is supporting the Leukaemia Foundation.

"My daughter has a photography company and we started taking free professional photos for children who suffer from leukaemia. My daughter is now a director of the Leukaemia Foundation. When we first started only two children would survive over a two year period, now we are saving eight."



“We ran the St John Ambulance in Subiaco when it first started, around about 1925.”