

**William John Everingham
1937-2011**



SURGEON and Liberal Party president Bill Everingham was born in Brisbane on 5 April, 1937 and died in the state capital in January 2011.

DR WILLIAM Everingham was many things in his lifetime - a Liberal Party president, plastic surgeon and founding member of several organisations - but most of all he was a good friend.

He was a friend not only to those who knew him well and came in their hundreds from around Australia to be at his funeral, but also to many others like the members of his self-styled Wounded Warriors Club - men such as himself with cancer whom he counselled and supported quietly.

Convivial and courteous, he enjoyed people. In all his many fields of activity, it was being with people that he enjoyed most.

Bill Everingham was born in Brisbane at the now-defunct Turrawan Hospital, Clayfield.

His parents, Jack and Arlie, both came from grazing families in the Roma district.

After secondary schooling at Downlands College, Toowoomba, he attended the University of Queensland where he did a year of law before settling into medicine as a Kings College resident.

In 1965, he married Lynn Corbett, who gave birth to two sons, Nicholas and Richard, before the family left for Edinburgh in 1967 where Dr Everingham studied for his fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons.

A year later a third son, Alister, was born but tragically died from SIDS four months later.

Dr Everingham later took up registrar positions with distinguished plastic surgeons in Glasgow and Belfast, where their daughter Julia was born - to a 21-gun salute at the height of the Northern Ireland Troubles.

The next year they returned home to Brisbane and bought a beautiful Queenslander in Taringa where Dr Everingham was to die at home.

He took up appointments at the Mater Hospital and First Military Hospital, Yeronga, and established a practice as a plastic surgeon on Wickham Terrace.

A foundation member of the Australian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, he served on its first committee and spent time in Vanuatu operating on indigenous children with congenital deformities.

One of the greatest passions of his life was politics. Never one to take anything for granted, he investigated and enthusiastically debated all aspects of the political issues of the day.

Those were heady times, with the election of Gough Whitlam's Labor Government.

He helped form the Liberal Party's Ironside branch, named for the state school his children attended. Members held meetings in their homes, an innovation for the day.

Politics had been in his blood. His great-grandfather, the Honourable James Lalor, was the state member for Roma from 1878 to 1888 and then a member for the next 30 years of Queensland's former Upper House.

Dr Everingham became active in the Liberal Party in a variety of positions, culminating in the state presidency in 1990.

A country boy at heart, he always maintained good relations with the National Party and was a strong promoter of the 2008 amalgamation.

It was a measure of his courtesy, as well as his honesty and forthright nature, that he was able to retain friendships while putting forward a strong point of view.

The first Everingham to come to Australia, Matthew Everingham, was a convict on the First Fleet and Dr Everingham was an enthusiastic member of the First Fleeter Association. He was also a foundation and life member of the Stockman's Hall of Fame and on the committee of the Australiana Fund.

Dr Everingham is survived by his wife Lynn; their son Nick, his wife Lisa and sons Jack and Max; their son Richard, his wife Jessica and son Sam; and their daughter Julia Butler, her husband Ed and daughters Arabella and Harriet.