

**7.1 LMM 25/06/2024 - ACKNOWLEDGING GEOF MANSFIELD'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE**

**MOTION:**

That Council:

- 1 Notes that Monday 10 June 2024 marked 50 years of service to the City of Newcastle by Geof Mansfield who commenced as a draftsman cadet in 1974.
- 2 Notes that throughout his 50 years of employment, Geof has provided colleagues with remarkable mentorship, invaluable advice and is widely known as a wealth of knowledge by those he works beside.
- 3 Acknowledges that Geof's input to technical policy and staff development has played a critical role in shaping the City's culture of growth and excellence.
- 4 Acknowledges Geof's many contributions and the significant roles he has fulfilled during the course of his career including:
  - Planner;
  - Development Assessment Team Coordinator;
  - Principal Development Officer;
  - Manager of City Significant Developments;
  - Manager of pre-lodgment DA meetings; and
  - Manager of assessments for State Significant Developments - which is a role he directed for over 10 years.
- 5 Notes through Geof's enduring passion for military history, which was inspired by his father's deployment to Borneo, Geof has been a remarkable City of Newcastle 'council liaison' with the RAAF.
- 6 Awards a Service Medal commemorating Geof's 50 years of service with the City of Newcastle.
- 7 Extends its sincere gratitude to Geof for his hard work, incredibly long record of employment and dedication to the City of Newcastle.



## **BACKGROUND:**

### **GEOF MANSFIELD - 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

- Geof is a baby boomer.
- Geof is a Taurus.
- Geof started at Council on 10 June 1974 (Monday).
- Gordon Anderson was The Lord Mayor when Geof started at CN.
- The Way We Were by Barbara Streisand was the song of the year.
- Movies - Godfather and Blazing Saddles.
- They used to have tea ladies serving Geof tea and biscuits.

#### **Geof's first role in Council:**

- Started work in 1974 as a cadet draftsman.

#### **Roles since being at Council:**

- Planner, Coordinator of Development Assessment Team, Principal Development Officer, Manager of City Significant Development

#### **Passion / hobbies:**

- Military history, Scotch finger biscuits, bad dad jokes, supplying chocolates for great work for pre DAs. His interest in military history, started with his father Douglas Mansfield when he enlisted at the age of 19 and served in Borneo for 5 years. Pinterest collection of articles on war related articles. Loves going to the Clocktower Cafe, walking there at lunchtimes.

#### **How old was Geof when he started?**

- 18

#### **Family:**

- He is a devoted husband, father and grandfather to Annette, two daughters (Jan, Georgia), 4 grandchildren.
- He was the wedding planner for his daughter Georgia's wedding to Kobbie, where he perfected his skills in making table décor, flower arrangements and buying glassware.
- His passion for military history, particularly aircraft was a significant driver of his European holiday with Annette, visiting Gallipoli. And other important historical places.... He makes the trip to Nobbys every Anzac Day, where he participates in the dawn service, and has been known to book himself a room in town so he can be there early.

#### **Most significant achievement while working at CN:**

- While under the leadership of Janet Dore, Council staff were asked to volunteer in tree planting across the LGA. Geof being a community minded person, volunteered and was allocated to a strip on land along Newcastle Road, near the corner Moorehead Road and close to the Marks Hotel. He was involved in the planting of eucalyptus trees. Today stands a healthy crop of trees beautifying one of the busiest roads in Newcastle. On passing the trees and recalling this day to his family, he tells the story and regards as one of his most memorable achievements working at CN.
- In addition to his tree-planting abilities, Geof has provided mentorship and invaluable advice to his team and colleagues. Geof is known for his integrity and reliability, and through his input to staff development and technical policy development, he has played a key role in shaping CNs culture of growth and excellence.

- Geof is CN's 'Council liaison' with the RAAF, along with representatives of other councils and community representatives - I gather that the meetings were dominated by issues raised by Port Stephens residents.
- Geof was the Acting Manager for an extended period when Greg Newton stepped back into phased retirement and the process for recruitment of a permanent replacement got drawn out for, perhaps, a year or more.
- Geof has managed CN's responses to State Significant Development in our LGA as well as managed our Pre-lodgement DA meetings – managed CN processes, comments, assessments for SSDs on behalf of CN for over 10 years.