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Philip Williams

'his passion for chiropractic was contagious'

Chris Hart

It is with great sadness that I advise that one of the current Board members of the *Gonstead Clinical Society* and a great chiropractor, Dr Philip Williams, recently passed away.

Two of our Board members, Drs Ray Murphy and Brennan Rose, who were closely associated with Phil, take us down memory lane in honour of Phil:

Ray Murphy first met Philip Williams in 1975 when he came through Davenport and visited his Alma Mata, *Palmer College*, where Ray was studying, whilst on his way to a Gonstead seminar in Mt. Horeb Wisconsin. Phil was obviously an avid Gonstead practitioner who had graduated from Palmer in 1968 and had set up practice at the Mt. Hawthorn Chiropractic Centre in Mt. Hawthorn, a suburb of Perth in WA.

Phil told Ray that he had become so much more excited, passionate even, about chiropractic having been to a few Gonstead seminars before his graduation.

Ray could sense his passion for straight chiropractic and his excitement for the profession that Ray had also chosen to pursue.

He had come to Palmer with a view to finding an Associate and hopefully, an eventual partner but it had to be one keen on practising straight Gonstead Technique.

Ray was the most senior of the students who fit his requirements as Ray had long since decided that this technique was the only engineeringly sound approach.



When he asked Ray to come to Perth for a look, Ray said '*but it's so far away*.' Phil retorted, 'from what?' - a typical Sandgroper's response. [A 'sandgroper' is an Australian colloquial term for a resident of Perth Western Australia in particular, and South-East WA in general; Ed]

After Ray's graduation in June '76, he decided to visit Perth for a week to get the feel of his practice and the city. Ray and his family didn't go back and signed on as this effervescent man's Associate.

Although he professed to being a hard nosed businessman, Philip was very soft on the inside and was a very generous person.

Ray was certainly one who experienced his generosity especially when deciding to go into partnership with him at the end of 1976. He made it an easy process for Ray with the purchase of half the practice and freehold. There were many occasions when this generosity showed through the tough exterior.

In 1969 Phil had purchased two adjacent houses and practised in one and lived in the other. Watching TV one evening he saw this beautiful young woman on Channel 7 who was presenting the weather, she was also hostess on the Channel 7 kid's show. Her name was Trina Brown, the famous '*Wink*' girl whose offsider on the kids' show was Percy Penguin.

Phil decided there and then that he was going to marry Trina, despite the fact that she was a TV star and had won 2 Logies.

Well, he did, and they had 2 beautiful kids, Rebecca and Rohan.

This was an example of the optimistic and '*go get 'em*' approach that Phil always displayed during Ray's main association with him during their 12 years of partnership.

They built a beautiful clinic together on the site of his initial clinic and adjoined it to the house next door creating a patient lecture room across the back.

Phil was the straightest and most passionate chiropractor that Ray and many others had known.

Ray and Phil had lunch together 3 days every week on their common days in the practice and he would keep Ray fired up for real chiropractic and there was no one better at espousing true chiropractic philosophy and principles than was he.

Ray lost count of the prospective students, students and new graduates that he inspired in his one on one, two or three discussions with them. His passion for chiropractic was contagious.

Brennan notes that Phil was a great supporter of the ACA and held executive positions in the State branch for many years. A political driver for the battle for chiropractic recognition in WA State legislation, and supporter of chiropractic education in Australia. He never lost faith in the importance of recognising the uniqueness of the chiropractic specific adjustment of a subluxation for the overall improvement of one's health.

On this point Dr Mike McKibben remembers Phil as a 'ball of energy' during their trips to the Association Head Office on the East Coast.

Phil was a gifted musician, loved his fishing and crabbing, always left you with encouragement and good will.

Our hearts go out to those he's left behind and including his daughter Rebecca and son Rohan, his ex-wife Trina, his close friend, Jeff, and his adopted nephew and young chiropractic protege Sean.

He will always be an inspiration in chiropractic to us all.

Rest In Peace old friend.



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