

CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG LIVING TREASURES 2005

WESLEY GLEN EGGLESTON

1929 – 2009

Born in Rutherglen, Victoria in 1929 to a miner father and a devout Methodist mother, Wes Eggleston remembers his home as quite primitive. There was no power, no running water and to preserve food they used a koolgardie; a meat safe that swung from a tree. His mother died from tuberculosis when he was only ten but her strong convictions still remain with him. Although a single child he has drawn tremendous support from his extended family over the years.



Wes moved to Springvale over sixty years ago. He was a lay preacher for the Methodist Church for forty five years, something his mother would have encouraged him to do. He joined the Springvale Benevolent Society in the mid 1960s and has been Secretary for thirty eight years. The Society provides emergency aid, furniture, equipment and food vouchers. Wes receives calls for help from agencies or individuals and arranges for volunteers to visit homes and provide relief as needed. He also lobbies for funds to maintain the Society.

Wes describes himself as not really a people person, but his open heart and great generosity are noteworthy. On at least two occasions he has opened his home to a person in dire need of urgent accommodation and permitted them to stay year after year.

As a Probation Officer from 1960 to 1975, Wes regularly visited the homes of children in trouble. He is convinced children should never be taken from their homes and believes that a parents love for their child should always be given a chance. He believes it is far better approach to get involved in working with the families to resolve the problem. He resigned as a Probation Officer in 1975 as he felt it was conflicting with his role as a Justice of the Peace, which he has been since 1973.

The depth of Wes's kind-heartedness and empathy is best expressed with his own simple statement 'You know, you just can't leave people'.