



Newington Medallist 2010

Mr Barry Collins (ON '52) OAM

Kevin Barry Collins commenced his education at Newington in February 1949, leaving in December 1952 after an interesting school life which includes sporting achievements in athletics, cricket and rugby. At the same time Barry was also an enthusiastic and talented tennis player. Barry's lifelong passion for basketball started while he was still at Newington, in 1952.

Not restricted to the sporting fields, Barry was a member of the Newington Library Club and served on the Library Committee in 1952. Since the College was without a library for several years prior to 1949, the Committee decided to build and catalogue a collection over the next few years. In 1951 the library was housed in a new room and re-named the AD Arthur Memorial Library, in honour of long serving senior master, 'Bert' Arthur,

who had died in 1949.

While serving as a Cadet at Newington, Barry also served as Drum Major in the College Bugle and Drum Band. On leaving the College, his student record card noted that he was an 'Excellent Drum Major'. No doubt Barry's enjoyment and experience in the Cadets helped inspire him to undertake his decade of service in the Citizen Military Forces following his National Service in 1953. He continued his military link by joining the Citizens Military Force (1953-1963). During this time Barry joined the NSW Police Force in 1958. He was stationed in Darlinghurst where he crossed paths with many infamous and seedy characters until his retirement in 1980.

Barry's greatest interest however, pre and post his career, has been the growing and propagating of orchids. He is the founding member of the Australasian Native Orchid Society and remains a life member of the Eastern Suburbs Orchid Society. He is a current life member of the Orchid Society of NSW which he joined 45 years ago and was its President for some time. Barry frequently attended State, National and International conferences as a Registrant and has won a number of medals for his cut flower displays. He has also written a number of articles on Orchid Culture. Barry is considered an authority throughout NSW and Australia and was a judge of the NSW Horticultural Society.

One of his many affiliations, Barry is also a life subscriber to the Returned and Services League of Australia and is a member of the Coogee RSL Club where he has been President for the last five years. During ANZAC week he arranges RSL presentations to school children around his district; he also frequently checks on old soldiers in Eastern Suburbs nursing homes and hospitals.

Barry has expanded his interests in the sporting field; managing an eastern suburbs basketball team and has been closely associated with the Randwick Rugby Club, initially as a player and later as a coach. He first joined the City of Sydney Basketball Association 54 years ago as a player, became a coach, then secondary President; he is still a life member. He is also a founder and member of various other sporting clubs in and around the Eastern suburbs.

Returning to Newington after his tremendous involvement in the community, Barry has been an active member of the Old Newingtonians' Union since leaving school which has ultimately led him to become an ONU Council Member and being involved in the 70 Club of which he is currently Chairman. In 2010, Barry became one of two patrons of Newington's Founders Society and reached beyond his own lifetime to become one of the 25 founding members of the Society by bequeathing a gift so that future generations of Newington boys could discover what's possible in their lives.

Barry received his OAM in 2000 for service to the community, particularly through the Australasian Native Orchid Society and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and to amateur basketball. His commitment to the Old Newingtonians' Union, the 70 Club and to philanthropy makes Barry Collins a high achiever and a valued and inspirational member both within the Newington family and outside in the wider community.