

Hospice founder led by example

A CO-FOUNDER of the Gold Coast palliative care service Hopewell Hospice, Ian Mavor dedicated his life to making the world a better place.

He was the third of four children of George and Agnes Mavor, having two older brothers John and Brian and, nine years after him, a sister Shirley.

When Ian was three, his parents moved to Beaudesert for his father to take up a post as primary school teacher.

Beaudesert was to be his childhood home and his parents instilled community commitment in him from a young age.

His father was an organiser on the National Fitness Committee and a Rover leader and his mother, the Ranger leader. The National Fitness Camp at Lamington was established under their leadership.

Ian duly became a Scout and then went on to become the first Beaudesert boy to earn the honour of Queen's Scout, receiving his medal from the Queensland governor.

After completing primary school at Beaudesert, Ian commuted daily by bus to Brisbane State High School.

He then studied teacher training, physical education and theology before being ordained as a Methodist minister and posted to Cunnamulla.

In 1963, Ian married Lola Green and two children were born, Kenneth and Louisa. Louisa died three years ago, from cancer. Ian travelled to England to be with her to the end. Like her father, she was helping others until the day she died.

Ian was a lifelong learner. As well as his bachelor degrees in arts, education and divinity – and diplomas in physical and religious education – he also studied for four years for a doctorate in curriculum studies at Columbia University in New York.

At the same time, he managed a parish at Fisherman's Church in Brooklyn.



IAN GEORGE MAVOR OAM
Minister, educator, hospice founder
Born: October 4, 1938, Brisbane
Died: April 12, 2015, Gold Coast

In 1986, Ian began a five-year term as the fifth Master of Kings College at the University of Queensland.

He was a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators, Dean of the Brisbane College of Theology and Principal Education Officer (Health and Personal Development) at Education Queensland.

In 1993, Ian and Deirdre Hanna, an Anglican chaplain at the Gold Coast Hospital's palliative care ward, were married. Together they founded Hopewell Hospice Service.

It would ultimately include an outreach service, Paradise Kids, the Living Well Centre and Hopewell Educational Services, a transformative education college.

In 1995, Ian was given a British Education Scholarship and Deirdre was awarded a Churchill Fellowship, so they set off to England and north America to study hospice and children's hospice programs.

They then guided Hopewell to growth and success and founded Paradise Kids – for children suffering grief, loss and illness – and a support program for children in hospital.

The Mavors also created a children's hospice program called Paradise Kids Holiday House.

As well as his administrative responsibilities, Ian provided pastoral care at the hospice and taught numerous courses as part of Hopewell Education Services, including in palliative care, grief counselling and suicide intervention, as well as programs with a focus on health, wellbeing and spirituality.

He founded Gamblers Anonymous in Queensland, was chaplain for the Beaudesert branch of the National Servicemen's Association, a member of the Health Community Council of the Gold Coast Health District, a member of the State Council of Palliative Care Queensland and director of Lifeline on the Gold Coast.

In 2002, he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for "service to the community through a range of church, social welfare, education and health groups".

He spoke around the world about integral education, progressive spirituality and Christianity, death and dying and grief and loss.

At home, Ian found much joy in the simple things of life, such as gardening at the hospice, and singing.

He joined the a capella chorus Blenders in 1992 and was an enthusiastic member until his death. He had hoped to travel with the group to New York to show them his parish there, but this was not to be. He was hospitalised soon after his liver cancer was diagnosed last November.

Ian had the rare privilege of celebrating his life with more than 200 family – his son flew from Scotland to attend – and friends at The Village Theatre, Sanctuary Cove in December, thanks to his friend Jan Bradnam organising "Rev Dr Ian George Mavor This is Your Life".

Ian is survived by Deirdre, Ken, stepchildren, and grandchildren.

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