

Community Service Award for 2015

Vi Regal is not a member of our Rotary Club, yet we see her every year helping us and working very hard at our annual Race Day and also at our Swing into Wings Dinner.

Vi is on the Executive of the Shellharbour Lions Club.

Vi has been a regular volunteer at Vinnies Welfare one day a week.

Vi's husband, Gary, was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease two years before his death in 2004. At the time Vi was working as a secretary at a school in Albion Park. She retired from work to look after Gary. Gary had been a very active cyclist before that. He had worked as a fitter and turner at Lysaght's and then became a TAFE teacher. This diagnosis totally changed both their lives.

Gary's brother, Stephen, was then diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and then later Stephen's son, Adam was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease. Stephen has since died but Adam is the young man currently telling his story in the MND advertisements on television.

As a result of all this Vi has been very active working with the Motor Neurone Support Group for nearly 10 years, assisting those who have the disease, their carers and also their families. With all that Vi has experienced she is well able to help these people.

Vi also does a lot of fundraising for the Motor Neurone Disease Association trying to find a cure for the disease.

I think Vi Regal's great desire to help our community through Rotary, Lions and the Motor Neurone Disease Association and Support Group show she is a very worthy recipient of the Rotary Club of Illawarra Sunrise Community Service Award for 2015.