

Glebe District Hockey Club

Life Membership Biography

Margret Jean Howe

Elected life Member to the Glebe District Hockey Club in 2000

Born 30th January, 1948

Died 2011

Margaret Jean Howe (Nee Richardson) was born on the 30th January 1948 in Waverley, and was the second of three daughters to parents, George and Valerie Richardson (nee Payne). She was given the nickname "Joe" when she was born, as she apparently looked like Margaret's grandfather, Joseph Payne. At this time the family lived at Randwick. Margaret's Father George later built a house at Jannali, which at the time was not an easy job with all the post-war shortages. The Richardson family later moved Jannali.



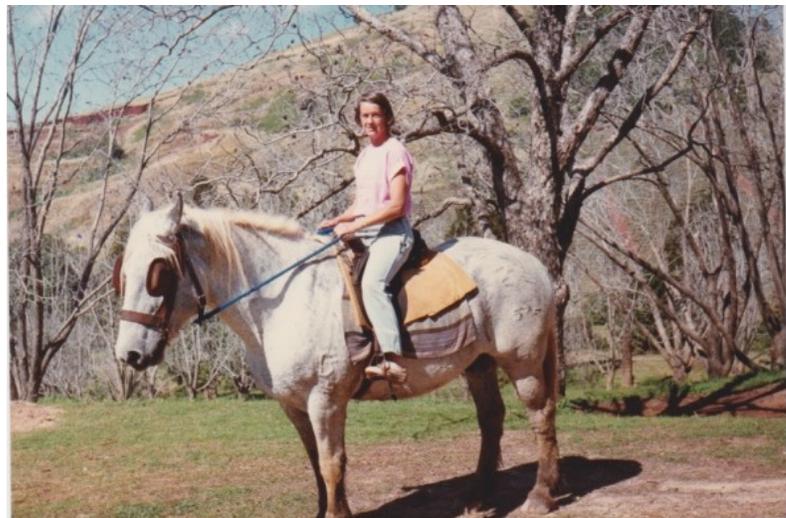
In 1954, the Richardson family moved to Medlow Bath in the Blue Mountains to take over and run the Richardson family general store. The family lived behind the shop and the three Richardson girls would often "help" out by serving customers whilst also managing to read all the comics in between performing their daily duties. Their favourite trick was to eat the middle out of the hot bread, which had just been delivered, from the bakery at Blackheath. From a young age Margaret was always a caring sister and one of Margaret's sisters can remember one birthday; when she was turning 8, that Margaret gave her a shilling's worth of lollies as a present which she was over the moon to receive!! During this time the Richardson Family didn't have TV so every Friday night

the three girls would walk to a friend's place to watch "Bonanza" and enjoy the company of others.

Margaret attended Blackheath Primary School. She was a keen participant in elocution and dancing lessons and won many prizes for her performances in the annual Blackheath Rhododendron Festival.

Also during this the young Richardson family enjoyed hiking around Medlow and Blackheath with their Father George, enjoying family picnics at Megalong Valley with their cousins from Katoomba and attending Sunday School at the Methodist Church at Blackheath where they occupied themselves by trying to count the number of petticoats which the pianist wore.

The three Richardson sisters were all involved with horses over the years. Jenny got her horse, Blacky, when she was nine and we all rode him. The girls spent a lot of time working and riding at the local riding school and also went to Gymkhanas at Megalong Valley.



Margaret next attended Katoomba High School in 1960. She did quite well at school but I remember her complaining about her cooking teacher who took marks off her

because she did not butter the toast all the way to the edges! Margaret also used to recount the story of the English teacher deducting two marks for every incorrect answer so you could get half the words correct and still get zero Like all the family. Margaret was also a keen participant in athletics while at High School and enjoyed the exercise, the competition and camaraderie of her fellow School friends.

In 1962, the Richardson family moved again, this time to Gymea due to Margaret's Mother's Val ill health. Margaret attended Port Hacking High School and stayed there until the end of 5th Year, or the Leaving Certificate, as it was then known. Margaret's hockey career continued during these years – she played both for the school team and also on Saturdays at Jenola Park at Caringbah for the Tartans – one of the well-known, successful A Grade teams at the time. The highlight of the school year was the annual sporting trip to Goulburn with hockey being one of the major sports played and which was a keen participant in.

After Margaret left school, she attended business college where she learnt shorthand and typing and then began work in the head office of “Tom the Cheap Grocer” at Penshurst. Whilst there, she made several lifelong friends with her fellow workers. The grocery chain was taken over a couple of times and went through various name changes. Later Margaret worked for Ian and Wendy O’Brien, Panel beaters, at Taren Point. Wendy was Margaret’s cousin.

Hockey continued to play an important part in Margaret’s life, as it was through Hockey that she met Martin.

In 1967, Margaret’s mother Val died and Margaret basically took over the running of the Richardson household.

Margaret Richardson married Martin Howe on the 29th of March 1969 in a Catholic Church at Gympie. The reception was held at a Function called the Astron, which was a stones throw away from the Church. Shortly after they moved to a flat in Glebe. Eventually they built their new home at Caringbah, which has been the location of many Howe family celebrations over the years. Margaret and Martin’s family grew with the birth of Helen in 1976 and Colleen in 1978 and Margaret



was a devoted wife and mother. I know she would be extremely proud of her daughters today and the hard work she put into them in those early years has paid off. Margaret’s caring nature extended beyond her immediate family to her extended family of many brothers-and sisters- in law, nieces and nephews. She was a loving aunt to my children, Sarah and Byron and Jenny’s children, Val, Charlie, Chris and Ally, even though they all lived far away in Queensland and Canada.

As Margaret’s Father George health declined, Margaret became his carer and devoted a lot of time to him both at his home and after he went into a nursing home until his passing in 1999.

Margaret Howe suffered a severe stroke in July 2000 and Margaret's life was forever changed. She put up a tremendous fight for the next 11½ years, defying all medical expectations. During this time, Martin, Helen and Colleen were unwavering in their support and care of Margaret. Martin always believed that Margaret would recover and he demonstrated his faith and love by his daily visits to her and his constant insistence that she receive the best care possible. I would like to also acknowledge the many other family members and friends who visited Margaret and also supported Martin during this time. Sadly, Margaret lost her battle. I'd like to think that she is now re-united with her beloved Martin and is at peace.

