

BIOGRAPHY OF GARRY GEORGE HULME

(24 OCTOBER 1946-20 NOVEMBER 2008)



Garry Hulme started playing for the Glebe juniors, in the Club's Under 14 Team of 1955, at the age of eight years. The team he started playing in was called Glebe Police Boy's Club Number Two. Players in this team were Paul Ross, P. Russell, L. Mitchell, Rob Batey, Colin Brown, M. Reeves, Garry Hulme, Denis Brown, and Robert Brown, and it was coached by Vernon Turner, 'father' of the Glebe Junior movement.

There is a D. Hulme mentioned in the GDHC Annual Reports of 1950-51, who played in the Glebe Junior teams. I suspect that Garry followed in his older family member, D. Hulme's footsteps, and came down to Jubilee Oval Glebe seeking a game in the Club's junior teams. He played in the Juniors from 1955 to 1962, an eight year period. I estimate that he would have played around 120 junior games for Glebe. In those days Garry lived in the Leichhardt Street area of Glebe.

Garry Hulme in the backyard of his home in Leichhardt Street, Glebe, holding the Pennant he received when the Glebe Fourth Grade team of 1966 won the Sydney Hockey Association Premiership.

In 1962, his last year of Under Sixteen's hockey, Garry made his debut in the Glebe's senior teams, in the fourth grade side of that year. During his hockey career Garry played mainly as a defender.

Harry Wark played in the Club's senior and junior teams with Garry Hulme and remembers Garry well. Harry comments:

"Even as a ten year old, Garry was affable, likeable and obliging. He was a great team person and we all got on well together. We always enjoyed our games win, lose or draw. Garry and I had a sporting relationship that extended over 19-20 years. We were never great buddies, but good friends nevertheless.

Garry was a no frills sort of chap. What you saw was what you got. No airs and graces about Garry. He had a generous nature and was a positive, encouraging individual, not one to dwell on the negatives or hold grudges. He played hockey because he liked the team environment and the esprit de corps that playing with a bunch of friends facilitates. He did not care much about where he played on the field, or what grade he played.

Whether it was third grade or sixth grade Garry was happy just to be involved and having a run around. Positivity emanated from Garry, and he was not one to dwell on the negatives of any situation. Gary was a team player who always thought of the team first, and who consistently passed the ball off to a team mate with better field position than he had. Garry was not one for hero runs. He won several lower grade premierships with the Club.



This photo was taken at Central Park Concord (near Concord Council Chambers) and shows the Premiership winning 1966 Glebe Fourth Grade Team. Back Row L-R Mick Letts, Barry Williams, Allan Westacott, Frank Whiteman, Darryl Fishenden, Peter Hubbitz. Front Row L-R Garry Hulme, Dennis Brown, Unknown, Colin Brown, Paul Cuneen, Graham Lisk.

Garry was never one to over train, but in his younger years was quite quick and fit. Later on he slowed down, put on a bit of weight, and his fitness declined somewhat. He was a skillful hockey player having started playing hockey from a young age.”

The Club's Annual Reports record that Garry played senior hockey from 1962-81, off and on, work, social and domestic commitments permitting. He played a total of 181 senior games over a period spanning twenty years, winning six lower grade premierships in this time. He fitted hockey in around the rest of his life's commitments. Tallying his junior and senior games Garry played over 300 games for Glebe.

"The traditions of a sporting club are built around the life and times of the ordinary people who pass through its ranks. Garry made his mark while he was at Glebe and it is a better Club as a result of him playing for it. Garry was a brick in the wall that established this grand old Club of ours, the GDHC. He was a charitable, kindly soul, friendly and supportive of his teammates and his Club mates. I was a beneficiary of his good humour, encouragement and support in the late 1950s, '60s and '70s. Looking at photos of Garry and photos of the teams in which he played brought back many happy memories for me. I hope Garry is now looking down from above, enjoying looking at them as much as I did." (Harry J. Wark)

Garry was married to Margaret for 33 years. She is a devoted mother and a Registered Nurse in palliative and rehabilitation care. They had three children together Rae Anne, David and Paul. Garry's two grandchildren are Rhiannon Hulme-Clark, 19 years old and Laith Hulme-Clark 14 years old (ages in 2018).

Although he died ten years ago Garry is still greatly missed today by his family and friends.

Rae Anne Hulme provided the following information about her father:

"Dad was the Local Controller of the Canterbury State Emergency Service and led as Task Force Commander for many major disasters in NSW. He received the Order of Australia 14 years ago. Many medals and documents were awarded during his SES years.

Dad had a State Funeral and a verse of his eulogy was read out in Parliament House by Linda Burney, the then Community Services Minister in March 2009.

Dad had a colourful life, and a great life, living it full throttle. As a family we are proud of Dad with all of his accomplishments, and would agree he would be looking down now, smiling with us, as we are reflecting upon his hockey days."

Below is a copy of the Speech delivered in the NSW Parliament by the Honourable Linda Burney on 11 March, 2009 (pms 146 13, LA 0505 2009):

TRIBUTE TO GARRY HULME

LINDA BURNLEY (Canterbury—Minister for Community Services) [1.54 p.m.]: I rise to pay tribute to a much-loved son of the Canterbury area, Garry George Hulme. Garry was born on 24 October 1946 and passed away late last year on 20 November. I would like to pay my respects to him and to his wife, Margaret, their three children and his two grandchildren. The reason I am very committed to making this statement in the House is that Garry gave four decades to the State Emergency Services [SES] in the Canterbury area. He was the controller of Canterbury State Emergency Services when he passed away.

His passing was very sudden; many people were not even aware that Garry was unwell, although he had been ill for quite some time.

He joined the SES in 1970 and over the following years worked tirelessly with a commitment rarely seen even in the volunteer sector. Everyone loved him and respected and recognized that four-decade commitment. He worked towards upgrading facilities for training and the storage of equipment in the SES in our area. He worked closely with the council and I think that to a large degree was why he was so successful in taking the service forward. He also fundraised endlessly. It was so comforting for many people to turn up at weekend fêtes and community events and see Garry and his team in their orange uniforms, drinking a cup of tea and looking extremely together, but also very reassuring. It is also noteworthy that under Garry's leadership the membership of the SES increased and the fundraising efforts were astounding. He worked with community groups, government bodies and business and got donations from many of those sectors.

He became the controller in 1983 and remained in that position until his death in November. He was a well-known identity and his death came as a shock to the whole community. In fact, when I go to events I still expect to see Garry sitting at the SES tent drinking his cup of tea, but of course he is not there. I have been to a number of events in the past few months and have looked for Garry, but I have to say that the SES team in our area are magnificent people and they are carrying on his good work out of respect for Garry and to honour his memory. He was a treasured friend who is remembered for his warmth, humour and approachable nature. Hard work and a positive attitude epitomised the life of Garry Hulme. His funeral was an emotional event. I could not attend but I have spoken to many people who did. One of the beautiful things said at his service was printed on the back of the service notice. It said:

There is no night without a dawning,
No winter without a Spring,
And beyond Death's dark horizon
our hearts once more will sing –
For those who leave us for a while
have only gone away
Out of a restless, careworn world
into a "Brighter day".

When I read that I think about the work of the SES and the fact that they work 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the community, often in very difficult and dangerous circumstances, whether it be it to deal with a fallen tree, a crushed car, a flood, fallen powerlines or a storm. They are there and very often they are the unsung heroes. Of course their work involves not only emergencies. They help run community events and keep them safe and they make sure that people are looked after. One of the things you could rely on Garry Hulme and the SES people in our State for is that you would always get a respectful hello, a great welcome and a sense of safety through their being around. Once again I place on the *Hansard* record my respects to Garry's family and an acknowledgement of his amazing work and the contribution he made throughout his life in the Canterbury area.

Dr ANDREW McDONALD (Macquarie Fields—Parliamentary Secretary) [1.59 p.m.]: I thank the Minister for her private member's statement about Mr Garry Hulme. His loss is a loss for all the people of New South Wales not only because of what he contributed but also for the example he gave as a true community leader. We are all poorer for his passing but grateful for his life, a life well lived.



This photo was taken of some revelers, at the 1966 Glebe Fancy Presentation Night at the Drummoynes Sailing Club. Back Row L-R Garry Hulme, Brian Howe, Fred Letts, Graham Kirkland, Harry Wark, Lindsay Weate, John "Mouse" Cameron. Front Row L-R Billy Cormack, Graham Lisk, Trevor Van de Putt, and Peter Krepp.

Information for Garry's Biography was provided by Harry J. Wark, Rae Anne Hulme and Brett Radcliffe, Historian of the Sydney University Hockey Club.