

From: Murray Mansfield
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It is with sadness that I learned of the passing of long time friend and volleyball stalwart, Eric Hayman.

Eric, aged 85 years, died peacefully as a result of cancer on Saturday morning, 20th July, in Melbourne.

I first met Eric Hayman at a then State League competition at Brighton Leisure Centre in the early 70's, when he was introduced to volleyball for the first time by Russell Newman.

Eric had been identified as a potential Chairman of the Victorian Amateur Volleyball Association (VAVA). He had an engineering background, and was Managing Director of Hayman Reece, a name synonymous with caravanning and towing aids. After his retirement, Eric continued to maintain a small engineering workshop at his home in Malvern, complete with lathe, welders, grinders and other equipment which shared the garage with his beloved Rolls Royce and motor cycle.

Eric had been heavily involved in the sport of wrestling as both a competitor and administrator. He was a wrestling official for Australia at four Olympic Games, in Melbourne, Rome, Tokyo and Mexico, and assistant general team manager at the Munich Olympics, before switching to volleyball. He was also a long term member of the Victorian Olympic Council.

After his election to the Board of the VAVA, Eric was appointed Chairman, immediately exerting his management influence and setting a professional approach to running the sport.

Among his major achievements was the successful hosting of the Asian Volleyball Championships in Melbourne, from which flowed the appointment of Australia's first professional volleyball employee, coach Tomas Santamaria, and subsequently Bob Rowe as first full-time administrator.

Victorian Volleyball continued to grow in numbers and stature under the leadership of Eric, and it was not long before he was elected as Chairman of the Australian Volleyball Federation. Again, Eric presided over a very successful, although sometimes quite turbulent, period of Australian volleyball.

Eric was extremely generous with his time, representing Australia at many international congresses and Asian zone meetings, many at his own expense. He was very well respected in international circles and held a number of positions within the Asian Confederation. In 1980 he was awarded the Order of Australia for his contribution to amateur sport in Australia.

Eric was a keen water skier, and I was privileged to share some great times with him on Lake Eppalock. He was a very active member of the Caravan Trades and Industries Association, a keen motor cycle rider, having ridden to Phillip Island on a regular basis (the last time in 2000) for the motor cycle races, and a keen tourist, especially in his immaculate Rolls Royce.

Eric was instrumental in establishing the Fricson Trust Fund, after the passing of another volleyball legend, Argods Fricsons. This fund provided significant financial support for many junior volleyballers in Victoria and in recent years, supported Victoria's two regional volleyball academies.

Eric was a friend and mentor to many, and a true legend of both Victorian and Australian volleyball.

Murray Mansfield