

GEOFFREY HEAVISIDE: COMMUNITY ACTIVIST, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE LEADER



Geoffrey Frederick Heaviside was enrolled in the Albion State School in the early fifties and had the distinction of being the "best boy" of class 2A in 1952. He was one of the inaugural students at St Albans High School when it started in 1956. His father was also an inaugural member because he was on the school's first Advisory Committee and stayed involved up to and during 1958. Geoff was in Form 3A and a library assistant in 1958 but is not included in the school magazine for 1959, so presumably he left about that time.

Geoff enrolled at the Footscray Institute of Technology for a Certificate in Accountancy. He then went on to take an apprenticeship in Fitting and Machining and became the top apprentice of the four-year course. His work with ICI Australia was between 1960 and 1972 and he served in Mechanical Development and Purchasing and Supply Management.

Between 1973 and 1997 Geoff was the Director and Senior Social Worker of the Sunshine Christian Community Services. He developed and managed a community based welfare service including an extensive financial counselling service. He sat on many local and state coordinating committees, including the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council to which he was appointed in 1977 - he even received a letter of congratulations from John Howard, who was the Federal Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs at the time.



In 1981 Geoff was backing the Victorian Council of Social Services' call against the austerity measures being proposed by the Federal Government's "Razor Gang" and urging action to review the "Henderson Poverty Line".

Between 1997 and 2015 he was the Director and International Health Educator of the Brimbank Community Initiatives group. A long list of his professional affiliations is listed below. After retiring from the full-time workforce he continued his volunteer work as a viral disease epidemiologist.

Geoff attended the St Albans High School's fortieth anniversary celebrations in 1996 and provided the following documents about his background:



Geoff Heaviside (left) at ICI, circa 1970s.



Geoff Heaviside (left) and committee colleagues, date unknown.

REGIONAL NETWORKS & PERSONAL AFFILIATIONS - GEOFF HEAVISIDE

DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATOR - SUNSHINE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Co-Ordinator Sunshine Budget Advisory Service
Brimbank Agencies Network - Brimbank City Council
DSS Community Consultative Forum - Sunshine Agency delegate
Honorary Probation Officer - Western Juvenile Justice Unit
Accredited Community Corrections Volunteer - Sunshine Corrections Centre
Vice President - State Council Probation Officers & Volunteers in Corrections Inc.
Member Victorian Criminal Justice Coalition
Foundation Member Telecom Regional Consumer Council (TRCC) Vic.
Foundation Member National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council
Member Council to Homeless Persons
Member Youth Affairs Council of Victoria (YACVIC)
Co-opted Member Telecom Australia Consumer Council (TACC) Credit Management Working Group
Victorian Council of Social Services - Agency Voting Delegate
Churches AIDS Pastoral Care & Education Committee (CAPE) Member
Victorian Aids Council (V.A.C.) Voting Member
and Member of V.A.C. HIV Aids Support Program - West Group
Western Region Psychiatric Carers Support Group associate member
Motor Neurone Society of Victoria Foundation member
Baptist Social Justice Group Affiliate
Cystic Fibrosis Association of Victoria Member
Christian Counsellors Association Affiliate Member
Ecumenical Coalition for Urban Ministry Member
Australian Association of Urban Mission Member
Family Planning Association of NSW - Healthrites Unit - Agency Representative
Westgate Community Initiatives Group - Member
Western Network for Alcohol & Drug Issues (WESTNADI) Agency delegate
Victorian Welfare Rights Unit Agency delegate
National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations
(N.A.C.R.O.) Agency delegate
Consumer Advocacy & Financial Counselling Association of Victoria (C.A.F.C.A.) Member
Australian Financial Counselling & Credit Reform Association (A.F.C.C.R.A.) Member
Australian Institute of Purchasing & Materials Management Vic (M.A.I.P.M.M.) Member
Australian Institute of Welfare and Community Workers Vic (A.I.W.C.W.) Member
Member & Honorary Auditor - Sunshine Beautification Group Inc.
Affiliate of C.I.A. - Chronic Illness Alliance
V-Net - Victorian Network for the Prevention of Male



MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA 2600

16 JUN 1977

Dear Mr Heaviside,

I write to congratulate you on your appointment to the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council and to express my appreciation for your willingness to serve on the Council.

The Government sees the Council as an important development in the area of consumer affairs and I am confident it will make a valuable contribution to Government policies on consumer affairs.

The initial meeting of the Council will be held in the near future and officers of my Department will be in contact with you shortly in relation to this. Unfortunately, I will probably be overseas when the first meeting is held but I hope to attend the second meeting.

I look forward to receiving the advice of the Council on a wide range of consumer affairs matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Howard".

(John Howard)

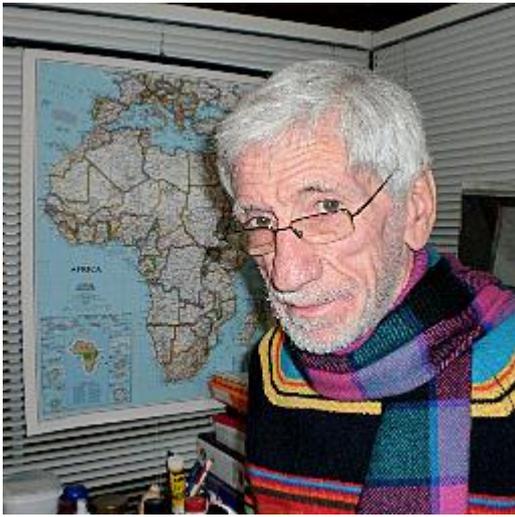
Mr G. F. Heaviside,
5 Brisbane Street,
SUNSHINE. Vic. 3020



Geoff Heaviside and classmates, Form 1D, St Albans High School's inaugural year, 1956.



Geoff Heaviside (right) and 1956 classmates, 2006 Reunion.



Geoff Heaviside, 2015.