

## Ray Gough 1941 – 2020

### Attended Wellesley 1947 – 1954

Born in England in 1941, Ray and his family emigrated to New Zealand post WW2. The family settled in Days Bay and even though only five minutes walk from the College, Ray attended Wellesley as a weekly boarder from 1947 – 1954. Ray's brothers Jeremy and Chris also attended Wellesley as did Ray's two sons Olly and Hayden.

Ray was well known in the swimming and life-saving community. He represented Wellington in swimming from 1966 – 1974 and for over 50 years, he took part in the Kapiti Island to mainland race, winning it in 1970 (and setting the record which still stands today). He also completed the Eastbourne Wharf to Wharf nearly 60 times, winning it 16 times. He and other competitors would warm up for the event by swimming the course in reverse (from Rona Bay to Days Bay).

The Eastbourne community lost one of its most respected and active members in Ray. He had planned to continue his voluntary swim coaching of over 100 kids at Eastern Hutt School (where his son Olly is a teacher) and at the Eastbourne Swimming Club, where he was chief swim coach for 40 years. He had been gradually giving away his cups and medals, "better to give than receive" he would say.

Wellesley is proud to have a copy of Ray's book '*Ray's Story*', published in 2019. In the book, Ray mentions that he never had a swim coach and his favourite poem was "Don't Quit" which sums up a life full of adventure and achievements in and out of the water. Rosie Torbit along with Year 8 pupils Ollie Harland and Henry O'Brien represented Wellesley at Ray's funeral on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July where four secondary school students from Eastbourne spoke of their immense respect and admiration for Ray who had been their coach since first learning to swim. The Senior Swimming Trophy is named 'The Ray Gough Senior Swimming Cup' in memory of a much loved Wellesley old boy.

