



Woman of courage: Delcie Schipp, who had a protracted legal battle with former Wollongong lord mayor George Harrison, has died at Port Kembla Hospital at the age of 70 after losing her fight against cancer.

'Brave' Delcie passes away without seeing a cent of Harrison payout

By JENNY DENNIS

DELICIE Schipp, whose decision to enter into a business partnership with former Wollongong lord mayor George Harrison cost her her life's savings and - some say - her health, has died.

Mrs Schipp succumbed to cancer on Sunday at Port Kembla Hospital's palliative care unit. She was 70.

The former wife of one-time Wollongong alderman Harry Schipp died without seeing a cent of the \$1.2 million the NSW Supreme Court ordered Mr Harrison pay her.

In his July 1998 decision, Justice Cliff Einstein found Mr Harrison had bullied

Mrs Schipp over two property deals in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The ruling ultimately lost Mr Harrison his job as lord mayor and his legal practice after he declared himself bankrupt.

Mrs Schipp was also forced into voluntary bankruptcy in 2003 after Mr Harrison's wife Vania bought a debt the lengthy litigation left Mrs Schipp owing to Law Cover - the insurance company for the solicitors' insurance scheme. Yesterday, when Murray Schipp remembered his mother, he spoke of her courage.

"Mum would have to be the strongest, bravest, person you would meet," he said. "She showed strength in not letting

herself be beaten and throughout her battle with cancer."

She was determined to beat the disease, Mr Schipp said.

"She continually put herself up for new treatments and she never missed a tablet," he said.

But he wanted his mother remembered for more than the battles she fought.

"She was a brilliant musician who sang like a bell," he said. "And over a 25-year career she taught hundreds of Illawarra students to play piano and violin."

Mrs Schipp will be farewelled at a funeral tomorrow at noon at H Parsons Funeral Directors in Wollongong, followed by a private burial.