

NEWS

George Harrison dies after long cancer fight

BY GREG ELLIS

FORMER Wollongong lord mayor, lawyer, developer and restaurant owner George Harrison lost his long battle with cancer on Wednesday morning.

Son Andrew Harrison said his father passed away at 8am.

"He fought hard right up until the end."

Mr Harrison was the lord mayor of Wollongong from March 1999 to September 2002. He was a lawyer in the city for many years and with his wife Vania Harrison founded the family owned Lagoon Seafood Restaurant in the 1980s which his son Andrew still manages and his daughter Jonni also worked at for some time.

Andrew Harrison said his father had kidney cancer that spread to other parts of his body but he was determined to keep going in recent years despite doctors not being able to give him any good long term prognosis.

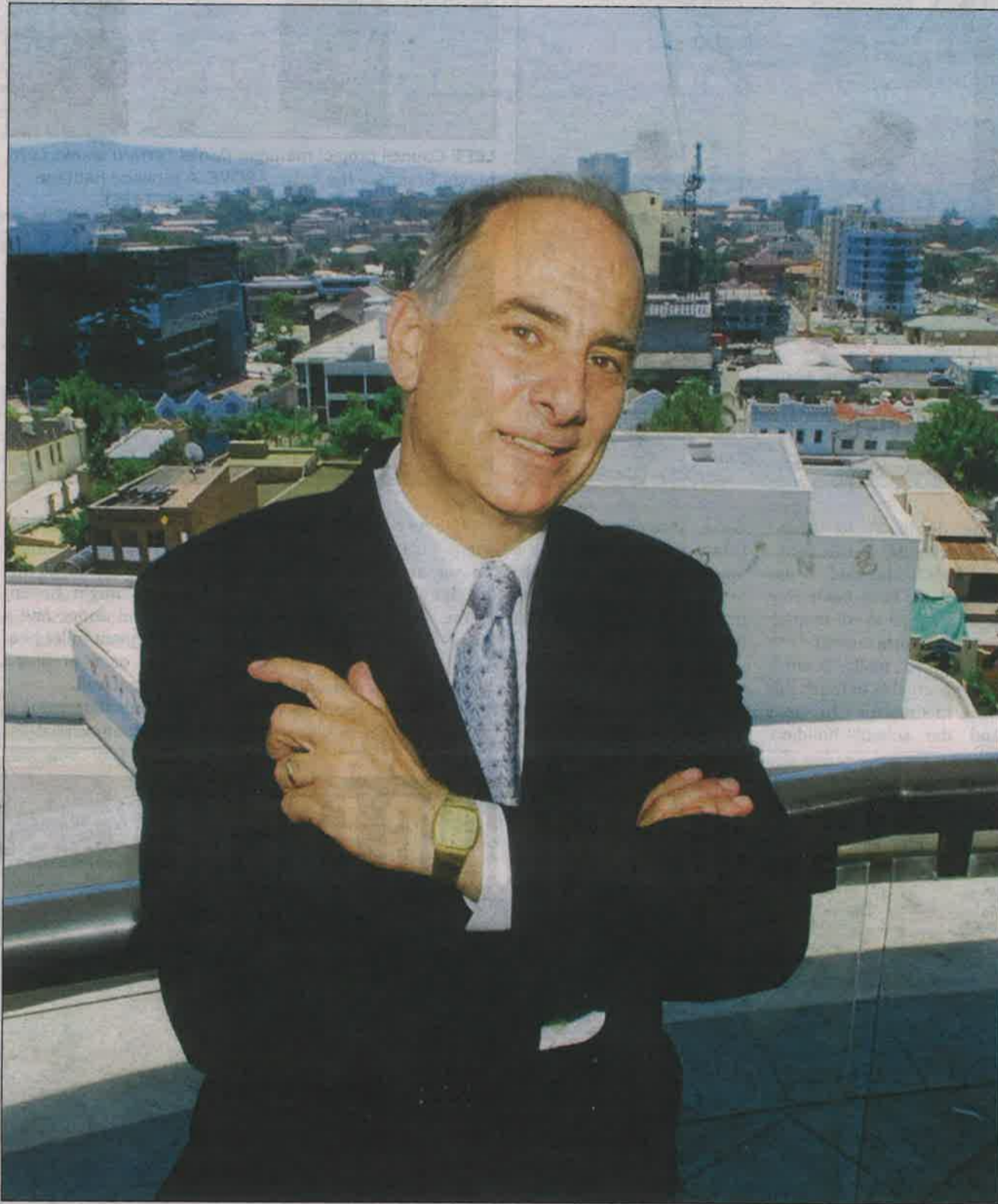
"The family and I are very grateful for all the well wishes. Over the last few months and even years while he has been sick I have blown away with how many people have contacted me to wish him well. He really made an impact with people in this town which I am extremely proud."

Federal Member for Cunningham Sharon Bird said it was a very sad day for the Harrison family.

"I offer my deepest sympathies to Vania, Jonni and Andrew and their families at this time."

Member for Wollongong Paul Scully and Wollongong City lord mayor Gordon Bradbery also extended his sympathy to the family.

"Many will remember George Harrison as he served as the city's Labor Mayor during some very colourful times between 1999 and 2002. He was a man of deep faith in the Christian



LOOKING BACK: George Harrison with the city behind during his time as Wollongong Lord Mayor in 2002. He represented Labor and held the role for almost four years between 1999 and 2002.

Orthodox tradition, and I remember him often speaking of his joy and pride in his children, Andrew and Jonni, and of his grandchildren," Cr Bradbery said.

Mr Harrison's time in politics and business was not without controversy.

The Lagoon restaurant itself was the subject of development breaches in 1999, when the Mercury revealed almost \$100,000 in improvements to the site had not received council approval.

There was also a stoush over a 3m-high wall, a pizza

oven and bar that occurred during Mr Harrison's ALP preselection and subsequent election to the lord mayor's position. The unapproved works eventually were allowed to stay. Two years later, the restaurant was gutted by fire. It was rebuilt and

reopened in 2004.

Mr Harrison's political career ended when he stood down as lord mayor after placing himself in voluntary bankruptcy as a result of an 11-year court battle with a former business partner Delcie Schipp.



Marianne Saliba

Council adopts net-zero target

SHELLHARBOUR City Council (SCC) has given itself 30 years to achieve a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target.

At Tuesday night's meeting, councillors voted to adopt a net-zero targets for the council's operational and community emissions within Shellharbour City by the year 2050.

This was in response to a Mayoral Minute from Marianne Saliba in September requesting support from councillors for officers to prepare a report on "possible pursuing" such a target.

"Councils are increasingly setting net-zero emissions targets in response to the impacts of climate change on their local community and to assist in achieving state, national and international emissions reduction targets," SCC said.



Sarah Mitchell

NEW TRAINEE OPPORTUNITY

A NEW two-year infrastructure traineeship will provide school leavers immediate employment opportunities, Education Minister Sarah Mitchell said.

The program will offer more than 100 school leavers with traineeships in infrastructure-based roles starting from February next year.

The new traineeship is a collaboration between NSW Government infrastructure agencies and "approved industry partners".

Driver committed to stand trial

A YOUNG woman accused of driving a car that struck and killed a 16-year-old push bike rider will face trial next year.

Shellharbour's Dimity Quinlan fronted Wollongong Local Court on Wednesday where she was formally committed to stand trial over the crash.

The 25-year-old woman will fight a charge of dangerous driving occasioning death in NSW District Court in Wollongong.

Her arraignment date was set down for February 2.

The teen was critically injured when he collided with the car while crossing at the traffic lights on Wattle

Road, near Benson Avenue in Shellharbour City Centre, on the evening of February 11 this year.

Paramedics treated the boy for head and chest injuries, before he was flown to Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, in a critical condition.

He tragically succumbed

to his injuries and died in hospital later that night.

She was taken to hospital for mandatory blood and urine testing but released without charge at the time.

Meanwhile, officers from the Southern Crash Investigation Unit launched an inquiry into the collision. Quinlan was subsequently

charged in March.

There are three back-up charges of negligent driving occasioning death, not stopping at a yellow light and exceeding the speed by more than 20km/h that will be transferred to the district court to follow the main charge.

— ASHLEIGH TULLIS