

# The life of Brian is only just beginning

**LOVINGLY** restoring vintage motor cycles will be at the top of the priority list that administrative assistant Brian Andrew Fitzgerald has drafted for his retirement years.

They began at close of business on Friday May 20, when he handed over the position of 'keeper of the book' (of rules) for the CALM Kirup Social Committee for the last time and shared farewell drinks with his colleagues and friends at the district office.

Brian had given more than 44 years sterling service to CALM and the former Forests Department.

The son of steam locomotive driver Charlie Fitzgerald, Brian began employment in November, 1949 as a 'billy boy' in overseer Charlie Moore's gang at Kirup.

He spent the first two summers in the office coordinating and plotting fire reports from east Kirup, Kelson, Carlotta, Seaview, Kirup and Mungilup towers.

He later went on to staff the towers at east Kirup and Kelson and became a regular gang member involved in forest operations.

In 1952, the Australian Army was the lucky recipient of National Service recruit Fitzgerald, posting him at Swanbourne for the required three months.

In 1956, administration officer Tom Davis was transferred to Bus-selton and Brian was

by Peter Bidwell

asked to take over as administration officer of the newly erected Kirup office "on a temporary basis".

He was appointed permanently in 1958 and has filled the position competently for 38 years.

Meanwhile, office worker Judy Kelly caught Brian's eye and they married in 1964, raising three sons, John, Craig and Brett, and a daughter Marise.

Brian has seen the coming and going of 10 district managers, one of whom, Arthur Kelly, became his father-in-law.

Others were Barney White, Dave Lejeune, Jim Edwards, Eric Jenkins, Don Keene, Jon Murch, Peter Beatty and Alan Seymour; I was privileged to be his last.

Brian also served under conservators Stoa-te, Wallace, Harris, Beggs and McNamara, and Executive Director Dr Syd Shea.

In his 44 years' service, Brian has never had a day off on workers' compensation, and leaves behind 18 months of accumulated sick leave entitlements.

In private life, Brian is a respected member of the community, having donated his leisure time liberally to sporting and volunteer organisations.

He has audited more books on a voluntary ba-



Left to right forest ranger Luke Bouwman (the new "keeper of the book"), retiring administrative assistant Brian Fitzgerald, forest ranger Joy Borison and forest workman Steve Thomas. Photo by Peter Bidwell.

sis than he can remember.

In August 1988, he was appointed Justice of the Peace. Brian represented Western Australia in 1973 as a member of the State Clay Target Team, taking fourth place at the Grand Australian Handicap in Adelaide.

He was well known for his prowess in football, golf, badminton and other

sporting activities in his younger days.

In 1964, at the age of 30, Brian won the Allen Medal for football in the Central Districts Association.

It wasn't until later years that he turned to restoring motor cycles and is on his 16th machine at present, with four more to go to reach his target of 20 restorations.

His oldest motor cycle is a 1915 Triumph, once owned by his father who sold it more than 30 years ago. Brian tracked it down in 1983 and has since restored it to its former sleek self.

The youngest motor cycle in his 'fleet' is a 1952 AJS, also fully restored.

Brian is looking forward to attending the Bay to Birdwood Motor Cycle

Rally in Adelaide in September and the Pan Pacific Rally in Dunedin, New Zealand next year.

He has been a member of the Indian Harley Vintage Motor Cycle Club for 19 years and has been its president for three years.

When he's not restoring bikes, Brian can be found riding one of these favourites in a vintage road

rally somewhere around the country.

While wife Judy continues with her career as a teaching aide, Brian will move (much to Judy's delight) into the domestic duties arena.

CALM would like to wish Brian all the best for the future and thank him for his many years of dedicated service.

Additional proof sheet sent to Peter Bidwell @ Kimp 31/05/94 - See reverse →



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Retirement - Brian Fitzgerald - Kirup Dist.

Neq also returned  
{ via internal mail p.m.  
Mon 25/07/24  
as requested by Peter  
Ridwell .