

Vale Wally Blumenfeld – 25 April 2016

(Updated by Melba Shed)

Wally's memorial service is at 1 pm Friday 6 May at the Chapel in Duntroon, Canberra.

He was buried in a private service by his family yesterday (28/4/16) in the Jewish section of the Woden Cemetery.

Many cross country skiers will be sad to know that Wally Blumenfeld died suddenly in Sydney on Monday morning. He had gone to Sydney with his son Michael to march in the Anzac Day parade. He and Michael were out strolling on Sunday night when Wally collapsed suddenly. He recovered consciousness, and was taken to St Vincent's hospital. However, he had another stroke in St Vincents and died later on Monday.

Wally had a strong outdoor ethic. He was a well-known figure in the cross country skiing world. He was a regular at the Perisher Cross Country week, staying at the Navy Lodge. He also liked cycling and bush walking. He had been a volunteer with the SES for over 30 years, and on his retirement from the SES recently, was honoured with interviews on local radio stations and the ABC (tv and radio).

He used to say he had three careers. The first was as a seaman on Norwegian ships where he learnt Norwegian. He later served in the Australian Army in Vietnam, and then became the Registrar of Ships.

Our condolences go to his wife Helen, and his daughter Monique and son Michael and their families.

Wally was a rock, and I never thought I would be writing an obituary for him.

Lachlan Kennedy
President, Canberra Cross Country Ski Club

Wally's service to the community has been widely recognized, most recent on his retirement from the SES at the age of 85. These links will take you to some great stories of a fine man:

- <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-03-23/85-year-old-ses-volunteer-hangs-up-his-harness/7269962>
- <http://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/honour-roll/?view=fullView&recipientID=633>
- <https://www.facebook.com/queanbeyan.ses/>