

Vale Peter ‘Ankles’ Annetts

The HSU today bids goodbye to a dedicated member, a great paramedic, and a passionate unionist, Peter ‘Ankles’ Annetts.

Ankles made helping others his lifelong duty. He will be remembered dearly by his fellow HSU members and scores of friends for his warmth, his sense of humour, and his enormous contribution to workplace campaigns for Ambulance staff.

Ankles started work at NSW Ambulance in 1978 at the age of 22. He became ICP in February 1981, undertaking Course 11. He served many years at the Key St Ambulance Headquarters and did a stint in Batemans Bay. Famously, a character on ‘A Country Practice’ was based on Ankles’ time in the bush – the producers even went as far as naming the character ‘Elbows’!

Ankles passionately believed in fairness in the workplace, and never stopped fighting for justice. An active union member and delegate from early in his career, he was involved in countless campaigns for proper staffing, award negotiations, equity in the workplace, and recognition of the skills and expertise in the job. He helped to change the perception that Ambulance ‘Drivers’ could and would become much more, arguing that they were skilled professionals. In doing so, he helped to lay the foundation for campaigns run by the HSU in decades to come.

In 2017, Ankles was deservedly nominated for Life Membership to the HSU. Unfortunately, he was not well enough to travel to the HSU Conference to receive his award, so HSU Secretary Gerard Hayes made the trip to Ankles’ bedside to present the award alongside his colleagues Warren Cochran and Stephen Flanagan (pictured).

We all honour Ankles’ memory by continuing to fight for that which he held most dear: justice and fairness in the workplace.



In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD