

## COLIN BIEMOND

*Forefather of Warrina Homes*

1927 - 2018

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*Compiled by Narada, Helena, Carolin and Jane*



When Dad and Mum migrated to Australia the Reformed Church became their family. They both had a love for people of the Church; they popped in to Church members for birthdays just like you would your own family and welcomed newly migrated families into their lives.

As time went by, Dad could see that there was nowhere to go for people as they grew older and this concerned him. He was an ideas man and those who knew him would have experienced his assistance and suggestions of things that could help them.

He and Herman van Loon shared their beliefs and envisioned providing care for our Church's people as it became too difficult for them to live in their own homes. I remember going to the van Loons' often to discuss this, combining Herman's engineering skills and Dad's advertising skills.

Initially, it was our home number that was the contact point for people to enquire and then Dad would personally visit, spending significant time helping people who needed a place at Warrina Homes.

When Dad had a good idea he would follow it through with passion and vigour. He spent endless hours interviewing people in the Church, friends of friends and anyone who he thought might be interested and convincing them to share his vision. So many nights were spent visiting and revisiting the good folks of the (initially) Dutch migrant community of Campbelltown and surrounds. This boundless energy contributed significantly to the success of Warrina Homes.

Dad firmly believed he was doing God's work and no-one could shake him from it. His positive attitude was infectious and a great asset to the original team.

One of his plans was that each of the cottages would be fitted with a speaker from the Church so they could listen to the service if they couldn't physically attend. Unfortunately that didn't eventuate, however this was a concept that was well ahead of its time.

Dad spent many years on the Board and would have been very proud to see Jane become a member some five years after he went to be with our Lord. I think for many years he didn't really think he would reside in one of the cottages himself after living right next door for a long time. Mum and Dad however did move into one of the cottages adjacent to the Church, which was a blessing as God was a very prominent part of their life.

Sadly, he did not live to see Mum go into Warrina Park Residential Aged Care, but it brings tears to my eyes when I think Dad was looking after her all her life, by starting Warrina Homes.