

VALE: STEVE "STAINLESS" SCHAEFFER-STEEL

SAILABILITY VICE PRESIDENT

2.11.1952 - 14.8.2014

The life of Steve "Stainless" Schaeffer-Steel was celebrated at the Gregson & Weight funeral chapel at Nambour on Saturday 30 August 2014. Stainless's family were joined by his Army mates, a large contingent from the Queensland Police Service where he made his career for thirty years, and over 200 friends and acquaintances who attended to pay their last respects.

Coast Guard Tin Can Bay Chaplain, John Van der Heijde, led the service with prayers and shared reflections of Stainless's involvement with Coast Guard, where he was a base radio operator (the "Voice of Monday Mornings"), rescue boat crew member and the Flotilla's Emergency Services Liaison Officer.

Stainless's wife Diane spoke of her love for the man and her frustrations, and shared the story of their ongoing issue with mowing lawns. The outcome was Diane 1; Steve nil. A brave face on display from a tough woman, considering her own ongoing illness and her recovery from the injuries sustained in the accident.

Coast Guard's Kelly Lewis read a poem about her youngest daughter's passion for dolphins, and how Stainless taught her to draw them on the white board at the base. Stainless had a wonderful rapport with kids and in some instances was just a big kid himself, as his endless stream of bad jokes can attest to.

Steve Webb, a life-long friend from their early years as constables in mobile patrols together, shared stories of car chases and law enforcement scrapes. Stainless received commendations for bravery during his police service, including disarming a knife-wielding person resisting arrest, and talking down a potential suicide. During his police service, he was involved with the Tactical Response Group (as a marksman) and the Bomb Squad. This was the professional side of the man we did not see.

Alan Dawson spoke on behalf of Sailability of his commitment to the organisation and his love of sailing and sharing that passion with disabled

people. His love of the water was also reflected in his service with the SES where he was a swift-water rescue flood boat operator and instructor.

Stainless's last posting with the QPS was at Charleville and after his retirement, it was natural that he would gravitate to a “quieter” life in Tin Can Bay, where he became a dedicated volunteer with Coast Guard and then, Sailability. At the time of his death, Stainless was Sailability's Vice President and was a member of an Executive endeavouring to fill the massive shoes of President Barry Ryan, who passed away earlier in 2014.

Stainless enjoyed sailing on other people's boats, but had recently purchased an Alien 23 trailer-sailer, which he raced for the first time in the Cooloola Cup in June with mate Jon Jones. They finished last, but Stainless was in the process of having new sails made in preparation for the Spring Regatta in October.

The funeral service concluded with the Ode to the Fallen, read by Steve Webb, the Last Post, observance of one minute's silence, Rouse and the Benediction. A Guard of Honour was formed by the QPS officers, and volunteers from Coast Guard, SES and Sailability.

“Lest We Forget”