

NSW SLOVENIAN COMMUNITY AWARDS 2019

Slovenian Outstanding Volunteer for 2018 Club Triglav Mounties

EMIL FABJANČIČ



Emil (Milan) Fabjančič se je rodil 21.februarja 1941 v Javorju v Primorskem delu Slovenije, na majhni kmetiji. Oče je bil že leto kasneje ubit od Nemcev in mama je ostala sama s tremi otroki, Emil je bil najmlajši. Mama se je ponovno poročila in dobili so še dva otroka.

Po končani osnovni šoli, je Emil šel v vajeniško šolo v Koper, da bi se izučil za mizarja. Njegov starejši brat in sestra sta medtem odšla čez mejo in dalje v Avstralijo in Emil se je kmalu odločil, da bo odšel za njimi. Leta 1959 se je našel v campu v Trstu in nato v Latini in s pomočjo sestre je kmalu prišel k njej v Avstralijo, v Camperdown.

When Emil arrived in Australia in 1959, it was easy to find employment and only a few days later, he was already working on building sites. Emil's, as yet unfinished carpenter training qualifications, still enabled him to get a lot of work for the first two

years. After two years he went with friends to Canberra and there learned to work as a painter and that was his job for most of his working life.

Emil met and made friends with many people from the same region of Slovenia, Primorska, and they attended Slovenian church services and dances together. At a Slovenian dance in Paddington Hall, he met Victoria, a Slovenian girl from Bazovica, who arrived about a year before him to Australia.

They got married in the year 1964. Dr Mikula married them in St. Patrick's church in Sydney. The young couple were fortunate to have the support of relatives. They first lived with Emil's sister Maria, then with his brother Tone, until they bought their own house in Condell Park. Children followed soon after. Their first born was Boris in 1965 and then Sandra in the year 1967. The family became very much involved with the Slovenian community, firstly with the Slovenian Association Sydney and then mostly with the Triglav Club. Both children attended Slovenian school there. They spoke Slovenian so well, that the teachers at their regular school called the parents to remind them that the children needed to learn to speak English as well.

Emil and Victoria did much volunteer work at the club. They were on duty rosters serving at the bar and in the kitchen. Emil also sang with Triglav Choir, performing with them at the Ethnic Festival in the Sydney Opera House. He was also involved with the bocce section, playing regularly. In the later years he was also the president of this bocce section and also member of the club's advisory council.

Emil's grandchildren, Daniel and Nicole, attended the Slomšek School of Slovenian language and often performed at club functions. For years, Emil would bring them around to the club to attend training in Triglav's Junior bocce training program and often supported them by training with them.

After retiring, Emil is still active in the Slovenian Community, within which, he is widely respected.

Emil and his family kept in a contact with the rest of their family at homeland and they often visit them – they all feel firmly grounded in their proud Slovenian heritage.