

NSW SLOVENIAN COMMUNITY AWARDS 2019

Slovenian Outstanding Volunteer for 2018 Slovenian Association Sydney

VLADIMIR CHEH



Vladimir-Vlado Cheh je bil rojen 2.07.1948 v Trnovski Vasi v Slovenskih Goricah kot drugi od sedmih otrok v skromni družini. Njegov oče je bil mizar, mati pa je imela dovolj dela biti mati sedmim otrokom, hkrati pa obdelovati majhen košček zemlje okoli hiše. Življenje ni bilo lahko in Vlado je končal eno leto kovinarske vajeniške šole v Ptujju, potem ga je potreba po zaslužku poslala na delo najprej v Tovarno avtomobilov Maribor kot vajenca na mehanični liniji, nato pa leta 1965 v Avstrijo, kjer je dve leti delal različna dela na gradbiščih, preden se je odločil, da bo poskusil svojo srečo v Avstraliji.

Vlado Cheh arrived in the Bonegilla Migrant camp at the end of 1967, from where he was sent to Matraville and then to Villawood Migrant Camp. His first job was at the Ford Motor Company in Flemington. Soon after his arrival to Sydney, he made his first contacts with Slovenians and developed friendships. With these

young friends, he frequented dances and social activities held by various nationalities. It was at one of these dances that he met his future wife, a Russian girl, Ljuba.

As with all young couples, they had dreams of a bright future. They lived for a couple of years in a rented "garage" in Canley Vale, worked hard and finally had enough money for a deposit to buy a house in Liverpool, where they remained happily for 45 years, until retirement. They have two children, Daniel and Tanya, who were both born there.

Vlado was hard working, skillful and a quick learner. He quickly learned the various professional skills needed in the construction industry. He worked as a concreter, plumber's assistant, but most of the time, as a plasterer. In his later years, he worked for the Housing Commission, where he maintained and cared for Housing Commission houses and flats. This he did for 15 years. Following his retirement, Vlado and Ljuba moved to a new house in Ambarvale, a beautiful home without stairs and more comfortable for their age.

Vlado became involved with the Slovenian Community soon after settling in Sydney, both at Triglav and the Slovenian Association Sydney, both at which, he had a number of friends. In later years he became more involved in the functions of the Slovene Association Sydney and helped wherever he was needed. He was elected into the club's Committee and has served for many years as Vice President of the club. His wife, Ljuba, also became involved, mainly in the kitchen.

All the years of the heavy work caught up with him and in last years of his working life, he was on light duties at work. Only recently, he has undergone major surgery, removing a liver tumor and still needs regular monitoring. Health problems, however, didn't keep him away from 'Društvo' and he still keeps doing most of his duties, even if they also have to be just 'light ones'. Vlado is a great asset to our Slovenian Community!