

Melbourne Weekly Eastern

21/4/09

A moment with Ray Keppie

Mitcham's Ray Keppie is 69 and retired but busier than ever as part of the Melbourne Eastern Branch of the Association of Independent Retirees. He advises others to stay active in retirement

What is the best thing about being retired?

Having time to do things you want to do. Time to pursue our own interests and time to do things together.

What was the toughest thing about working?

My job with an Australian-based multinational company gave me the opportunity to live in a number of cities, and the final posting to Melbourne settled us here. Travelling to work in the city in the final couple of years became tiresome.

How long have you been involved with the Association of Independent Retirees?

Just over four years. I immediately offered to help the membership chairman and finished up with the job. I have since taken on the role of speaker co-ordinator.

What made you get involved? We administer our own superannuation fund and

we felt that discussions with interested retirees could assist us. We have always been volunteers, and so it was natural that I became involved with the committee of management of the Melbourne Eastern branch of the Association.

What is the best advice you can give people who are considering retiring?

Ensure that your finances are in order to enable you to live the lifestyle you expect for the length of your retirement. Maintain a healthy lifestyle both physically and mentally. Expand your usual interests and develop others. I have found the best way to do this is to volunteer your skills and services to worthy organisations who need your help.

Who makes up your family? I have been married to Jan for 44 years. We have two married daughters living in Melbourne and one

in Tunisia. We have six grandchildren – four girls and two boys.

What are the best things they bring to your life? We are a family that is close but with our own space. We support each other in times of difficulty.

You have family in Tunisia – what is the most exotic place you've visited? We have overseas holidays each year and visit Tunisia every second year. Those trips we have combined with trips to Europe, Russia, South Africa, United Kingdom and USA. This year we will tour China. Each has its own attractions and we would return to any of them.

Who do you barrack for in the football?

I support Essendon and enjoy taking my grandson, who is an avid Carlton fan, to the Essendon/Carlton matches.

– Melissa Heagney



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