

A man devoted to family and community

by WENDY CREIGHTON

"My main aim was to go out and do the job, bring the boys home safe, do the paperwork and go home."

In this one sentence, Glenn Sippel, summed up his paramount policy during his 14 years as Boonah Auxiliary Fire Brigade Captain.

It was a policy based on ensuring the fire was out, life and property were safe, his team of Fires returned home unharmed and he fulfilled the legal obligations of paperwork before returning home to his own family as soon as possible.

A life centred on community service and devotion to his family.

Glenn made the comment during an interview in late March following his retirement from the Auxiliary Fire Brigade after more than 43 years of service.

He spoke of his plans to visit his daughter in London during a long-awaited holiday to Europe with his wife Juleen. And he spoke of the couple's intention to become Grey Nomads when the will took them.

"I've been at the community's beck and call for a long time with call outs and other fire related matters, I've enjoyed my time with the brigade, but I decided this year it was time to hang up my hat."

"I've had a few health issues



and I want to be able to hook up the caravan when I want to and take off and I want to play golf when I want to."

Unfortunately, in the weeks following the interview, those health issues were diagnosed as an aggressive form of cancer.

On Monday morning, September 15, Glenn Sippel, 63, passed away.

Tributes to Glenn and condolences to his family began to flow from all parts of the South East Queensland region as soon as the news was heard.

Scenic Rim Mayor, John

Vale: Glenn Sippel

Brent, was among the many who mourned the untimely death.

"On behalf of Scenic Rim Regional Council, I extend my deepest condolences to Juleen and the Sippel family following the passing of Glenn," Cr Brent said.

"I share the profound sense of loss many in the Boonah community are experiencing with the passing of such a well-known and highly regarded

community figure as Glenn.

"I was privileged to know Glenn as a friend for most of his life, but he was familiar to many as a long-serving member and captain of the Boonah Auxiliary Fire Brigade and proprietor of the Hall of Frames.

"Glenn provided more than 43 years of service to the local brigade, including 14 as captain, prior to his retirement less than a year ago.

"Boonah and district will remain in his debt for his dedication and commitment to the community as a protector of

people and property over so many years.

"This selflessness was recognised with a bravery award for the attempted rescue of a child from a house fire in 2010.

"Socially, Glenn was known for his golfing prowess, enjoying many hours on the fairways and greens in his spare time.

"The Boonah community, particularly friends and the firefighting fraternity, share the sadness of his passing with his family."

Cr Brent's sentiments were shared by many who responded to the posting of Glenn's passing on the Guardian Facebook Page.

Facebook posts included:

"Glenn gave so much in so many ways."

"Our community has lost a true gentleman."

"A truly lovely man."

"Thank you for your years of service ... our thoughts are with your family."

"A sad, sad loss ... condolences to the family."

Glenn is survived by his wife Juleen, daughter, Lara and her husband Chris Dawes, daughter Megan and grandchildren, Cooper and Sophie. The funeral service will be held at the Dugandan Lutheran Church on Thursday. (See classifieds for full details).

Photo: PETER TRUER

A tribute from the Assistant Commissioner

CAPTAIN Glenn Sippel (retired) commenced his service as a Queensland auxiliary firefighter on July 7, 1970.

A highly regarded member of the Boonah community, he was appointed to the position of Chief Officer, Boonah Station and subsequently appointed Captain with the formation of a single Queensland Fire Service on July 1, 1990.

As Captain of Boonah station, he

demonstrated exceptional leadership, professional integrity and operations command capability at the numerous emergency incidents he responded to with his station crew not only in the Boonah community but to a range of diverse incidents.

Given his wealth of knowledge and experience, he was a member of various intrastate and interstate Fire and Rescue task force deployment teams,

supporting other communities in their time of need.

His legacy in supporting and developing the professional capability of other firefighters will assure the township of Boonah and people of the surrounding communities will be provided with the highest level fire and rescue community support.

Glenn was a friend and colleague of many in the Queensland Fire and

Emergency Services (QFES) community and his passing is a loss not only to his family but to the many of his firefighting colleagues who hold him in the highest regard.

Glenn retired on February 28, 2014, after 43 years dedicated service.

— Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) South Eastern Region Assistant Commissioner, Peter Beauchamp AFISM