

Notable BHP engineer

OBITUARY

GLADSTONE RONALD RUSSELL

Born: May 19, 1922.
Died: May 6, 2013.
Funeral: St Augustines Church, Merewether, May 14, 2013.

GLADSTONE "Ron" Russell was 15 when he started work as an office boy at BHP Steelworks in 1938. In 1983, he retired as the company's engineering manager.

During those 45 years he carved out a remarkable career in the engineering sector, overseeing several major projects and undertaking overseas tours to research the techniques used in steelworks.

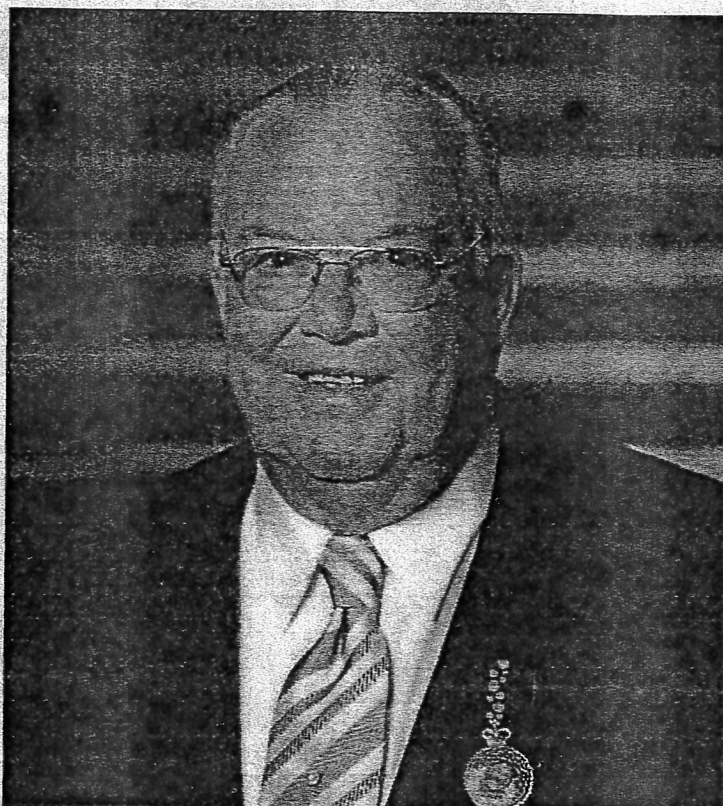
In retirement, Mr Russell became an active board member for a number of Hunter organisations.

He was the first chairman of the Newcastle Bicentenary Engineering Exhibition at the Newcastle Regional Museum and the chairman of the Newcastle Division of the Institution of Engineers Australia.

But his most important contribution to the Hunter during retirement was ensuring talented young men and women had the same chance to rise through the ranks as he did.

As director of HGT Australia, a non-profit training organisation, Mr Russell fought to increase the number of apprenticeships available in the Hunter.

His services to engineering and dedication to the welfare of the



NOTED: Ron Russell received the Order of Australia medal in 2004.

Hunter community as well as his efforts to promote apprenticeships and vocational training earned him an Order of Australia medal in 2004.

As well as a successful career, Mr Russell was a caring and devoted family man.

His family remembers that on more than one occasion he was offered the opportunity to further his career by transferring to BHP's head office in Melbourne.

"Dad always discussed the situation with the family and,

because the family expressed a reluctance to leave Newcastle and other family and friends, he unselfishly gave up the opportunity for further career advancement for his family," his son, Wayne, said.

Born on May 19, 1922, and educated at Newcastle Boys High School, Mr Russell joined BHP in February 1938, becoming an apprentice fitter and turner after his time as an office boy in the drawing office.

In 1947, after earning his

diploma in mechanical engineering at Newcastle Technical College, he was promoted to maintenance foreman – the first step on his upward climb.

In the following years he was appointed leading hand fitter in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Department and maintenance foreman.

Over the next few decades he moved his way through the ranks at BHP, eventually becoming engineering manager in 1974.

In this role, Mr Russell was responsible for the overall planning of Newcastle Steelworks' development, plant maintenance and certain aspects of plant operations. He made nine overseas tours on the company's behalf, including to the United States, the United Kingdom and European countries.

Mr Russell was the construction engineer who controlled most of the major works between 1959 and 1964.

Major projects included the sinter plant, rod mill, BOS plant, boom mill conversion and No. 2 coke ovens battery.

He was a fellow of the Institution of Engineers (Australia) and a chairman of the Newcastle division of that institution.

He was a member of Newcastle Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Hunter Development Board, a Chairman of Hunter Group Apprentices and a board member of the Hunter Plant Operators Training School.

Mr Russell is survived by his wife of 67 years, Norma, and his sons, Wayne, Peter and Steven, and their families.

SAM RIGNEY

Scientist paved way for medicine

CHRISTIAN DE DUVE 1917 – 2013

CHRISTIAN de Duve shared the 1974 Nobel prize in physiology or medicine with Albert Claude and George Palade for discoveries about the internal workings of the cell that have helped to shed light on the causes of genetic and other diseases.

tiny structures within cells and discern their functions.

In 1955 he isolated an acidic enzyme, lysosome, which he concluded was involved in the process of digestion.

Mr De Duve's breakthrough paved the way for the



more than 50 genetic disorders are recognised as the result of defects in lysosomes.

Christian Rene de Duve was born on October 2, 1917, at Thames Ditton, Surrey, where his parents had fled from Belgium during WWI.

After the war they

chemistry in 1945.

In his later years de Duve applied his knowledge of biochemistry to the study of the origins of life. In *Vital Dust: The origin and evolution of life on earth* (1995) he described the development of life from the first biomolecules 4 billion years ago to the complexities of the human mind.

In recent years he suffered