

## **Tribute to Les and Yvonne Spicer**

### **From Graham and Priscilla Gibbs**

When I think of Les and Yvonne, I think of them as a team. As long as I can remember, they worked together.

During the 60s Les was our Youth Group Leader and I was on the committee. There were many planning meetings at Tolerton Avenue, complete with Yvonne's delicious baking. At that stage we had a large youth group and there were many and varied activities, including weekend camps.

Les and Yvonne took a real interest in each of us – spiritually, socially and in terms of our education. They weren't afraid to speak out and we respected them for this.

Another youth group member went so far as to say that many of us wouldn't be where we are today without their support, advice and encouragement. They lived their lives, always displaying their Christian values. For some, Les was the father they didn't have.

They were a talented couple.

Les's engineering skills and handiwork included:

Their wrought iron fence, the pews at the new SA citadel, the motorhome

After a major cyclone in Fiji Les assisted with the reconstruction of damaged buildings

Yvonne of course was well known for her beautiful singing.

Thank you for your lifetime of service and example.

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*Priscilla also sourced this from a cousin who work at The Gisborne Hospital with dad for a short time.*

Les was the foreman of the engineering and maintenance dept of Gisborne Hospital, approximately 7 staff in that dept

He was known to be very particular.

Responsible for :

- kitchen maintenance
- water treatment plant
- monitoring of the city water supply
- adjustable beds in all wards
- hospital water boiler plant /heating
- CSSD unit which sterilizes all the instruments - there is no room for error
- Les was responsible for the store room spare parts - they were meticulously labelled so that they could be found quickly. This was important because any breakdown had to be attended to immediately

He was also a stalwart for the Save the Children Gisborne wide collection - a time consuming role

(Sounds as though he established it, using the Salvation Army model!)