

Community mourns true leader

THE untimely death of one of Westville's unsung heroes is mourned by the entire.

Rod Colenbrander died last week, a month after a cycling accident left him paralysed.

His involvement with the Westville Rotary Club since 1987 was documented in the hearts of fellow Rotarians as he committed himself to this ethic and became involved in community endeavours.

His natural leadership qualities were recognised by his club who nominated him for president within four years of his becoming a member.

Close friend and fellow Rotarian, Richard Fisher, said on the evening of Rod's induction, he introduced his own personal theme, *Communication and Involvement* which he promoted in the years ahead.

"Rod led the way by encouraging discussion and debate, by engaging in projects for the less privileged, by promoting good fellowship and, most of all, by becoming involved. Members of our club who were on Rod's board of directors all testify to his personal commitment to the welfare of the Westville community and beyond," he said.

Under Rod's stewardship, Westville Rotary Club was involved with projects in Chesterville and Sibusisiwe.

Rod supported security for the elderly, substance abuse guidance, environmental projects, the Rotary and Daily News school team speaking competition, the Rotary Youth Exchange programme and a host of fund raising and fellowship activities.

After his presidency Rod became more involved in service to the community.

"He was always on the lookout for worthy causes to assist and ways of raising funds. Rod was also an active member of a committee dealing with vocational aspects of Rotary service.

FIRST

If a job required doing, he was among the first to put his hand up. He was modest and unassuming by nature, but always in the forefront of action," said Richard.

Perhaps one of his greatest achievements during his life and career was his involvement with the KwaZulu-Natal Lotto, and Operation Jumpstart, which has absorbed KZN Lotto.

According to his colleagues and friends, whatever Rod did, it was done with complete engagement and commitment.

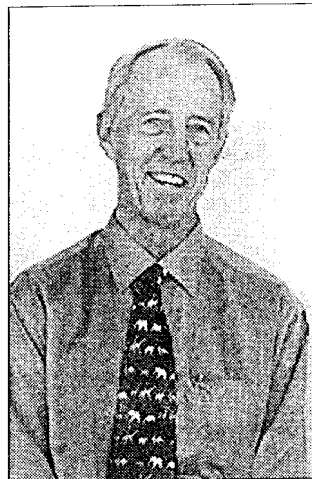
His culminated in his being

awarded the highest honour which Rotary can bestow, the Paul Harris Fellowship Award, which he received five years ago.

"Rod had a quick mind and a wonderful sense of humour. Members of our club shared many happy moments with him and his wife, Bev.

We mourn the untimely death of a fine, compassionate man and a true leader in the community.

"We extend our sincere condolences to Bev, his two sons and other members of his family," said Richard.



Durban stalwart, Rod Colenbrander, died last week.