

Tributes to Ian Devereux, 1940–2020

“So sad to hear of Ian Devereux’s passing. He made an exceptional contribution to sampling and sample preparation in the mineral industry and will be sadly missed. I have fond memories of discussions with Ian at the various sampling conference that I have organised, many of which Ian sponsored.”

“I remember well the early development days of the Boyd and looked forward to the visits from Ian and Ross as we solved many of the world’s problems over some fine wines. The world and our industry has lost a great man.”

“I arrived in the sampling community only as late as the year 2000, but did have occasion to meet Ian, and with his family at home, a number of times in the period 2005–2008 + a series of WCSB conferences. Always a happy man, professionally as well as regards outlook to life, Ian was quite a soul mate, also to me. He showed me around at Rocklabs and his pride in its achievements were a joy to share with him.”

“Ian was one of the true gentlemen of business with a huge personality. Ian was an inspiration to me and a mentor not only with respect to Rocklabs and sample preparation but also in business. Very fond memories for which I thank Ian and his family. He will be missed.”

“Ian was a top man with contagious vision and passion who achieved a significant legacy! We will miss you Ian!”

“I was so fortunate to have been able to call Ian a friend. I’ve met few people who had the natural curiosity, intelligence, drive and practical smarts and pure inventive talent that Ian was gifted with. All of that plus one of the most soft spoken, caring and gentlemanly men I’ve ever met. So many firsts. He revolutionised sample preparation practices and equipment, and set the standard that so many other companies tried to emulate. Finally, as if he had not done enough for the industry he loved he set out to revolutionise and create lab CRMs that were

excellent of quality, but cheap in price so that they could be used at an insertion rate far higher than ever practical before.

I got to see him one last time in Auckland in 2018 with the Scott team and although he was frail and slower of speech his passion for the Geochem lab industry and the team and company that he built shone through. I will miss the talks and friendly arguments we had over how and what type of CRMs to use, prep equipment, procedures and philosophy. He touched and mentored so many, a true legacy second to none. RIP my friend, I’m sure the sample prep lab in heaven needs some mechanical tweaks and a strong pair of hands!”

“I learned from him several things that I have used in my life and work, I heard a lot of histories from him that taught me how to see the life in other way and enjoy his parsimony. I hope to have the chance to talk again with him over there where you are now waiting for all of us... and I will tell him, how I did it.”

“The entire family and staff send their sincere condolences on the passing of this great legacy of a man who has been such an inspirational, knowledgeable revolutionist. He created an amazing legacy that provided employment and added value to so many people across the globe! May he rest in peace.”

“Ian was a remarkable, genius and unforgettable man. He achieved so much in his lifetime. We believe he is dancing in heaven! It was a pleasure and honour to know him.”

“Our sincere condolences from your cousins in the ‘South’. My mother shared very fond memories of Ian with me and how when she stayed on the farm at ‘Moa Flat’, Ian and the sisters would always greet her with warmth. She always admired how the family would ‘Play together, sing together and learn together’. She said Ian was the ‘perfect brother’ and the family was very fortunate to have him. Our love is with you at this time.”

“I grieve for a friend and teacher. I worked with Ian for many years and always admired his extraordinary knowledge, attitude and sense of humour. My family is very grateful for the participation that Ian took in our lives. We grieve and remember his unique smile.”

“Ian was an amazing Man so bright and intelligent, but above that, such a sensitive, caring and sharing Person. Never one to indulge himself with worldly trappings he quietly supported so many individuals and organisations.

From our perspective we will always remember how, when our son was diagnosed with Leukemia, Ian came into the hospital and shared that he just didn’t know what he could do so he went and gave blood. We had many trips and adventures with Rosy and Ian on overseas travels and NZ bike rides. There is still a very vivid vision of him riding his Travel Scoot through the aisles of Selfridges Jewellery department right alongside million dollar watches in display counters, and also riding it into the rear compartment of a London Taxi.

And then there were of course those ice-creams, and the international sausage roll survey. So long Friend and Mate. Go well, have another ice-cream or two and don’t forget the sausage roll survey.

You will be so missed by the family and friends you have left behind.”

“It is with great sadness that I write these few words to acknowledge the warmth and friendship I have had the pleasure to enjoy for many years. Ian was like a father to me and I was proud to represent Rocklabs in Australia during this time. He was always full of enthusiasm and new ideas which he shared with the audiences at conferences and seminars. He was never shy to take on a new challenge. Our first dishwasher (F&P) was earned as a result of this. Above all he was a proud Kiwi with an admiration for all that was good in the world. He was a great man that will be missed by many. Goodbye my friend. Travel in peace.”