

Ronald BUNKER

Tribute by Roy Gori – CEO Citibank

Ron Bunker - the successful business leader - and Ron Bunker the person were one and the same. And for all those that knew and worked with Ron at Citibank over the past 12 years, it is this which will be our lasting memory.

Ron had a great love for Citibank and the people in it. He joined us in 1998 as the managing director of our consumer bank and was later appointed chairman of our board and then most recently vice chairman. It was the same passion and generous spirit that Ron shared so liberally in everything he did - his many efforts for charitable and community causes; the time spent mentoring us; and the many stories he told so lovingly of his grandchildren and children and Misty.

Ron had an easy, but crystal clear way. Even in the year 2000 when he was undergoing serious medical treatment with kidney disease, he held the bank together. He figured out what the term "work/life balance" meant before it entered the corporate dictionary and somehow effortlessly ran a multi-million dollar business, underwent a transplant and maintained his trademark humour. He knew how to surround himself with good people and convince them of his vision. And he knew his way the corporate world. In this context, one of Ron's favourite sayings was "What interests my boss, fascinates me." It was a saying that spoke volumes of how Ron operated his life. It resonated widely.

Ron always gave of himself but he would never tell anyone what to do. He had an uncanny knack of finding the positive in the most complex and difficult situation and then galvanising people to action. He was a true leader.

In the last few years, after our board meetings, Ron was known to saunter into the office of someone he knew, with his mischievous grin and swinging his brief case, sit down and ask how things were going. He would listen with a keen ear, provide wise counsel and always end a conversation with a laugh.

Personally, I treasured my relationship with Ron and our many conversations. Whether it was my need to let off a bit of steam on something that might have been bothering me that day, or whether it was to bounce off an idea or discuss a strategic opportunity, Ron was always there, and in his calm, methodical, and supportive way, the solution, always became very obvious. Ron, for me was a mentor, a leader, an intellect, a change agent, but above all else, a fantastic human being, who was kind, generous, compassionate, thoughtful and considerate.

Ron made this world a better place, the people he interactive with better people, and that will be his greatest legacy.

We will miss him and all that he gave to us.