

SPAR Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

SPAR group loses a true character

When SPAR Coolah owner, Col Young closed his store for the last time at noon on January 23, the SPAR community and the broader retail sector lost one of its true characters and a tireless champion of the underdog.

Respected by his peers and adored by the Coolah community, Col will leave the industry after 19 years with SPAR and move east to Taree where his wife will start a new business.

“It’s been extremely enjoyable and I will definitely miss the Coolah locals, my fellow SPAR retailers and some of the great people at SPAR Australia,” Col said.

“Without exception, the SPAR people have been very helpful and I would like to thank everyone for the support they have given me over nearly two decades.

“I would also like to thank my wife Carol, who prefers to stay out of the limelight, but has given me invaluable assistance over the years. Carol’s work ethic and ability to judge people are unmatched have played a very important role in what we have achieved.”

According to another long-term SPAR retailer, Bob Little, Col was a genuine industry stalwart and a true supporter of the SPAR vision.

“He was the epitome of the country retailer – very community focused, very loyal to the SPAR group and a genuine, salt-of-earth character with a tongue-in-cheek humour that made people laugh,” Bob said.

“He was also a champion of the little guy and he never stopped trying to get a better deal for smaller retailers. He always saw the SPAR group as a family and he was at the core of that family.”

Fellow stalwart, Geoff Ashton, described Col as a likeable character with a quick wit who was much appreciated by his fellow retailers.

“He would always rally the troops to meetings, suggest new and different ways of doing things and he generally kept people on their toes.

“We will all miss him because every industry needs people like Col.”

SPAR Australia CEO, Leigh Carson, said Col was always putting forward new ideas and suggestions to improve the overall business and the situation for his fellow retailers.

“As a founding shareholder who joined the group in 1987, Col was a very positive and loyal member of the SPAR community who made an important contribution over a long period of time. We will all miss him.” Leigh said.

And after nearly 20 years as a tireless and loyal member of the SPAR group Col had one last message for his industry colleagues: “I just want to wish the group every success because we badly need to maintain a strong alternative to IGA. SPAR offers that and does it better than anyone else.”

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