

Leslie Oldfield

B.1941

D. 17 April 2012

Leslie Irene Oldfield (Huggins), former Mayor of Alice Springs from 1983 to 1992, died on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 at Apollo Bay. She was 71 years of age.

Leslie began her time in local government when, at a by-election on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 1978 she was elected as Aldermen.

On the 29th of May of 1980 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Council elected Leslie as Deputy Mayor, and although later "deposed" as Deputy Mayor by the same Council, at a by-election held on the 23 April, 1983 she was elected as Alice Springs' first woman Mayor.

At the general election of 26 May, 1984 Leslie Oldfield was re-elected as Mayor of the 4<sup>th</sup> Council with an overwhelming majority, and she repeated the feat at the May 1988 election of the 5<sup>th</sup> Council.

She was the first Mayor to make it a full-time job, which has been copied by every mayor since.

Leslie was very involved in the whole of the community and she was involved in events ranging right across the community. She was also perceived as a mayor who fought for the independence of the town throughout her nine-year term as Mayor.

Leslie retired from local government at the end of the term of the 5<sup>th</sup> Council, and she married Alan Huggins in the gardens of the Old Timers Museum. They later moved to Apollo Bay in Victoria and they had recently celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary.

After being diagnosed with an aggressive form a cancer she spent the last few months of her life in a palliative care unit at Apollo Bay where her indomitable spirit was on show to the end; raising money for charity by having her hair shaved.

Leslie is survived by her husband, Alan, and Council hopes that his grief may be ameliorated by the knowledge of the great respect and warmth with which she was held.