

Retirement of Ross Black

BMG's founding father, Ross Black, is set to retire on 30 June 2011. The current directors and team at BMG congratulate Ross on a distinguished career and wish him and his family well in his retirement.



ROSS & HIS CAREER

Ross began his career as a trainee accountant in 1966 with Albury firm F W Johnson & Co. To further develop his professional experience and qualifications Ross relocated to Sydney to work with Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co (now KPMG), before serving 18 months in the Army as a National Service conscript.

After completing his army service Ross married Erris, whom he met while working at FW Johnson & Co. and returned to Wodonga in 1975 to start his own Accounting Practice. Erris played an integral part in the everyday running of the practice up until 1978 when it merged with Phillip Worsley and Zyg Roberts, becoming known, as it would be for many years, as Worsley Roberts & Black.

In 1984 Stephen Mamouney joined the firm and Ross and Stephen's association continues to this day.

Steady growth saw the firm (now known as Worsley, Black and Partners) emerge to eventually become BRW's ninth largest accounting firm in regional Australia.

Ross's vision has always been based on his personal commitment to his clients. In the 1980's he recognized that to be able to offer the breadth and quality of advice clients required, the firms services needed to expand to incorporate Financial Planning, an industry very much in its infancy. Over the next decade Ross completed the formal studies and become accredited as a Certified Financial Planner.

In 1998, with the imminent introduction of GST and the 'new tax system', Ross & Stephen recognised the need for a more advanced business model. This model went on to become the founding principal of BMG Partners, offering a broad range of quality Accounting, Superannuation and Financial Planning services under the one roof.

Ross' brother Vince joined the firm in 1993 to assist in the rapid growth of the Financial Planning side of the business. Its success culminated in BMG being awarded Australia's Financial Planning firm of the year in 2001. Ross enjoyed working successfully alongside Vince until Vince's retirement in 2009.

In the years between 2000 and 2010 Ross developed a specialist knowledge in Estate and Business Succession Planning and Risk Insurance, as well as maintaining a high standard of tax and general business advice to his clients.

Ross has always taken great pride in caring for his clients, some of whom joined him back in 1975 and remain valued clients of the firm today. He has always recognised the importance of ensuring that BMG had a highly skilled team and to this end has encouraged team members to undertake continuing professional development to further their careers and enhance their professionalism.

Ross stepped down as a director of BMG in December 2009 after being diagnosed with prostate cancer. Since that time his role has been to ensure that his clients have a smooth transition to their new BMG advisor.

ROSS OUTSIDE WORK

Ross is a committed family man being married to Erris for 38 years with four children – Lisa, Simone, Evette and Andrew, each of whom, at various stages, worked at the BMG offices. Ross is also an extremely proud grandfather to Ned, Clare, Molly and Lucy.

Ross has been an active member of the Wodonga community through his involvement in his Church, Wodonga Football Club and St. Monica's school, as well as a stint as Chairman of Westlands Hostel.

Ross has provided professional support to other community organizations including St Vincent de Paul, Brave Hearts on the Murray and Support after Murder Inc.

ROSS AND RETIREMENT

We don't anticipate Ross to be the type of person to "slow down" in retirement and fully expect he will continue to energetically embrace new challenges including "professional" truck driving, a possible professional golfing career, bike riding (fully kitted out in lycra and trying hard not to break his collarbone...again!), lecturing grandchildren and pestering Erris, among other things.

Ross will certainly remain part of the fabric of BMG into the future and we look forward to him being one of our strongest advocates.

Our thanks to Ross

On behalf of all BMG team members (past and present) we congratulate Ross on a long and successful career and thank him for his tutelage, guidance, compassion and leadership over the past 36 years.

We look forward to maintaining a strong bond with Ross and Erris in the years to come.



Memories, thanks and funny stories from the team at BMG

Rachel Bean

"I started my accounting career with BMG nearly 12 years ago and Ross took me under his wing. Thanks Ross for all your knowledge and support over the years!"

Carmen Jeffcott

"Thanks for being a big part of BMG, I have enjoyed working with you, and for being so much fun at all our team parties."

Darren Yates

"I am very thankful to Ross for recruiting me to BMG and have really enjoyed working with him over the past few years. As a relatively new director of BMG, I commend Ross for transferring the business to us in a very strong position and look forward to carrying his legacy forward here at BMG."

Cassie Capper

"I would like to thank Ross for the support and kindness he has given while working with him over the past 8 years."

Glen Jarvis

"Thank you Ross for the opportunity to work with you and for your contribution to my professional development. Wishing you a long and happy retirement."

Natalie Owens

"A memory I have from my time with Ross at BMG that sticks in my mind always was a day we were in Albury visiting with clients. We stopped in at the Commercial Club for a quick sandwich between client appointments. We sat down and began to eat. Next thing I know Ross is up and off – he had finished his lunch and was off to the next appointment. I was half way through my sandwich! I continued to eat and as expected a couple of minutes later he came back to get me, realising perhaps when he got to the car he was missing something?"

"I will always value Ross' input into my career and ultimately my ongoing relationship with BMG. Ross has always encouraged me and believed that I can achieve whatever I set my mind to. He has been a wonderful mentor and colleague and I have learnt so much from him in the years I have worked with him. He will be very much missed!"

Stephen Mamouney

I would like to congratulate Ross on his great achievement of chartering a career spanning from 1966 - 2011. Ross has always been true to his professional ethics, put his clients first and has been a mentor to the team at BMG.