

# PEOPLE PROFILE

## Kevin Lawler

**Mater Dei Board Member  
and inaugural recipient of the  
Mater Dei Benedictine Community Award.**

**Born:** Barellan, NSW (near Temona & Griffith. Birthplace of Evonne Goolagong & home of the world's biggest tennis racket!)

**Lived:** Barellan, Boorowa NSW (near Yass & Cowra) and Camden

**Education:** Primary at Boorowa. Secondary at St Patrick's College, Goulburn NSW

**Qualifications:** PhC MPS (Pharmacy), The University of Sydney

**Work history:** I have worked as a Pharmacist at Willoughby 1955-57 and then at Boorowa with my father 1957-1965. In 1965 an opportunity arose to manage a pharmacy at Camden, so my wife Joyce and I moved our family to Camden. In 1969, I purchased what is known today as Blooms the Chemist. I sold it a few years ago when I semi-retired in 1994, but still work there every Thursday.

**What you like about your work:** Meeting & helping people

**What you dislike about your work:** Rudeness

**Role models:** Mother Theresa & Nelson Mandela

**Favourite song/s / Movie:** "I still call Australia home" & "It's just a little street" / Australia.

**Currently reading:** The Maher Cup Story by M.V. Sheehan

**Hobbies:** Lawn bowls & gardening

**If you could invite any one you could to a dinner party, who would they be:** My wife, Joyce, and our five children, Michael, Chris, Stephanie, Andrew & Elizabeth, their partners and our 11 grandchildren (*pictured*) aged from 7 months to 23 years old!

**Countries travelled:** UK, Ireland, Singapore, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, China & Canada

**Why are you involved with Mater Dei:** Our youngest daughter Elizabeth, now 40 years old, is disabled. She was fortunate enough to attend Mater Dei. I thank God everyday for Elizabeth's presence in my life. Through her, I have met so many wonderful people. I find the unique Sisters of the Good Samaritan together with the wonderful staff members of Mater Dei very considerate and caring people. Mater Dei is a special place. It is a magnet which can't be neutralized!

**How did you feel receiving the inaugural Benedictine Community Award:** This is an important initiative of Mater Dei and the award is a significant one. Once I got over the shock I felt, and still feel, very humbled.