

# The significance of the life of Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop in respect of community service

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In writing this essay, I have been amazed and inspired by the multifaceted life that Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop led. I always knew about this famous figure, and often passed his memorial statue, but never realised just how much Weary did achieve in his life. However, this essay is addressing the significance of Weary's life in respect of community service, and I'll try to avoid writing another biography of Weary's respected achievements in his schooling, wartime, and prisoner-of-war incarceration. However, I cannot resist mentioning that one of the most remarkable things about this great man is his ironic nickname of Weary, for he continued his tireless dedication to noble pursuits until his passing.

Weary's life was significant, because he saved the lives of others - not only in his vocation as a surgeon to innumerable patients, but also through his defiant sacrifices while a prisoner-of-war. Weary wouldn't accept anyone giving in without struggling for survival, whether this threat was related to health or fellow humans.

Weary's life was significant, because he was a role model. Weary's state funeral was attended by over ten thousand people. This indeed indicates that many felt they could relate to Weary, and would learn from him as an exemplary role model. It was noted that Weary sometimes had a bad temper and disliked authority, and this makes it easier to accept Weary as a fellow human instead of an authoritative figure. Weary still maintained a compassion for all people, and not only his peers.

Weary's life was significant, because of his commitment to others. Weary was enormously generous with his time, the most valuable commitment someone can make. It is a tribute to Weary's generosity that he was heavily involved in such an array of community-focused organisations. There are still numerous ongoing scholarships supporting the community in Weary's name.

Weary's life was significant, because of his compassionate communication. This is exemplified by Weary's complete forgiveness for mistreatment as a prisoner-of-war. Not only did Weary forgive, but he sought to strengthen relations between Australia and Asia. Weary's success in this respect is demonstrated by the plethora of honours and awards bestowed on him, from many different countries. Weary was a true leader, acting on his selfless beliefs for the improvement of all humanity.

In researching Weary's life in more detail, it has been reinforced to me that everyone can make a difference, independent on strengths and weaknesses of character. This has certainly inspired me to consider the broader scope of what I am able to achieve in my own community. Weary's respect was gained through his actions, and not simply by intelligence, birth, or award. With respect to community service, Weary made it clear that a community is not bounded by locale, state, or even by country - Weary saw the whole of humanity as a community, and always endeavoured to serve the whole of humanity.