VALE JIM CORSIE 23/09/1932 - 20/05/2013



SMH: April 29, 2012

It was with much sadness that we learned of the passing of our founding father and charter president Jim Corsie on Monday 20th May, 2013 from pancreatic cancer.

For some he was 'Gentleman Jim', others saw him as a much more colourful character. For all of us, as members of the Rotary Club of Albert Park, we are indebted to him for bringing us together and establishing the culture that is RCAP.

Jim's 'colourful side', apart from the sartorial variety, included some 'outside the circle' ideas for Rotary, one of which became RCAP. His vision was a club of A-type personalities, not already steeped in Rotary culture, rules & formality, who would bring in fresh ideas unconstrained by the existing rules & thinking. Not afraid of a bit of a 'stoush', Jim considered a robust debate about new ideas the sign of a healthy organisation (he had spent nearly 40 working years with Norwich Insurance, starting in its home town, before moving on to Singapore then Australia). Many of these ideas are now, 20 years on, starting to filter their way into changes in the wider Rotary world.

For those who have not met or did not get to know him, Jim & his wife Ann retired to a farm at Princetown, near Port Campbell, when the club was about 5 years old. He then became 'farmer Jim' for some years, arriving at club meetings with about 50 cartons of eggs from his 'happy chooks'. Most of these were pre-ordered by club members keen to get guaranteed free-range produce. When the farm became a little too much for them to handle, they moved a little further down the coast to Peterborough – closer to the golf course at Timboon.

Jim & Ann had three daughters, Alison, Trina & Fiona, and one son, Iain. Trina became an early member of RCAP but succumbed to breast cancer in 1999. Son Iain died from a heart condition in 2007 leaving a young wife, Carmel, who is legally blind, and pre-school age children. Jim was actively involved in supporting his daughter-in-law and grandchildren to the end, and his care, attention & financial acumen will be sorely missed by them.

Our greatest thanks to Jim is to maintain RCAP as his legacy – constantly evolving and forever different.

David Gorman

A photo albumn has been created at http://www.clubrunner.ca/portal/Journals/JournalDetails.aspx?accountid=4551&jid=53637