

# Vale John Pohl – died 27 March 2020



By his daughters Tanya Andrews and Alissa Pfitzner

**During this sad time, it has been nice to reflect on the lovely memories dad has left us.**

Dad first and foremost was a family man. “Family comes first.” This was his mantra and he would always ensure that he was there for us. He loved spending time with us whether it was for Sunday lunch, helping build a cubby house, visiting us in whichever continent we were living or just giving us a phone call to catch up on the gossip. Whenever he visited us, he would find something that needed to be fixed which necessitated a trip Bunnings with his sons-in-law, which was mostly an excuse to get a sausage sandwich! Dad adored his grandchildren and was always looking for things to buy or do for them. He was a very special part of their lives – his granddaughter Scarlett looked forward to checking the mail every day as Dad has sent her a book every week since she was a baby. Having spent the majority of his working life as a teacher, our education and that of his grandchildren was always something that he took a keen interest in.

Dad loved cricket! He started his teaching career as a PE teacher and coached many school cricket teams, a number of which made it all the way to the State Finals at the Adelaide Oval. An excellent fast bowler himself, he played A grade cricket for One Tree Hill for many years and only stopped when his left shoulder finally said ‘no more!’ He was an avid armchair supporter – the cricket was always on TV during the summer and as kids we would be allowed to stay up late to watch the end of the ‘one dayers’ in the era of Border, the Chappell brothers and Boonie! He regularly had animated conversations about the Poms with his son in law Steve (who is British) and it pleased dad no end when the Aussies beat them in the Ashes. Dad also enjoyed watching football and tennis and would regularly travel to Melbourne to see his beloved Carlton play and to watch the Australian Open.



Over the years, Dad had many and varied interests as well as Rotary - he loved being involved. He and mum were strong in their faith and in the late 1970's were foundation members of the Salisbury East Church of Christ which initially met in the local Kindergarten until Dad and a number of the other foundation members worked together to build a church. In the latter years, he was an active member at the Maylands Church of Christ, having served on the Board in various capacities and was their main IT guy for church services! Mum and Dad were deeply involved with Meals on Wheels and Dad carried this on regularly, delivering meals to the community. In recent years he had joined Rostrum in Walkerville and enjoyed the meetings and discussions this brought.

Dad had a passion for growing orchids – over the years our back yard was increasingly overtaken by shade-houses that he built to house his ever-expanding collection. He was an active member of many orchid clubs, in particular the Gawler and Districts Orchid Club where he held various positions over the years and took great delight in presenting his orchids at shows and won numerous awards and medals for his orchids.

It's been hard for dad over the last seven years since he lost the love of his life. They were a couple that lived their lives very much 'together' having met through church in the 1960s. Mum started her working life as a medical secretary and with Dad's encouragement went on to get her teaching qualification. Both loved their jobs as teachers, changing the focus of their careers as the digital age started and embraced the new technologies that were emerging. They even went back to uni and did their Masters Degrees in computing together. Mum and Dad had a lifelong love of travelling which they have passed on to us. Together they visited many places including Vietnam, Europe, UK, America and Asia. Dad loved the Qantas club just as much as the places they visited and would always



arrive at least 2 hours (sometimes even 4 hours!) before the flight to enjoy the delights of the lounge. He would be most disappointed to know that it is closed at the moment. Dad was most chuffed to have finally achieved 'Platinum' status on his Qantas Frequent Flyer account after a lifetime of travelling.

After he lost mum, Rotary was very much a lifeline for dad. With mum's encouragement, he had put in his application for the position of District Governor and in her honour he continued with that application even though he couldn't imagine undertaking the role without her. He was so very proud to serve as District Governor and loved his years as DGE, DG and PDG. Service Above Self was a way of life for dad, it was very much a part of who he was. He never could sit still and didn't like not having something to do, especially for his family, friends and the clubs and causes he committed to.

He is at peace now and can finally put his feet up and rest, reunited with mum. He has much to catch her up on.

**Tanya Andrews and Alissa Pfitzner**