

# ❖ CHARLES STEPHEN HAWTREY ❖

## BACKGROUND

Charles was born in a poor part of London in 1925, the eldest of eight children. He was the first born, and the last remaining sibling. Charles started work long before the age of ten to support his family, trying many careers along the way including brick laying, baking, elephant handling at London Zoo, and the British Army.

In his early 20's Charles and favourite brother Ron worked at London airport refuelling planes when Charles developed his desire to learn to fly. Finally earning his pilot's licence through the help of friends, he took off around the world and flew professionally in distant Canada and Africa. He loved South Africa and enjoyed trying many new careers there where he even ran his own pub for a while in Durban.

Charles returned to London where he met his wife to be, Olive, who went on a date with him believing he was the famous radio and future movie star. They married in 1956 and earned a living from many different endeavours including raising pigs which Olive enjoyed before they were ready to start a family.

In 1958 Charles and Olive moved to Melbourne as "Ten Pound Poms" on a small ship called Fairsky, to find new career opportunities and a better life. Initially he worked as a bus driver and a car salesman before joining Australian Fixed Trusts where he became their top salesman for a number of years running. Working in this field brought him in contact with many retirees and gave him the idea to start his first small development in Melbourne for the over 50's.



## BUDERIM LIFE AND COMMUNITY

On a trip back to London to visit family, new Brisbane friends suggested that Buderim was a warm place which well suited ginger growing and would therefore likely suit Australian retirees. In 1967 he came to Buderim where he bought seventy acres with the plan to build a retirement village, the first in Australia called Buderim Gardens. His family stayed in Melbourne and for many years Charles would drive from Buderim to Melbourne and back most weekends. He continued to work for Australian Fixed Trusts and in car sales in his spare time to help pay the bills. They finally all moved to Buderim in 1976. As a family they completed Buderim Gardens in 1989, with 400 homes and apartments by then.

The family bought two further properties in Buderim that became EdenLea, with the first homes beginning in 1993 and the first residents moving in 1994. They sold Buderim Gardens in 2000 to concentrate on EdenLea.

Charles and Olive had three children Janine, David and Vanessa. Sadly, Janine passed away aged 15, which devastated Charles. In the 1990's Charles and Olive parted ways but remained good friends. Charles met new partner Coralie and they began their new lives together, working hard, and enjoying some welldeserved travel, including continuing the trips back to visit UK family. Sadly Charles lost Coralie three years before he passed away.

Charles was a people person who loved telling the stories of his life and learning from others. He had a very strong work ethic, generally working seven days a week and forging a better future for his family and community. In his later years, he became interested in bee keeping as his first real hobby in decades.

Charles passed away at the age of 93 in March 2019. He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered. He was a pioneer in developing communities for older Australians.