

❖ GRAHAM WILLIAM LACEY ❖

Graham Lacey was born in Rockhampton in October 1936. He was the only child of William and Thelma Lacey. At that time, William who was specialising in statistics, was employed by the Queensland Railways. When Graham was 13, his father was recruited to work in the fledgling Queensland Tourism organisation. Graham was a diligent student and through his secondary and tertiary years he was awarded many bursaries and scholarships.

Graham pursued degrees in Chemical Engineering, Economics and later a Master's Degree in Business Administration. All these were the backbone of his career which took him and his family as expats around the world. BHP initially employed Graham as a young graduate. He was transferred to Melbourne where he met and married his first wife, Shirley. Soon after they embarked on their initial international home of New York. Their son, David was born there.

Queensland was always home to Graham, so he and Shirley with their 3 children (David, Susan and Kirsten) moved to Sunny Bank Hills, Brisbane. After this, another international move to Michigan, USA occurred when Graham was recruited by Dow Chemicals. Other homes including Hong Kong and Melbourne were postings, before Graham and Shirley retired to 24 Eckersley Avenue, Buderim. The interim years saw the family taking the long drive to from Melbourne to Buderim to spend their annual Christmas holidays.

Graham was a great Dad always supporting his children in their academic pursuits as well as their natural curiosities. Creativity in painting and storytelling and his involvement in model trains, sailing and fishing and tropical fish kept him active and interested in a wide scope of pastimes. Graham was a real buff with technology and he transferred his knowledge in this area to develop sophisticated home entertainment systems. His children recall how turning on the television was an event.

Having never been idle, Graham turned to his local community of Buderim in his latter years. He was actively involved in U3A providing much encouragement and education to his cohorts. Neighbourhood Watch was another area he was intimately involved. Here his organisational skills were utilised as area coordinator for the Eckersley Avenue patch. Buderim MAC Users group was yet another academic gift to his community.

Giving of time to others didn't prevent him staying dedicated to his fitness. He was an enthusiastic runner and beach walker and consistently attended his gym. He maintained these pursuits until his passing.

Philanthropy and Christian teaching were his discreet and generous gifts. As a founding ambassador of Buderim Foundation he appreciated the Buderim community's need for long term support and dedication.

Graham and Shirley were married for 40 years; a life shared in many world places and finally in Buderim where Shirley's parents had farmed. After Shirley's passing, Graham stayed on in Eckersley Avenue.

He met and married Beverley in 2003. Together they continued community work both within their local area and their Christian community. Many a time, a house full of enthusiasts from whatever group would be enjoying their generosity in learning and social times, as well as good food.

Together Graham and Bev enjoyed the social bounty of the Sunshine Coast and travelled to the many corners of the world.

Graham was known as a kind and considerate gentleman who retained these wonderful qualities even as he declined in health. He was always ready to lend a helping hand and share his wisdom. He finally succumbed to cancer in November 2018.

