

## **The Eulogy read by Funeral Celebrant Jill Parnham JP**

While sitting with Graham's family, they shared with me a little of his life canvas, and I have the honour of sharing that with you on their behalf.

Graham Ernest Barron was born on the 19th March 1942 in York, Western Australia, the youngest child of Jack Barron and Dolly (nee Reynolds). Graham had 3 brothers, Les, Max and Geoff, and two sisters, Val and Elaine.

Before Graham started school the family moved to Perth, and Graham was educated in Subiaco. After leaving school, Graham entered into a Baker's Apprenticeship with Brown and Burns in Subiaco. He then worked for Begley's Engineering as a Steel Worker before working as a Plumber. Graham also worked as a Mechanic, in the Pits for Jerry McGInty, who drove at the Speedway.

Graham's introduction to Barbara Holmes, was not an easy one as he used to drive up and down her street at a fast pace and slide sideways into the driveway, and her mother used to tell her to NEVER go out with this lad! However, Graham and Barbara did meet and eventually married in St. Hilda's Anglican Church in View Street, North Perth in 1964.

This marriage welcomed two children, Leanne and Michael. Graham is remembered as a Dad who supported his children in any way he was able. There were many trips to Mandalay Caravan Park in Busselton for holidays when the children were young as well as times spent in Myalup. Remembered was the time Graham tried to water ski, and he was terrified as he was sure he had seen a shark in the water, a shark which turned out to be a porpoise!

There were many days spent in Mandurah, Prawning and Crabbing as well.

In support of his son, Graham became the coach of Michael's T Ball Team, and supported not only Leanne, but also her daughter's when they were Dancing for many years. He often thought the second half of the concerts were better than the first half, as he popped over the road at Intermission from the Regal Theatre in Subiaco to enjoy a quick beer.

Barbara and Graham eventually went their separate ways.

In 1988, Graham met Margaret Hunt through a mutual friend, and together they remained until his final days. This meeting blended their two families together.

Graham and Margaret had many camping trips together to places like Margaret River and Augusta, sometimes just the two of them and on other occasions with Graham's Kayaking Club – the Over 45's Kayak Club of which he was a member for 15 years, and served as the President from 2010 to 2012.

The couple also enjoyed time in Tasmania and the Snowy Mountains where his adventurous spirit saw him ride on a Skidoo.

Graham loved the water, and spent as much time as he could enjoying his time on it. When his grandchildren were young, he would put them in his Kayak and drag them along with a rope tied to the Kayak.

Graham followed the West Coast Eagles, and also Subiaco in the local League, despite in his earlier days he was the Water Runner for the East Perth Football Club. His sporting attributes did not stop there, as Graham was also a League 10 Pin Bowler at the Rosemount Club where he gained his 300 Pin on one occasion. This sport took him to Exmouth with his team-mates on occasions when they would go up to play against the Americans serving on the Base. The American team would also on occasions join them at Rosemount to play a tournament.

Golf was another sport Graham enjoyed at times with his good mate Ken.

When he wasn't keeping himself active in his Kayak, Graham could be found in his shed, his haven.... no children allowed!! Here he put his many skills he had learned through his working life to good use and made and created many things. Graham was a handyman around the home; he could fix anything and loved tinkering for hours in his shed.

Leanne recalled one Christmas when she had to ring Graham at midnight to help finish putting a swing set up for her children. Ivan and a mate, after a few Christmas cheers tried to do it, but sadly their skills lacked as they had put the slide upside down. Graham gladly went around and rectified the problem, not to disappoint his Grandchildren on Christmas Day. On many occasions he had also put together Christmas bikes and other toys to ensure they were ready for the delighted children.

Graham had been unwell for some time and after a lengthy stay in hospital he was taken into care at Juniper Annesley Aged Care in Bentley four weeks prior to his death, and this was where he passed away on the 2nd July. Graham, you have left behind memories of a happy go lucky, loving man who will always be remembered, and you will be sadly missed by all your loved ones.