

## **Obituary for Paul Collyer**

Paul Alfred Collyer, the second of four sons of Lou and Selma Collyer (nee Thiele) was born at Box Hill, Victoria on 3 March 1935. He was baptised shortly after on 7 April by Pastor A.E. Brauer at St John's Lutheran Church, Melbourne. Soon after this, he moved with his parents and older brother John to Doncaster. His younger brothers, Eric and Hugh were born after the move. The family lived on an orchard property and spent many happy years together living in a rural setting of fruit trees.

Paul, along with his brothers, attended Doncaster State School and after completing his primary schooling there, went on to Carey Baptist Grammar School in Kew. After leaving school he worked at Queen's Bridge Motors in South Melbourne where his father was company secretary at the time. He first worked in their tractor division at Port Melbourne and then in the spare parts division at South Melbourne. Paul often recalled an occasion in 1949 when his father brought home for the weekend a brand new Holden car just prior to its official release to the public. It attracted a great deal of curiosity and interest amongst neighbours and others who saw it.

In 1959, he felt the call to serve his Lord and Saviour in New Guinea and accepted a position with the American Lutheran Mission (Missouri Synod) based at Wabag in the Western Highlands where he was responsible as store manager for the purchase and distribution of store supplies. His only means of transport to outlying areas was a motor bike that could traverse the steep, rugged terrain along rough roads that were impassable on occasions.

Following his return from New Guinea in 1964, Paul renewed contact with the love of his life, Edna Stasinowsky, also a member of St Paul's Lutheran Church, Box Hill. A friendship blossomed and soon led to their engagement. They were married at St Paul's on 10 September 1966, and later that year purchased the Collyer house at 1 Camelia Street, Box Hill after Paul's parents had moved to "Friedensruh" at Doncaster, the family home of Paul's mother to care for her sister, Elsa.

Paul and Edna were the loving parents of two children, Nicholas born in 1969 and Pauline in 1972. Theirs was a happy childhood with their parents at Camelia Street and subsequently at Doncaster.

In 1972, Paul was appointed Director of Finance and Administration for the Royal Guide Dogs Association at Kew, Victoria, a position he held until his retirement in 2000. During his time there, he was responsible for the planning and implementation of a number of capital works projects including a new resources centre, new residential accommodation facility for clients, as well as a new breeding complex and dog kennels.

During the early years of retirement, both Paul and Edna were blessed with good health and enjoyed several memorable trips in their caravan.

In 1981 they purchased "Friedensruh" from Manningham City Council and in the years that followed undertook extensive renovations to the property. This was their home along with Eric until their move to Adelaide at the close of 2022.

In concluding this tribute, I would like to make brief reference to Paul's strong Christian faith and of his contribution to his church. Throughout his long life, Paul had a firm trust in God's unfailing grace and mercy and knew well that Christ's atoning sacrifice for our sins opened for him the way to eternal life with his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

St Paul's Lutheran Church was his spiritual home for 72 years and in that time he served the congregation as secretary, elder, chairman of the congregation and member of Church Council. He and Edna attended worship services regularly and received the sacrament of Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of their faith.

Paul will be lovingly remembered for his kindness and love to those who knew him.

He is survived by his loving family Nicholas, Jane, Lucian and Olive; Pauline, Michael, Zoe and Elise; and his brother Eric.

Rest in the arms of your loving Saviour, dear Paul, until we meet again.

"Well done good and faithful servant. Enter now into the joy of your Lord."