



*Vale*  
**Leo Patrick O'Sullivan**

Leo was not in favour of Eulogies and directed that his Eulogy should consist of the date of birth and death, but when you consider that he lived for 89 years some reflection on his life cannot be untold. This eulogy, however will be brief.

Leo Patrick O'Sullivan was born on 1st May 1926 in Wyndham, near Invercargill, New Zealand and he was the third child of Leo and Sara O'Sullivan. His older siblings were Aeneas and Julianna and a few years after Leo's birth, his younger sister Maureen was born.

Leo's father was a schoolteacher and during the depression years he elected to teach in Hawea Flats, Central Otago, a rural school with house and land was attached; where fruit and vegetables could be grown and a few sheep grazed to provide meat.

Times were difficult, but Leo had fond memories of his childhood and the pranks he and his siblings got up to.

Later the family moved to Dunedin and the O'Sullivan children attended secondary school there. Leo was a keen sportsman, playing cricket, rugby, involved in athletics and also joined the Army Cadets. On completion of his secondary schooling Leo enrolled in the Medical faculty of Otago University, to study medicine. His studies were cut short, as he volunteered to join the New Zealand Army and in 1946 found himself on a troop ship bound for Japan with the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, or "J" force. The ship docked at Hiroshima where he saw the horrific damage and carnage caused by the atomic bomb. Leo spent most of the 2 years in Japan around the Yamaguchi region, which is located at the southern end of the main island of Japan.

On returning to New Zealand, Leo stayed in the New Zealand Army Territorials and commenced working in the Tax Department and studying Accountancy part time. Leo and his first wife Beverly were married in 1949. Four children Christine, Geoffery, Teresa and John were born in the early 1950's and their fifth child Frances was born in 1957.

Leo re-joined the New Zealand Army as a commissioned officer and with his family was transferred to Waiorua, which is located in the North Island of New Zealand.

In the early 1960's Leo had finished his accountancy studies and resigned his army commission and he and the family moved to Te Kuiti, establishing an accountancy practice there. In 1969, at the request of Thelma Diegelman, Leo came to Norfolk Island to assist Thelma after the death of her husband Max.

After the failure of his first marriage in the early 1970's Leo set up an accountancy practice in Norfolk Island. This was during the tax and company boom.

In early 1973, Catherine came to Norfolk Island to work for Leo as a newly qualified accountant. They were married in April 1973 and purchased a home at Cascade.

Leo and Catherine continued with the accountancy practice and when a client asked Leo to consider going to Hong Kong to establish a finance and deposit taking company, he accepted the challenge and spent 7 years in Hong Kong, returning to Norfolk, every three months. The position in Hong Kong was very challenging and the Company, which was very successful, was sold to a multi-national.

Leo returned to Norfolk to retire or semi-retire, as by this time Catherine was well established in her own accountancy practice and he could be often seen on the golf course practicing golf with one of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniels tied to the buggy and hoping the dog would pull the buggy along for him. Tennis became another passion and he loved a challenge and played to win. The only problem was that he was extremely deaf and this was very frustrating for his co-players.

When he was not playing golf or tennis he spent the time in the garden, mainly growing vegetables and roses. However, he never just grew enough for the home table, he planted bags of potatoes, trays of vegetables seedlings with everything maturing at once – neighbours and friends were the recipients of this excess.

Leo, until recently, was still spending time in the garden and but with his gradual physical decline and ill health he could be found sitting on the front verandah reading or listening to music accompanied by his faithful little companion "Phoebe".

Leo was passionate about things that he believed in, a lateral thinker, was generous, had a quick wit and a great sense of humour and also a short Irish Paddy and as he said last week "all good things come to an end".

Leo passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday 14 July 2015 after a short illness.

May he rest in peace.

---

## **Thank You**

Catherine O'Sullivan would like to thank the gravediggers, the Sexton Dean Fitzpatrick, the ladies who made the wreaths and the people who donated flowers, Jim and Margaret Kiernan, Fr Paul Shanahan, Tardy and Gavin, Simone James, Milton Bradley, Gary and Lynn Richards, Bev, Phil and Leanne, Louise and Margaret, Cheryl Snell, ambulance personnel, staff of the Norfolk Island Hospital and friends who have sent condolences, delivered meals, given assistance and have been there in my time of need.

---