



*Vale*

## **Trevor Ernest Friend**

**18/1/1925 – 3/9/2020**

Trevor was born the youngest of 3 boys in Willoughby a then outer suburb of Sydney.

Trevor attended Willoughby Public School and for some of the time Chatswood Public School where he was put in a class where there was already a boy with the name Trevor Friend. The teacher asked the new arrival what his second name was and declared that henceforth in school he would be known as Ernie Friend which continued as his name at school and work there-after.

During Ernie's time in secondary school he took up cross country running winning the Hurlstone Cross County for several years and in his final year at Hurlstone he was the NSW all-schools Mile Champion.

After secondary school Ernie applied for Medicine at Sydney University and was accepted to do 1st year Medicine.

He had also applied for a Cadetship with the NSW Department of Agriculture to do Agricultural Science. As the Cadetship provided significant financial assistance this offer was accepted, and he commenced first year in 1944.

During his university period Ernie took up the 1 mile and 2 mile track racings and competed during the track and field season, in the 1 mile one weekend and the 2 mile the other weekend.

He was Sydney University one mile champion for 2 years running, forgive the pun.

Whilst at Sydney University Ernie and his brothers Harry and Don operated a part-time business called Friend Brothers which had considerable success growing cauliflower seed for the major Australian seed merchants. Friend Brothers' first big cauliflower seed growing contract was with United Seed Growers, which had been set up as a war-time organisation under the management of Australia's most outstanding seedsman, Eric C. Rumsey. They also grew flowers and often Ernie would deliver flowers to market in his motorbike.

During this period, he purchased through a loan from a friend a 1,000cc Over-head valve (OHV) Harley-Davidson motorcycle and he formed a view that as the Police were all on Harley-Davidsons which only had side-valve engines, his OVH could accelerate and go faster than them.

Ernie used to kid myself that if he rode over the Sydney Harbour Bridge at 80 to 100 miles per hour (MPH), all the cars going at the speed limit of 30 MPH would appear to be stationary and he would be quite safe.

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## **ACTION PRO HD CAMERA**



### **Specifications**

- LCD 2" display
- Focus 20cm to infinity
- Self timer
- Camera 120 degree wide angle
- Built in Microphone and Speaker
- Waterproof to 100 feet underwater



**\$59.95**

### **Available from The Bounty Centre**

YES, The Bounty Centre is open Monday to Friday 9 am -5pm and Saturday 9am to 12:30pm

Mini Golf Shop and Walk In The Wild is CLOSED for September & October

**The Bounty Centre is a registered Covid-safe business**

### ***Trevor Ernest Friend - continued***

In 1949 Ernie was appointed as an Agronomist in the Division of Plant Industry of the NSW Dept. of Agriculture at its Head Office in Sydney. Ernie was given special responsibility for Seed Certification work, including Bean Seed Certification which was carried out on the south coast of NSW, requiring detailed crop inspections around Moruya, Bodalla, Eurobodalla, Narooma, Cobargo and Bega.

Ernie was also in charge of Potato Seed Certification throughout NSW, and the organisation of district potato trials testing potential new varieties.

In 1955 Ernie transferred from the NSW Department of Agriculture to the Commonwealth Department of Territories as Agricultural Officer for Norfolk Island, with the main responsibility being the operation of the Bean Seed Certification Scheme and the general management of the bean seed industry which at that time was the main source of income for Norfolk Island. As Agricultural Officer he was also responsible for all plant and animal quarantine work. He was always keen to let people know that he lived in No11 Quality Row for some of his time in those early years.

Soon after taking up duty on Norfolk Island, Ernie found that a lot of the cultivation on the farms was being done by rotary hoeing contractors, and that the repeated use of rotary hoes was damaging the soil structure and producing bad sub-surface hard pans. He persuaded the Administrator, Brigadier Hugh Boyd Norman, to purchase a diesel Ferguson tractor with a disc plough and, operated by Agriculture Section staff, to do contract ploughing for the bean seed growers at the cost of one pound per hour.

By setting up a properly equipped seed testing laboratory thus enhancing the confidence that the Australian seed merchants had in Norfolk Island as a source of high quality disease free bean seed Ernie was able to get the seed merchants to adopt a scheme of early payment as soon as the growers delivered their seed to the Administration Bean Shed and it passed the germination test. This was a great advantage to the growers as they previously had to wait for payment until the seed was shipped to Sydney and it passed the merchant's own germination tests.

During this time on Norfolk Ernie met Katherine Adams, through Katherine's brother Bill (Billy Pumper). They were married in Sydney a few years later.

Ernie's children are, from his first marriage, Brian and Michael and from his second marriage (to Katherine) Kim, Robert and Garry (twins), Stuart and Karen.

In 1960 the Department of Territories offered Ernie Friend a transfer to an Agronomist position in New Guinea, but as they did not have married accommodation available there this offer was declined, and an alternative offer of a transfer to Darwin with a new house at Nightcliff was accepted. Ernie worked at Berrimah Research Station, Darwin, N.T. as horticultural research agronomist.

In 1963 Ernie transferred to the Division of Land Research and Regional Survey of CSIRO. He was appointed as the Farm Manager at Coastal Plains Research Station, Humpty Doo. Ernie's research program involved the integration of cattle grazing on rice stubbles after harvesting the grain, and the introduction of legumes to improve the quality of the rice regrowth grazing.

In 1966 Ernie Friend was appointed Senior Agronomist in charge of Research Stations and Extension Work in the Agriculture Branch of the N.T. Administration.

In 1969 Ernie had become very enthusiastic about the enormous increases in beef cattle productivity proven by CSIRO research at Katherine. His liaison with the fertilizer company resulted in him being appointed Zone Agronomist and Zone Manager for the N.T. and Northern Western Australia for ACF & Shirley's Fertilizers Ltd. which subsequently took over Austral-Pacific Fertilizers Ltd and the combined operations became Consolidated Fertilizers Ltd (now Incitec Ltd).

During this period Ernie found another love and that was flying as a friend of his who owned a light aircraft used to let him fly when they travelled together throughout the Northern Territory.

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## ***HEAD FOR THE SHED***

# **Norfolk Island Men's Shed Inc**

***Come and join us at the top of The Village on Wednesday afternoons from 1-3pm.***

## **Want to help with community or individual projects?**

Steve is your man to help yo with your skills. or do you just want to pop in ad relax, play cards, have a cuppa and a chat?... see you there.

Ring Bruce on 53058 or Paul on 23431 for more information on what's happening at the Men's Shed



Australian Men's Shed Association  
SHEDDERS TOGETHER

**The Norfolk  
ISLANDER**



Anglicare



Norfolk Island

KIERNAN  
AGENCIES



### ***Trevor Ernest Friend - continued***

This passion transferred to both Robert and Stuart. Ernie was proud of all his children's achievements but was especially proud that Stu became a professional pilot flying for the RAAF, QANTAS and then Air Vanuatu.

He remembered with a lot of pleasure the time after Stuart got his pilot's licence, they flew from Brisbane to Darwin and back. A great adventure.

He had great adventures such as the time he and a school friend rode their bikes from Sydney to Gosford to Armidale and back to Sydney (sometimes getting a lift in a truck). After the war he rode a horse from the outskirts of Sydney to his family's home so his brother (Don) could have a horse to ride.

During this period our family would spend every year travelling from Darwin to Sydney, sometime via other family's homes and eventually back to Norfolk. We had a caravan and we would tow this across the nation, leaving it at his parents place and travelling back to Norfolk for our end of year holidays before returning back to Sydney hitching up the caravan and driving all the way back to Darwin.

Little did we or Mum know that the NT government would have paid for employees to fly to a capital city every two years and when Mum found out needless to say there were some fireworks in town that night. From then on, we would fly to Sydney every 2 years but still drive every other year.

There were a few very memorable caravanning trips south and one that was retold to us by Mum was an occasion that we travelled to her brother's (Gindie) family in Whyalla. More than half way driving south through the bull dust from Alice Springs, both tyres on the caravan punctured as did two on the Land Cruiser. Dad had only one spare for the Land Cruiser but none for the caravan. So, he flagged down a passing truck who took him and the punctured tyres south to a service station and left mum and us kids on the side of the road in 35+ degrees with 150 million flies.

Eventually a woman from a local homestead came to investigate and found us all and took us in until Dad returned many hours later.

In 1974 (a few months before Cyclone Tracy destroyed much of Darwin) Ernie was transferred to be the Zone Agronomist for Consolidated Fertilizers Ltd based in Bundaberg. He was then transferred to Brisbane to work for a short period for ACF and Shirleys in Little Roma Street and we moved from Bundaberg to Brisbane.

In 1975 Ernie was appointed as Seed Technologist in charge of seed certification for the Department of Primary Industries. During his time in this role he wrote a book titled "Queensland Weed Seeds".

During this part of his life his kids grew up and some moved out. Dad was very supportive of this and would drive for days to come and visit us when he could. He would go and pickup Kim at some cattle station drive to Townsville to visit Rob for a couple of days or Drive to Mareeba when Stuart started teaching there.

He with Mum flew to Adelaide to visit Garry.

He was partial to just hopping in a car or plane and going somewhere to not only see his family but also to enjoy the destination.

Ernie's entered into a period of retirements, yes plural. That is, when he retired from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries, he immediately was re-employed by the Northern Territory Government. When he retired from the NT Government, he was employed by the Norfolk Island Government when he retired again and then was employed by Norfolk Island Tours which he drove bus tours for a number of years. He loved to show visitors the incredible diversity of vegetation on Norfolk and had a special affinity with the Hundred Acres Reserve.

In fact, Ernie retired about 5 times before his retirement finally became a reality.

Due to Mum's ill health, they moved back to Brisbane.

After Mum died in 2014, Dad moved to a Retirement Village, where in his word he had the best apartment in the village (we called it his "penthouse"), with a north-easterly perspective, overlooking maintained lawns and a large pond. He carried a photograph of mum wherever he went. He would often pull the photo out and ask if we knew who this beautiful person was?

Last year due to his failing health, we moved Dad to an aged care home where he peacefully passed away on the 3rd September 2020.

Ernie, Trevor, Dad was a great father and grandfather to Kim, Rob, Garry, Stuart, Karen and their families and tried when he could to see his other two sons, Brian and Michael and their families.



### **Congratulations**

It is with great joy that we announce the engagement of Dustin Menzies and Marguerite Westwood.

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