

Justin's words

The Family Man

Richard was a family man... and loved to be surrounded by happy people having fun.

The family unit was always of optimum importance and central to every decision.

Dad met Mum whilst working together in South Africa and life overseas was always a shared desire, in addition to having a family.

Nigel and my younger years were spent in Malaysia, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Sudan and Malawi and we all had a wonderful time together, with an idyllic expat life style.

Dad had a passion for sailing and fishing and loved to include us in all his adventures, which he saw as character building experiences.

PNG

Our fishing adventures started at an early age. When living in Papua New Guinea at the age of 5 and 7, Dad took Nige and me out on a days fishing expedition. We had an amazing day which we will always remember as Nige and I, ably assisted by 3 or 4 deck hands, brought in a 35 pound (4 foot) Spanish mackerel and Dad caught, gaffed and hauled in, a rather angry looking 6 foot shark

After a day to remember, the three of us returned to shore, with huge grins on our faces, a touch after dark, much to Mum's despair, as she had been fraught with worry, at her two little chicks out at sea....

In Dad's mind, and ours, a character building experience..... Not sure if Mum saw it, in quite the same way....

Malawi

Another exciting trip we remember with much fondness is a sailing trip on lake Malawi.... Whilst Mum was immersed in her book, taking in the rays, Dad took Nige and me out sailing in our small, 5 metre Miracle... 1 hour into the sailing an almighty squall picked up and Nige and I relished the thrill and excitement of leaning as far out as possible in the foot straps, trying to assist in keeping the boat from capsizing....

Again.... after another enthralling afternoon, we returned to the clutches of mother, who was pacing up and down the beach waving frantically for us to come in, pdq....

These were the experiences Dad lived for... the rush of adrenaline which he could so easily control ... turning near disaster, into wonderful , character building experiences....

Dad was one of the most positive people I know... always looking at a situation as an opportunity and relishing a challenge with anticipation and excitement..... whatever issues there may be could be dealt with when they arose...

Told of a business trip to Borneo, out came the jungle walking stick, in case of an opportunity to climb Mount Kinabalu...

A remote island of Papua New Guinea... a fishing opportunity... out came the pink florescent squid like lures, and time to sharpen the hooks, that they concealed.

A trip to Sudan... the relish of sand grouse shooting in the desert.... Better shooting than eating.....

A trip to the Solomons, out came the scuba kit....

One of Dad's envied and wonderful traits was that he never lost control or got overly frustrated, turning potential anger into a positive.

As children, Dad never seemed to get angry with us... and always seemed to come from the point of view, that we were all naughty boys once.... If misbehaving.. there must be a reason...

One day Nige and I were having a playful cushion fight in the lounge... I recall Nige skilfully ducked one of my carefully aimed cushions and we froze in horror as one of Mum's vases wobbled and then crashed to the floor...

Mum was up in arms, and when Dad came home, left him to apply the correct form of chastisement.... Dad had a quiet word with us and acknowledged that he might have done exactly the same thing at our age, but it was not conducive to family happiness and should probably not be repeated..... Enough said No punishment required....

The Tiger

Dad was born in 1938 and therefore 'the year of the Tiger'... and certainly enjoyed living up to its definition

The Tiger is said to be lively, lucky, honest, brave, courageous, and charming... and like all felines, Tigers always land on their feet, ready for their next act in life, pursuing it with unyielding energy.

Dad was lively and engaging, honest and charming and had unyielding energy, always landing on his feet, ready for the next adventure... He often said, that had he been a feline, he would have expended his 9 lives, many times over.....

Dad certainly lived life to the full and was an inspiration to all.....