



## **Derrick Rutherford**

Derrick was born 22/09/42 in a small English village near the Scottish Border. He had an older brother Keith.

He met his Aussie wife Gay in 1971 right at the top of the Cairngorm Mountains in Scotland. Gay was on a 2 year working holiday in England and Derrick at that time was working for a touring Coach Company called Wallace Arnold in Leeds. Gay also worked in Leeds and in 1972 Derrick immigrated back to Australia with her and they were married in Sydney. He loved Australia from the start and it was now his home.

Derrick always enjoyed good health and watched his diet and weight. Sadly his brother Keith passed away in 1976 at the age of 36 with bowel cancer.

In April 2001 at the age of 58 Derrick was also diagnosed with colorectal cancer. He underwent radiotherapy at the Mater Hospital and also chemo. Radical surgery followed at The Sands Hospital and after a few months he returned to full time employment. He never gave up hope and was determined to fight on, as he said " I am too young to die". Went overseas in 2002 to visit family and friends and felt quite well. Just got on with life and had his regular checkups and blood tests.

In August 2005 the cancer was back, this time in the lining of his left lung. He knew then that his hope of a cure was not to be, but he was not ready to acknowledge it had beaten him and after keyhole surgery started on chemo again. Had only the highest regard for his Oncologist Dr Gavin Marx and would often share a laugh and a joke with him no matter how bad things were. Early 2006 tumours were found in his spine and ribs.

He endured much pain as he tried to resist drugs and would not complain. Early 2007 and a brain tumour found. He showed such courage and determination right to the end. He entered the Sands Hospital 18<sup>th</sup> May and passed away 29<sup>th</sup>.

As Dr Marx said to Gay "he was a lovely man" and that was so, so true. "