

Gary was born on the 14th of December 1940 in Remuera private hospital; the same hospital I was born in, 2 years later. He grew up as the eldest of the 6 children in his family, in South Auckland. He attended school in Papatoetoe and later Otahuhu college. He played piano in a band, playing a mix of ragtime, jazz and rock n roll. Later he spent a year in Wellington, where he attended pharmacy college, before returning to Auckland university to study for his BSc.

His studies were cut short when his father had an accident at McKenzie Construction and Gary was required to take over management of the business for several months. Later, at his father's request, he decided to stay on.

We married in February 1964 and honeymooned in Australia for a month, returning to live on a 6-acre property with a large glasshouse that my father owned in Northcote. We grew beans for export and seedlings for a local garden shop. Gary continued working with his dad at Orewa, Northshore, west and south Auckland until the end of 1972.

With his brother Malcolm's help, Gary built the garage at our house in Glenfield and we moved there in 1965. Our good friends Ben and Fumiko Marychurch lived in the same street. Fumiko, Norma and Cyril are here with us today.

Our first son Phillip was born in 1966. Gary was at the birth, delighted to have a son and he quickly became a "hands-on" dad. In 1968 our son David was born and diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis. In 1972 we decided to move to the country and sold our home and a 5-acre block we had developed in Glenfield. We moved to Te Puna, on to a 12-acre block with no house and only an open hay barn, which Gary converted into a home while we lived in a 10ft x 6ft caravan with no bathroom facilities and water only available from a tap at then end of the drive. Gary worked on the land by day and on the house by night, under the light of a single bulb on an extension lead. A shower and flush toilet were installed in a single day and the luxury of both was great, thanks to Gary and his brother Bob's hard work.

Tangelo trees were planted, then Gary decided also have a citrus nursery and he learned how to bud and graft several varieties of mandarins, oranges, lemons and limes as well as tangelos and we supplied several Auckland-based nurseries, as well as some we sold at markets directly.

Gary also did a night class in accountancy at Tauranga Boys College and joined a social club at Te Puna hall where he played badminton, table tennis and then bridge. He joined the Tauranga bridge club and served on the committee for a year. A Te Puna bridge club was formed and at times they played against Omokoroa, Katikati and other clubs.

Because of David's health problems with CF, we had frequent trips to Auckland for IV treatment at the Princess Mary clinic, under the care of Prof. Elliot. Gary always came and was always very involved with treatment and physiotherapy and he had a good rapport with the doctors, because of his pharmacy training.

In 1976, my parents paid for a months' trip to California and Disneyland and it was wonderful. Gary did all the rides with the boys and he did all the driving (about 4000 miles in total). Our next trip in 1980 was for 7 weeks and we visited California, Arizona, Nevada and Mexico. This time, my mum came with us. Gary did all the driving again and this time covered 7000 miles.

Back home, Gary designed and built a mobile picking platform that was self-driven and controlled from a 6-ft tower, with a picking bin positioned on the deck below; much more efficient than bringing a tractor and bin to empty a picking bag from a ladder. He designed and built 2 different models and won awards for both of them at the national field days.

Eventually the citrus was replaced with Kiwifruit; the markets changed and free trade agreements with Australia meant that we were competing with poorer-quality but cheaper and

more plentiful produce from across the ditch. Fruit was no longer sold by auction and instead was supplied under contract directly to retailers, who dictated price and terms.

In the late 1980s we purchased an orchard and packhouse in Wairoa rd and Gary extended the packhouse and installed an electronic grader with the help of his friends Jan Kirkmeester and Tony Skipper. We employed 40 staff for each shift as well as a picking gang.

David passed away in August 1994; it nearly broke our spirits...this wasn't how it was supposed to be. At Christmas of the same year, my dad gave us tickets for a 10-day cruise on the QE2 from Hawaii to Auckland. Gary's first reaction was: "10 Days? What will I DO on a ship for that LONG?. He loved it and couldn't wait to book the next one and so began the cruising on 12 different ships and over 700 days at sea - the last one on Celebrity Solstice in December 2017.

Gary loved to travel and in 1995 we flew to Japan to visit our special friend Keizo, who had spent time with us in 1981. He was Gary's' Japanese brother and a special bond was formed between them. We are very pleased to have him with us today. Gary also loved England; it's history, London, Kew Gardens and mostly to see Phillip whom he missed so much. Phillip kept in touch with regular weekend phone calls and we often chatted for a couple of hours. It was wonderful.

Gary and I learned to dance Ballroom and Latin style. Gary loved music, played piano and keyboard. Photography was a hobby and in Auckland he had his own darkroom and won several photographic competitions. Later he graduated to producing videos and DVDs. He loved cruising and had booked another trip for Christmas this year as a surprise for me. Sadly it won't happen, but he needed to have a goal to look forward to. Many friends that we cruised with, keep in touch and some are here today, including Josie, Pam and Dennis and Howard and Pippa.

In 1995 we bought a block of ten flats in Rotorua, which were managed locally but Gary did most of the maintenance. We sold them earlier this year.

In 1998 Gary travelled to South Africa with his friends Howard Zingel and John Cotter. Phillip flew from England and joined them in Johannesburg and together they travelled through South Africa and Botswana with brief visits to both Namibia and Zimbabwe. It was one of the best trips that Gary had and he and Phillip spoke often about it with a great deal of fondness.

I wish to acknowledge on Gary's behalf the great support and practical help we have had from his brothers Malcolm and Bob over the years and particularly these last weeks; We couldn't have done it without you. And PJ whose loving and practical care made Gary's journey and mine more bearable, through these last five years. Our special thanks to Dr Richard North and the cancer clinic team, along with the staff from Waipuna Hospice.

A special thanks must also go to Jill, my bridesmaid and friend for 63 years. Reddy for her love and support for David, Gary and I. Pamela and Dennis for being there. Ray for his help on the orchard and packhouse. Howard who helped harvest the tangelos and then sent his sons top help. So supportive and such a good friend. To Tony Skipper for his help and friendship over many years.