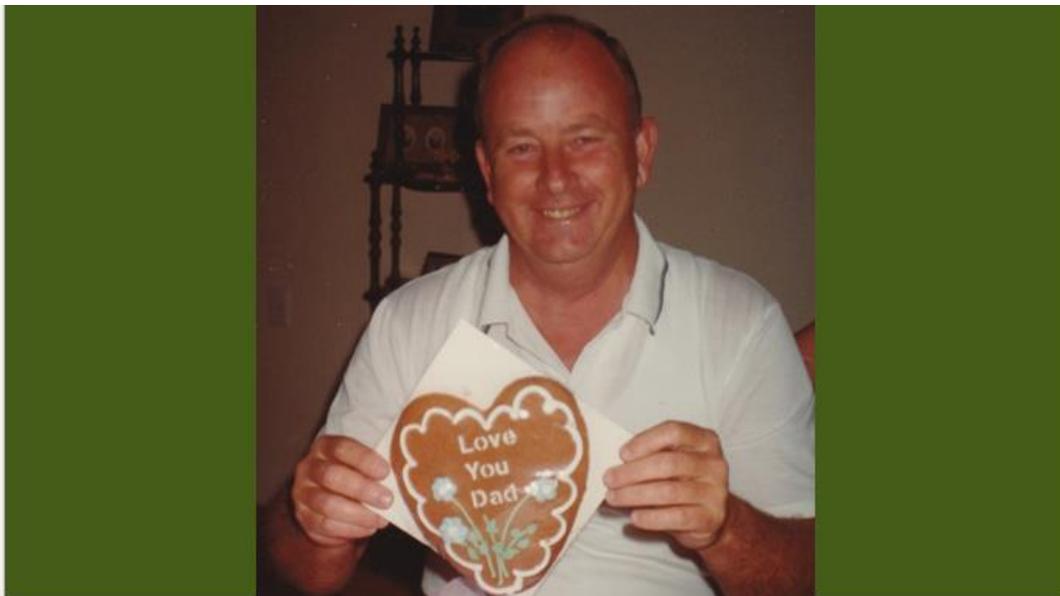


Ron Lange 1929 – 2022 Eulogy
delivered by Robyn Lange Cork on 15 July 2022.



Ron had a hand in selecting the photos in this slide show.



Ron Lange Made good use of these past twelve months to make sure he left nothing unsaid. We all knew we were loved and appreciated, and how important we were to him. .



He was tremendously proud of his children and grandchildren.



He felt blessed to have great in-laws. He enjoyed wonderful relationships within his extended family. He recently told me how lucky he was with his two sons-in-law, James and Adrian and daughter-in-law, Lynda. He said they have all be so generous with their time and support.



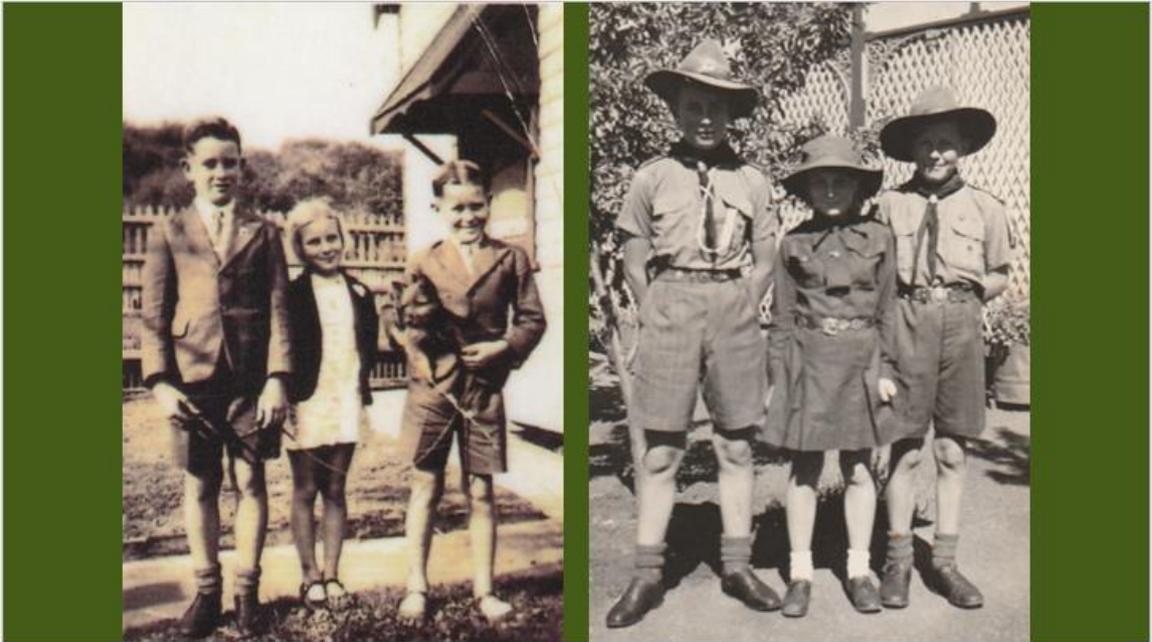
Both he and Mum formed friendships easily. This ensured an interesting and exciting life.



A while ago I asked Dad three questions:

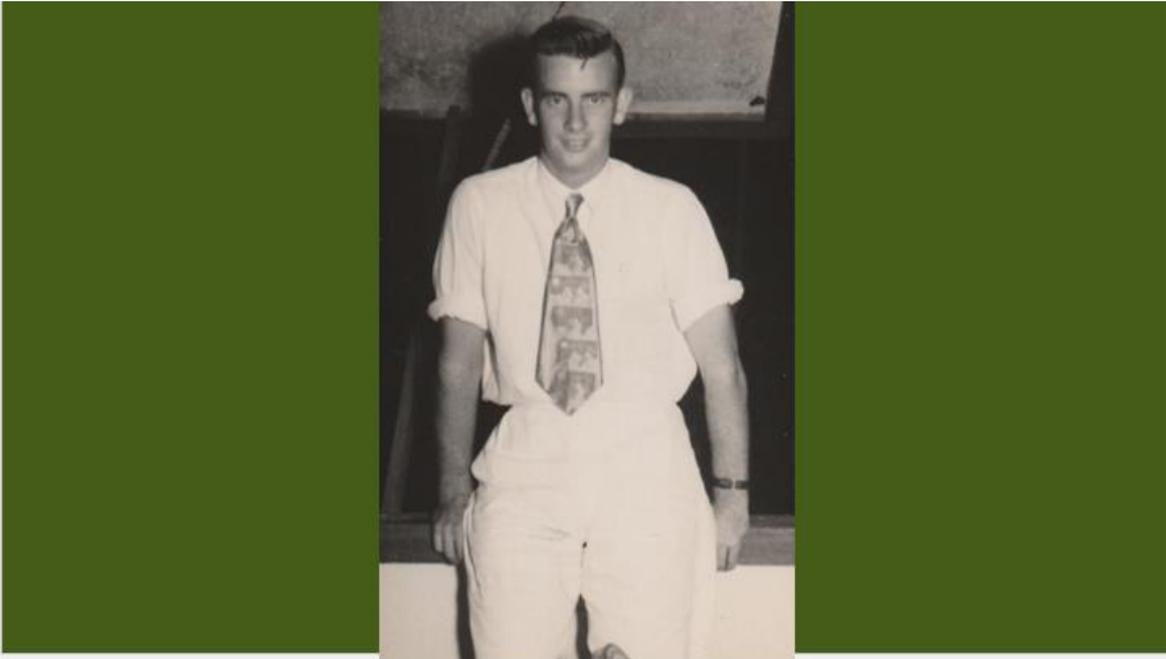
1. What would you like people to know about you?
2. What advice would you like to pass onto those you love?
3. How would you like to be remembered?

You'd think with the life Ron had, he'd have difficulty picking.



We wondered if he'd mention -

- His interesting childhood in Perth and Kalgoorlie where he remembers his freedom. He said, of the time, "We were free to do whatever we liked provided we always told Mum the truth, and accepted responsibility for our actions"



- Or his time as an electrician, owning a profitable business in Rabaul, PNG.



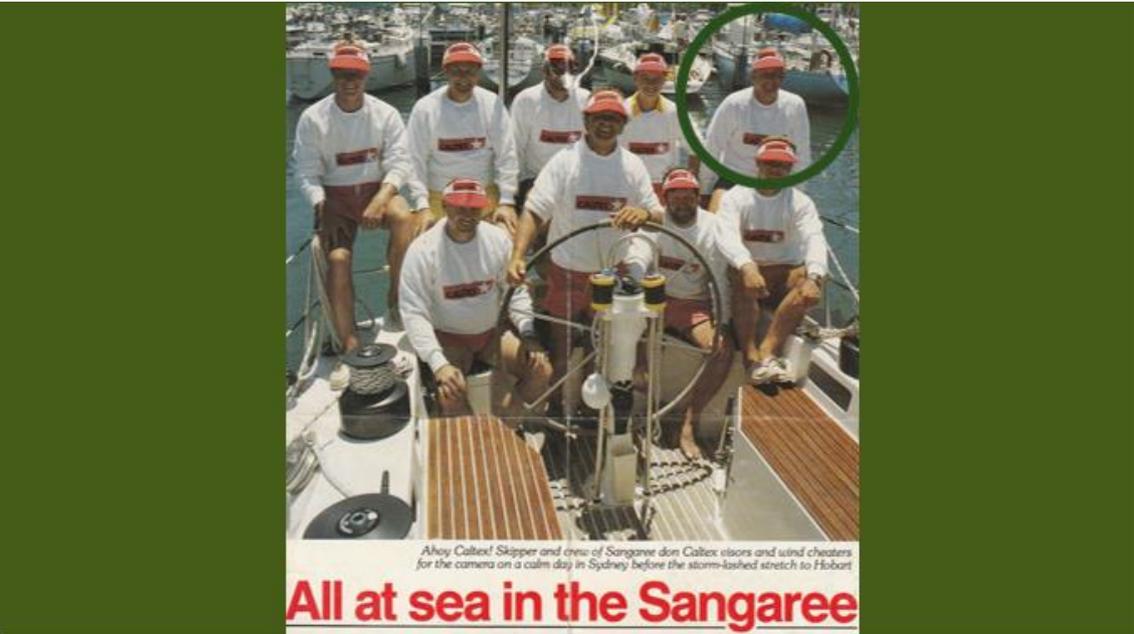
- Maybe he'd talk about playing State Rugby Union for Tasmania



- Or his other sporting achievements in Basketball and Baseball.



- Would he share his love of sailing on Sydney Harbor on his yacht Enchen, with Jane.



- His participation, as Sailing Master, in the deadly 1998 Sydney to Hobart yacht race.



- Maybe his cattle baron days at Wellington Point. He's the one with the hat.



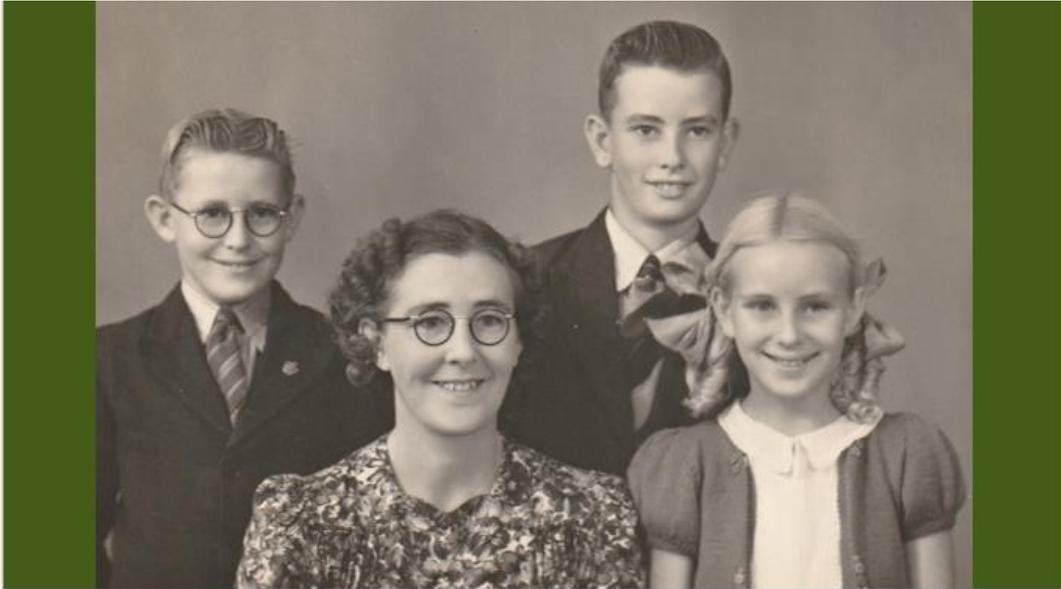
- Or the honour of being a special guest at PNG's [40 year](#) independence celebrations. I asked if he had a photo from this occasion. He said this will do as no-one would know its not him.



When I asked Dad what "he would like people to know about him?", none of these things came to mind.



Instead he replied - "I had a wonderful and close relationship with my mother."



When his father, Geoffrey Lange, went off to war in 1942, and the Kalgoorlie household was filled with cousins and Aunts from Perth, Ron at 12, being the eldest of three siblings, became Nana's confidant and companion. He said "we were friends first and foremost". That friendship with Ethel Lange lasted 73 years.



He replicated this friendship with his kids. At boarding school he was the only father, who wrote weekly. His expectation was to receive a letter in return. One afternoon, Jane and I were summoned to the principal's office to be told Dad had called. If there were no letters from us in the post that evening, we were to be put on the next train home. Loving school, this was not a threat to be ignored, so we didn't leave the office until the principal had two letters in hand. |



Ron followed his Mum's example of rarely offering advice to others unless it was requested. It was often sought and many of us will miss those quiet talks.



Mum and Dad always put us first. When a young family, Dad managed his time to always make sure we had a family activity every weekend - the beach being the favourite followed by excursions and picnics. Dinner was always at the table, and discussions on current affairs encouraged.



In answer to my second question – what advice would you pass onto those you love? – he replied



“Most people think love is the most important value. It’s not. The most important value is respect.”



"It's only through respect that we can form great friendships and loving relationships. Respect always needs to be front of mind."



Ron developed great relationships throughout his life. He influenced many colleagues who went on to become leaders themselves and remember him with affection. Here he is with life long friends made 70 years ago at Officer Cadet School, Portsea



The ease with which he made friends continued throughout his career, on travels around the world, sailing, and in retirement.



He had loving friendships with his brother Alan and sister Val. |



Ron supported Trixie's interests. His company at many of the Down to Earth Club functions almost qualified him for membership.



He developed close relationships with his carers, who have all been so wonderful. He made the most of his time with them, giving little attention to his MND.



Val, his sister, told me "Ron has always been very caring and thoughtful. He quietly gets involved to support friends and family, without intruding. There were times when things have been tough and without any fanfare or notice he has turned up at the door ready to help, and sometimes that has meant a two-day drive."



He took the time to listen, talk things through, open his wallet, make arrangements, or sit quietly with a wine or beer.



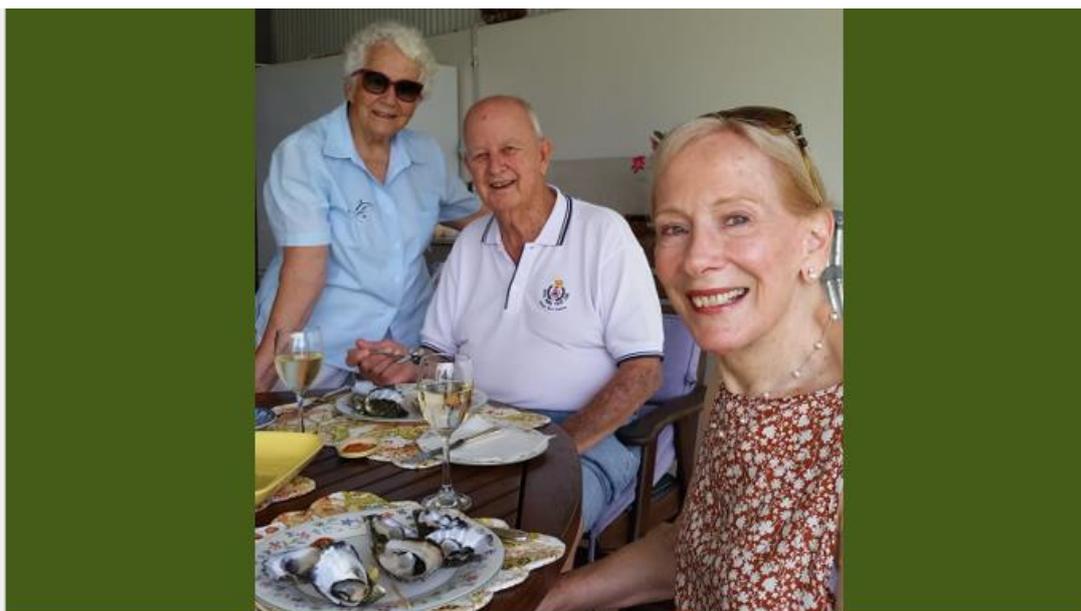
He was good with words, putting pen to paper when called upon to speak at celebrations or memorials; a task he was often asked to do. |



Dad more than anyone rang to enquire how things were going, especially after a life event or upset, and then once given good news he'd remark "Mum will be pleased to hear that." His sister Val said that was a family trait – as their father Geoffrey was the same – he'd often say – "Oh your Mum will be pleased to hear that" when all along he was the one most concerned and most relieved.



We recall Dad's legacy in PNG and the many instances of stamping out inequality, an issue on which he took a firm stand. His respect for his "men", both military and civilian, was the foundation for many true and lasting friendships.



In this last year he was blessed with days filled with laughter, good food, great company and excellent wine. |



So how will we remember him?



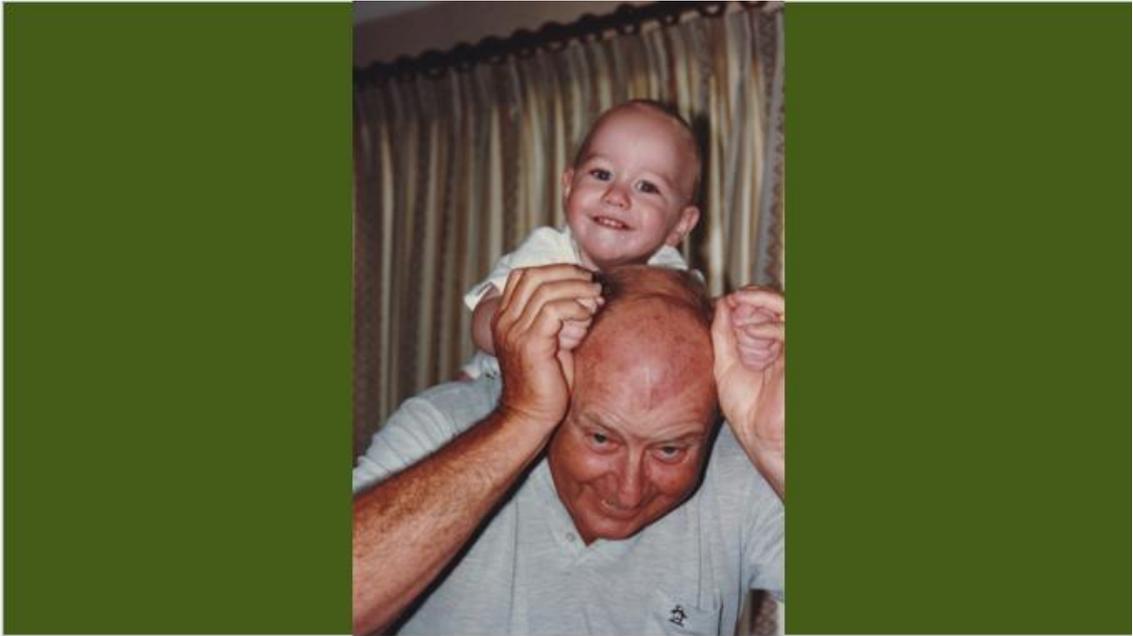
Michael says the best thing about Grandpa is his hugs



Peter says "being a soldier"



Alice will remember being called "Stumpy", their shared sense of humour, often sharing a joke others missed.



Drew remembers his honesty and confidence in expressing his point of view.



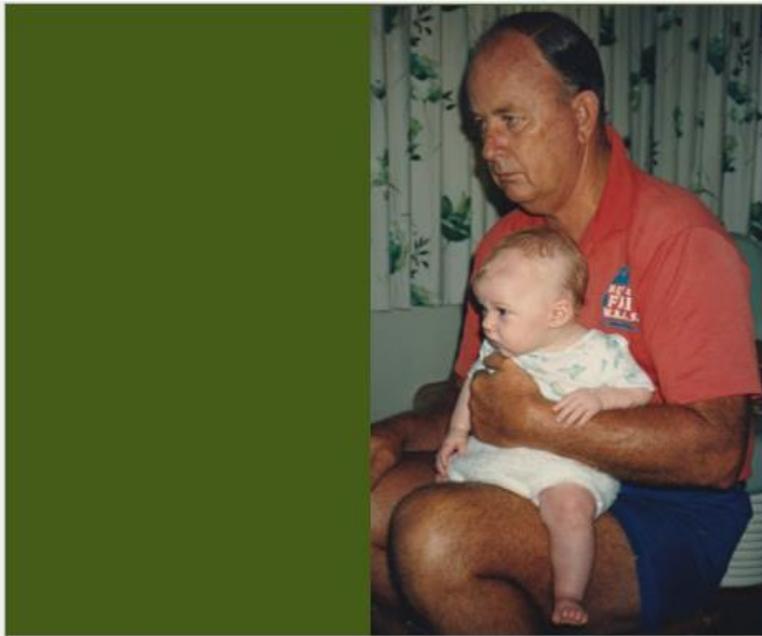
Lauren remembers his laugh, patience and wisdom.



Jack remembers the honour of caring for Grandpa in these final months.



Lindsey believes he's been a wonderful role model in all aspects of his life.



Rory will miss Grandpa's stories, jokes, and playfulness with kids



Geoff remembers Dad as a protector, always there, never distant, no matter the miles between them. |



In Geoff's words "Dad was the best role model a husband and father could have". |



Jane tries to live by Dad's 12th commandment – "thou shalt not lose thy sense of humour". Even with his independence gone, his humour didn't waiver. His character was never more demonstrated than during this last year.



I remember Dad's encouragement.



And watching him love Mum. |



Mum remembers Ron as always being a good dad, putting family first, and taking her on adventures around the world. In her words "I'm the luckiest girl in the world."



So my last question to Dad was – How would you like to be remembered?



His reply: "As a good man, loved by my family and respected by my friends".

Ron Lange 1929 - 2022