

Peter Fairey 24/9/1925-17/2/2008



Peter Fairey at the Orient Hotel Sydney Cove, our first Vindi meeting march 1995

Peter who died recently in the Prince of Wales hospital in Sydney was born in Pitsea Essex one of four children in the family, he had a most interesting life right from his early years he travelled and lived overseas following his father's job as a civil Engineer, his boyhood was spent in such places as Uganda, East Africa, Turkey, Abadan, Tehran.

By the time he joined the Vindi in 1941 he was a veteran traveler.

During his time at sea in WW2 he was torpedoed twice one of these being on a Russian convoy. It was whilst he was on leave between voyages in 1944 that he met his wife to be Joan at his cousin's birthday party in Essex, they were married in May of 1945 and despite their many travels in the future they found time to have two daughters and a son.

On leaving the MN in 1946 Peter joined the British Army then in another surprising career change he joined the London police force in 1947 being stationed at the South End police station, there he met another Policeman who had been in the MN during WW2 his name was John Watkins, after a year their ways parted, the next time they met was 47 years later at the first NSW Vindi reunion held in Sydney in March 1995, you can imagine the surprise when they finally realised why the other fellow looked familiar! John Watkins was a 1939 Vindi boy.

In 1948 Peter was seconded from the regular police force by the 'Special Branch' (MI6) and served with them for most of his working life in many parts of the world.

His first posting was to the Malaya Police Force which it seems was an organisation run by MI6. During the Malayan emergency, he worked in the rank of a Major in the intelligence section.

In 1961 upon leaving Malaya he was stationed in Singapore and was somehow involved with the civil wars in some of the independence struggles of Indonesian provinces until 1968 when they moved to Australia.

It had always been Peter's ambition to own a Toy & Sports shop, on settling in Sydney they bought such a shop in Jannali but he wasn't cut out to be a business man and after a year they sold the shop and went back working for the Government as a mature aged Patrol officer in Papua New Guinea. They stayed in the Southern highlands area around Wee Wak area for some six years, the family then returned to Sydney in 1975.

Peter then took a posting to Bahrain consulate during the Khemlani Loans Affair but as he didn't see eye to eye with his chief he returned to Sydney seven months later, a move that finally severed his links with the 'spooks' and returning to Sydney he became secretary to the Sydney Chamber of Manufacturers.

Following his retirement from paid employment he and Joan settled onto to the acreage at Yarrwonga near Gulgong they had purchased in 1968.

Here they set about being useful to the local community, when Maureen & I visited them in May of 97 they were linchpins of the local community, I think both Peter and Joan were Bush fire brigade Captains (the local station was just outside their front gate) also they were on numerous local committees, some they started like the local progress association and the Malay/Borneo veterans association and Peter was also president of the Gulgong RSL.

They had an impressive flagpole on their front lawn and the flag went up with ceremony every morning and down every night. They were I think natural born Empire Builders of the best sort!

They just couldn't help but help.

After a life of so many adventures and rigours, cancer struck Peter down in November of 97 when he had to have his stomach removed, he got over this really well and learned to live a full life again until a year or two ago he began getting frequent attacks of Pneumonia & Emphysema then in November 2007 he was diagnosed with inoperable cancer of the oesophagus.



Left- Peter Fairey "Sunset" ceremony at the Yarrwonga (NSW) property May 1997 (the little fat guy is yours truly)

I would like to thank Peter's widow Joan for the good long talk we had, she said they had no regrets, they had a good long life together and he died believing this and was content and happy.

Our deepest sympathies to Joan their three children 8 grand children, Four Great Grandchildren & Families.