**KENNETH DEAN JAESCHKE EULOGY**

Kenneth Dean Jaeschke was born 18th November, 1942 in the Loxton Hospital. He was the oldest of five children to Wally and Esther Jaeschke (nee Freundt) and lived at Markeri Corner 10 miles south of Loxton, just out on the Paruna Road.

As a little one, Ken enjoyed playing Tea Parties on the lawn with his friend David, when mum and dad owned the shop at Taplan. Ken loved trapping rabbits at the Taplan railway station. Numerous times while setting up his traps he got his finger caught. You would think he would have learnt the first time, but this happened on several occasions. Ken was very proud of his 1st catch and earned his first lot of pocket money by selling dressed rabbits to Mr Grant for 5 schillings (50 cents).

Ken’s siblings, Dawn, Terance, Patricia and Rex all enjoyed family outings, a highlight being the Sunday School Picnics, of which Ken loved the wheel barrow race, egg & spoon, 3 legged race and sack race. If you won an event, you received sixpence, and at the end of day, the rooster chase happened, and whoever caught the rooster could keep it! Another favourite outing was Guy Fawkes Day.

Ken attended the Taplan School from pre-entry to Year 5. From an early age, Ken enjoyed being up front and centre. He loved his drama classes and his highlight was the lead role in Billy Goat Gruff as the TROLL. Ken went on to attend the Loxton Day School for part of Year 6 and completed Year 7. He found education and learning easy and did well in exams, even achieving a PC (“Progress Certificate”). When attending Loxton Day School, he had to walk to catch the school bus some 3 miles (5 km) each day. As there was no high school at Loxton, Ken attended Year 8 and first term of Year 9 at Loxton Primary School until May. He was encouraged by Mrs Jacobs to go to university but that was not an option.

The Jaeschke family were expected to work hard from a very young age, milking cows, feeding pigs and spotlighting rabbits for food. Ken was excited when he killed his first sheep and surprised his father. He loved fishing and his first catch was a 30 pound cod. It was on a night line and he had to pull it up from a very steep cliff face. It was so heavy he had to go home and get a wheelbarrow to carry the load.

Years later the family moved to Pyap and while there Ken used his bike to ride 5miles to Loxton, weekly for 2 years, to undertake Confirmation classes. He was not happy with this, but his mother felt he was too young to be confirmed.

In 1956 Ken left school at 14 years of age, and worked for Uncle Garry Freundt at New Residence and he lived with them for 5 years. They were like his second mum and dad.

Uncle Garry owned a 50 acre fruit block and in those 5 years Ken was trained to load grapes, peaches apricots, and picking tomatoes. He also milked 9 to 14 cows, Monday and Friday, before 8am and after 5pm, for his board for the week, and he had weekends off. At aged 16 Ken got his first car (Ford prefect) purchased from Flight Motors.

Ken attended the Lutheran Church at New Residence. In 1961 he moved to Nadda by himself, and in the first year he worked for his dad. Then his sister Dawn and Ken cropped 12 hundred acres together and share farmed with Mr Mac Westbrook which was between Markeri Corner and Pata. After a few years Ken then was employed by Jack and Beryl Symonds in Nadda for 3 years. During that time he taught Sunday school and became a Lay reader for the St John’s Lutheran church in Taplan. Ken also enjoyed playing tennis and football for Nadda between 1961 to 1966. He then also went to onto play for Taplan and Peebinga Football Club. Ken, a man of always loving a good shing ding, enjoyed good food, drinks and fellowship while celebrating his 21st at the Taplan institute.

Ken met the love of his life Rosalie, at the Renmark Speedway in 1964. They regularly went to the Drive-ins at Berri and Yamba road house for late night hang outs. With any excuse for a cuddle they would go to the Koala Farm or “Lover Lanes” in Paringa. As a couple they attended many weddings and 21st events together. Ken was the very proud owner of a grey 1964 EH Holden 179, which he loved courting Rosalie in.

In 1966 Ken moved down to Peebinga to share farm with Jock wall. To get to Ken’s home, you had to go down the old snake track, and what an experience that was! He lived in a caravan with no power, just a kerosene fridge and lanterns. To protect Ken’s little humble abode, he had to regularly remake a stump wall to shelter him and his home from the weather.

Ken took Rosalie to many local Peebinga social functions. They were engaged in 1967, after courting for a period of time, with celebrations at the Berri Hotel, and were married 12 months later on 27th January, 1968 at the Renmark Lutheran Church. Jock Wall built them a new Blunts prefab home, which became Rosalie & Ken’s new residence. While the newly wed bride loved Ken unconditionally, she was not impressed that their new home was 100km from nowhere, with no power, and no phone access for 6 months until the exchange was put in. But, she did have running water!!

From 1971 to 1976 Ken share farmed with Robin Kelly. During this time Ken was blessed with 2 daughters, Julie & Carol, and 2 sons, Peter and Mark, and they were active members of the Pinnaroo Lutheran church, where they attended for 33 years. While the children were schooled at Browns Well District Area School, Ken was passionately involved as P&F member, and on the school council committee. As well as in the community, Ken was the Browns Well Agriculture District Representative, and was a very active Brown’s Well Football Club Member, including 20 years of umpiring.

In 1976, the family moved into Peebinga to the old Peebinga school, which included 30 acres of land and a 20 sow piggery. In 1982 Ken and Rosalie both started driving the local school bus to Browns Well Area School, which they shared for 20 years. At the same time Ken was employed by Lance and Rose Chaplin who owned a 10,000 acre property 5km north of Peebinga known as Lakeside Gardens. This property was the first to grow potatoes in this area of which 40 acres was cropped under bore irrigation. Later this production grew to centre pivot cycles for 120 acres, of which Ken managed and supplied to SA Potato Company, Mount Barker for 12 years.

During this time, Ken enjoyed a feast of yabbies and had an endless supply of yabbies in his dam. His aim was to become a Yabby Farmer, but that did not get off the ground! However, the yabbies were always loved by family and friends.

Even though they were so isolated, Ken always ensured his family had a social life, whether that be football, tennis or netball, bowling, and church functions, and on Saturday nights Ken was a keen Cabaret dancer, being a real lover of country music. Annual Easter camping on the Loxton Riverfront with extended family was always a highlight, with Ken always dedicating 2 days out of the 4 travelling 100km to check his cattle and sheep on the farm over the weekend.

It was not uncommon to hear Ken on the ABC early radio giving updates on the Peebinga rainfall, and enjoying a general chitchat! It was always Ken’s mission to ensure he got on the radio before his good friend Lance Pech.

After spending nearly 40 years in their humble abode in Peebinga, they made the big move to Loxton in February 2002, which was a significant change for them both. From then on Ken drove busses for all the local schools and with Rose commenced their travel plans with a world tour in 2007.

Besides being a proud dad of his 4 children, Ken also welcomed and loved his daughter-in-law & sons-in-law and was a very proud grandpa. Poppa Ken loved his time with all his grandchildren, taking an interest in every one of them and always loved attending their events when he could.

Ken’s strong faith was an inspiration to many. He was not afraid to share his love for the Lord. As a member of the St Peter’s Lutheran church in Loxton, he loved being able to share his faith and serve the Lord wherever he could. Over the years he was a member of the Church Council, an active Lay Reader, drove the worship bus, operated the Sound/Data desk for worship, loved attending annual Synod conventions as a St. Peter’s rep, and more recently was a valuable member of Stephen’s Ministry within the church. Ken always loved singing, and particularly loved being involved with the Singing Christmas Tree. Along with all his commitments to the Lord, Ken still found time to support his local community, being involved with Men’s Probus, Loxcare as Shed Manager, and still was a keen supporter of Browns Well Football Club.

On 27th January 2018 Ken and Rosalie celebrated 50 years of marriage. Despite the challenges faced as a family over the years, this was a special time of celebration, bringing all the family together, and we stood united as one.

Ken always enjoyed giving to a worthy cause, and with the support of the Loxcare community, his most recent achievement was claiming the title of Mardi Gras Ambassador for 2018.

Ken touched so many lives and while we were all unprepared for his sudden death, we know that he is at the pearly gates, singing with the choir, welcoming those to come.