Dennis William Frahn was born at the Murray Bridge Soldiers Memorial Hospital on 12th June, 1952. Dennis was the 3rd child of Clarence Hugo Frahn and Hilda Emma Frahn (nee Hoff).

He was baptized in the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Murray Bridge by Pastor R. H. Eckermann.

On 23rd October 1966 He was confirmed By Pastor Philip B Zweck.

He is the husband of Elaine, father of David and Sean and brother to Colleen, Neville (deceased), Meredith and Stephen (deceased).

The following is Dennis’ contribution to his story.

When I was small we lived on Florence Street opposite the Holy Cross Church. When there was a funeral passing the house I would sit on the front fence, excitedly saying “A funeral, look, look a funeral!”

I lived on the farm at Brinkley until February 1966 when I was sent to College. I shared a room with a student named Chris George, not knowing that he would bounce back into my life in the 1990’s. I developed a love of sport firstly at the Brinkley Tennis Club before College. At Concordia I competed in tennis, cricket, basketball, football and athletics. I proudly represented a Combined Concordia and Immanuel College in the long jump at the Adelaide Oval in Intercollegiate Sports. Tennis remained a great love and I continued to play at Brinkley where I became remembered for playing barefoot on the hard courts and having the umpire hold the beer bottle.

When Elaine and I were at Mt. Gambier we were privileged to play in the same team at OB Flat where I won my only premiership.

Football is the game I love the most. I’ve always followed Port through thick and thin, but do admit I would rather go to country games where more people know each other. I have been involved with Brown’s Well Footy Club since 1994. A highlight was being team manager for our 1996 Colts grand final win, with Sean playing in it. I’ve happily served the Club as a volunteer for 25 years and if things were different, I’d do another 25 years.

December 22nd 1973 turned out to be the most influential day in my life when I married Elaine. We have had our ups and downs but she has always been there to support me. We have been blessed with two beautiful sons, whom I love very much.

After doing various jobs in Murray Bridge, I joined the Railways in 1980. We were first sent to Wynbring on the Nullabor, then Kulgera on the Northern Territory border as a fettler. After returning from annual leave in 19891 I was informed that we had to once again pack our gear as we were going to Mt. Gambier. What a shock this was weather-wise, with two young children. We found ourselves buying a clothes dryer!

Several promotions later landed us in Morphett Vale where we lived for 8 ½ years. Being country people we struggled with this and when AN offered separation packages we jumped at it, moving to Taplan, buying our home in September 1993.

Elaine’s and my health issues dominated our first few years and after we sorted this out we decided to pursue outside interests. In 1996 we both joined Loxcare in a voluntary nature and have both been awarded Life Membership. I was awarded a 20 year service whilst Elaine served 18 years. We were also approached to be involved in the ATO Tax Help program which we found to be very satisfying, seeing clients walk out the door with one less problem.

We both received 15 year awards for our contributions. Then in 2010 when Sean brought home an orphaned baby Grey kangaroo we promptly fell in love with our Junior Petunia. Not all our babies made it but we became mum and dad to Petunia, Jemima, Frankie, Henry, Baldrick, Penny, Poppy and Primrose.

Our love on animals has also played a major contribution in David and Sean’s upbringing.

In December 2018 I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, and at 66 had my first airplane flight. (Albeit I don’t remember much of the flight to Adelaide as I was suffering from kidney failure) E was visited the evening and informed that my younger brother, Stephen, had died 2 days before, which was certainly a shock to the system. After a lengthy stay I returned home only to be his with pneumonia and another flight with the Flying Doctor. Once again I returned home.

I don’t regret my life as I have shared with some wonderful people. Thank you Elaine for 45 years of marriage to a most wonderful and caring lady. My boys David and Sean I am proud of you.

My sisters Colleen and Meredith – I love you. You know I am going to a better place.

I am not going to mention all others as there far too many but a special mention for John and Jenny, Rich and Jenny and Lyndon who have friends and support and I know will continue to be there for Elaine – thanks.

Elaine’s family have helped in many ways. Margaret, Tony and Rob have gone out of their way to assist in many different ways always volunteering their service whenever necessary.

I thank God for my life and the opportunity to put pen to paper whilst in hospital. I met a marvelous man called Peter Miller (chaplain) and with Pastor Kohrt and Pastor George, I have received magnificent spiritual support. Thanks guys, it was just what I needed. Thanks for the ice cream Pastor Miller.

Enough rabbiting on, don’t mourn but join me in celebrating my life.

God bless you all.

PS If you are ever sent to the RAH the staff, especially the nurses become your second family. They are magnificent!