

## TRIBUTE TO KENNETH ARCHIBALD McCALLUM

8 February 1994

Delivered by Peter Jasper

Kenneth Archibald McCallum was born on the 22nd of May, 1916 at Mount Gambier, South Australia. He was the eldest of six children born to Archibald and Emma McCallum and is survived by his sister Ruth, and brothers Don and Hugh.

During the early years of his life, his family moved to the Millewa district of Victoria where they set up a number of General Stores in the pioneering communities which were opening up this area for farming.

He participated actively in the life of this close-knit rural community and particularly enjoyed playing football and swimming, especially long distance swimming in the Murray River.

Among the families who also moved to this area was that of Harry and Louisa Harker, whose daughter Win took quite an interest in him from an early age.

Ken followed his father into the General Store business, and when the Second World War broke out he joined the army and served in northern Australia and South East Asia. At this time he also experienced the culture of the Aborigines and Islanders of these areas and could recount many interesting adventures of his life among them at this time.

In 1943, while on leave from the army, he and Win were married at Moreland Church of Christ, Melbourne.

Over the next 20 years of their life together they lived in Strathmerton and Edenhope opening General Stores and farming.

In their mid-forties they decided on a change of lifestyle and moved to Melbourne, where Ken found employment with the PMG, now Telecom. Settling in Kew, to their surprise and delight that they found they were expecting a child, and in April 1962 their daughter Kathryn was born.

Ken and Win spent the rest of their life together in Kew. He passed away peacefully with his wife and daughter at his side.

He and Win had a rich marriage of companionship and mutual growth, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in November of last year.

As a parent, the greatest thing he gave to his daughter Kathryn was unconditional love. He always made Kathryn feel she was a precious gift from God, and continued to gently encourage and affirm her throughout his life.

As a father-in-law he gave me support and encouragement, and challenged me to think about the world and its political and social structures and what really mattered in life.

Ken was a deeply thoughtful and compassionate man who did lots of little things which enriched the lives of those around him.

He was very aware of his own human nature, and gave others great strength in times of confusion or sadness.

He knew the value of the simple things in life and took much pleasure in gardening, growing vegetables and walking.

He was also a very observant person and saw the great beauty in God's world around him.

His great sense of humour made life with him very special.

We give thanks to God for his life.