**Murray John Forsyth Upper Beaconsfield 1983**

Murray Forsyth grew up in Chadstone. He attended Mentone Grammar and then completed a carpet laying apprenticeship which he served with his father.  Along the way he progressed through the Scouting movement - Cubs, Scouts and Rovers.

Life changed for the family with a move to the country where Murray became involved firstly with the Berwick Young Farmer Club, rising to Club President.  From there he was invited to join the committee of the Berwick Agricultural and Horticultural Society where he also became President.  Murray was President of the Society in 1983, the year the Ash Wednesday fires that raged across the Victorian countryside and which tragically took Murray's life. The Berwick Show was due to take place just 10 days after Ash Wednesday, naturally it was cancelled.

He met his future wife Noelene, who came from a farming family, in the Berwick area. He developed a love for snow skiing, camping, riding his motor bike and dreamed of being able to one day work a farm with Noelene, continuing in her family's footsteps.

Murray and Noelene married in 1979 and purchased their first home in Fountain Gate, Narre Warren. Murray was working with his father in Huntingdale and then as a floor covering consultant for a furnishing company in Pakenham. He followed his best mate David Thomson to join the Narre Warren Fire Brigade as a volunteer fire fighter.

On the 16th February 1983, Noelene left home to work, in Melbourne. She said "goodbye" to Murray who was heading to work in Pakenham. When the fires took hold, Murray went to the Narre Warren Fire Station and was sent on the Narre Warren truck to Upper Beaconsfield. That is where disaster struck. By late evening, as the truck tracked a fire burning in the location of High Street and Barnes Road, a sudden violent wind change caused the fire to whip up and change direction. The Narre Warren truck was unable to escape in time. All those on board perished. Murray was almost 26 years of age.

The ensuing 10 hours were harrowing for those who gathered at the Narre Warren Fire Captain's home listening to the fire radios for any news of their loved ones. They sat up all night with little news. At 6am on the Thursday morning Noelene rang Murray's parents to say they feared the worst. The tragedy had already been reported on the news before the families were advised that the crew had been lost. It was a desperately sad time for everyone.

Murray is remembered by family and friends as a very happy person. He loved life and he loved his family. He enjoyed fun times with his workmates and mates and he enjoyed being involved in the local community, largely through the Agricultural Show movement. His name appears on the Honour Rolls at the Berwick Showgrounds.

Murray's family and Noelene remember Murray as a wonderful son, brother and husband. Noelene and is very proud to have been his wife, sadly for only a few short years.