

Andrew Henry Prentice JOSEPH



JOSEPH Andrew Henry Prentice 7610 (1959–67) MR Joseph Medical Practitioner West Pennant Hills; Prep, Bri, Bur, Sm. HC. Hm. CUO. Commodity Broker. 22/05/2005 [13]

Born 9 June 1949 Sydney, NSW

Died 22 May 2005 Sydney, NSW

Starting at the Prep in 4th Class in 1959, at the age of nine, Andrew was one of 15 boys from that year who continued through to sit the HSC in 1967. The only son of Dr Maurice Roy Joseph and Isabelle Mary Prentice, Andrew had two sisters, Anne and Jenny. Maurice had graduated in medicine from Sydney University in 1936. At the outbreak of World War 2 he was a doctor in residence in London though soon enlisted in the British Medical Corps where he was mentioned in dispatches for valour at the evacuation of Dunkirk. He married Melbourne-born army nurse Isabelle in England on 24 January 1941.

Andrew grew up in Beecroft then Castle Hill and was a day boy; however, his wide circle of friends included boarders, many of whom became life-long friends. At school and in life he was fiercely competitive. In sport he rowed in the 2nd Junior Eight in 1965 and in the fours at the GPS Regatta in 1966 and 1967. Such was his enjoyment of rowing, after school he continued with the Mosman Rowing Club for many years and in 1999 he rowed in the King's eight at the GPS Gold Challenge. Andrew also loved his rugby where he represented the school in the 3rds in 1966 and the 2nds in 1967.

Andrew became the House Captain of Burkitt in 1967. He was also proud to have joined the School Choir, with John Chancellor in 1967, resulting in the choir gaining a new momentum as well as increased social standing in the school. As a consequence, Andrew and John developed a special life-long relationship with Keith Asboe, Director of Music.

Along with 13 other boys from King's, Andrew settled into Earle Page College at the University of New England in 1968 studying Agricultural Economics, a field in which he was soon to excel. Later, in recognition of his experience of college life, he established a trust fund to support a student through his or her time in the college.

He became a grain trader, forming Joseph and Company Pty Limited in about 1980, taking advantage of the knowledge of agriculture and the land gained through his school friends and those he met at University. His grandfather had been a businessman, a jeweller in Sydney, so he would have known not only about making deals but also of how to engage with a customer. With success, the company became Jossco, a group of companies in Australia, New Zealand and the United States which ultimately achieved annual sales over \$400 million.

Also, in about 1980, Andrew, with wife Victoria and fellow '67er John Chancellor, took on the lease of the Russell Hotel in George St at The Rocks, taking it from a rundown, unloved boarding house into the upmarket boutique hotel, as it is known as today.

Andrew, a man of many talents and seemingly with unlimited energy, made his mark on Sydney too. In an article published in the Sydney Morning Herald¹ after Andrew died, in part his peers recorded;

'In 2003 Joseph negotiated the sale of Jossco to the Australian Barley Board. It was a boom year and, as a trader, it was the best year to sell. It also profoundly saddened him, because it meant that his Jossco family and the culture that he had developed within the company which had led to its ultimate success, would disperse.

'Joseph was not one to seek formal acknowledgment for his achievements and contribution to the Australian agricultural industry, but he was a visionary. His long-time associate, Rob Brealey, said Joseph would see a challenge as an opportunity to make a difference in what most would see as simply too hard. Joseph combined great trading skills with bulldog tenacity, ultimate fairness and integrity.

'While Joseph achieved much as a trader and a manager, it was his leadership qualities that shone the brightest. He had that uncanny ability to recognise the potential in others, to develop and nurture it, and then to draw on the combined skills of his employees to form a cohesive team.

¹ 29 July 2005

'He possessed the most disarming personality and was equally comfortable negotiating a multimillion dollar deal in a Sydney restaurant as he was sitting on a drum in a farmer's shed talking about the latest cropping prospects. He had that wonderful ability to make everyone feel at ease.

'Joseph had an irrepressibly adventurous spirit. One of his lifelong friends, Richard Kirkby, joked that had Joseph been born 200 years ago he would have been an explorer and today we would be talking about Blaxland, Lawson and Joseph crossing the Blue Mountains the only difference being that Joseph would have found a shortcut.'

Andrew married Victoria Alexander in 1972 and they had three children - Phoebe, Emily and William. The family first lived in Rozelle then moved to Lower Fort St at Millers Point (The Rocks) spending some of their limited spare time renovating their heritage-listed terrace. Unfortunately, these two seemingly compatible souls were not destined to live together leading to a divorce in 1989.

Afterwards he and Sandy found happiness together, however this was to be short-lived. Thursday 12 May 2005 started as many similar early-morning rows; Basil Simmons, Andrew and others had sculled to Roseville Bridge and when near the Mosman Rowing Club Andrew collapsed in his boat. Three of the rowers applied CPR for half an hour before paramedics arrived and took him to Royal North Shore Hospital where he had bypass surgery. He remained in a coma on life support for ten days but did not recover.

As eloquently put in the Sydney Morning Herald article, Andrew's last sight of this world was from his seat in a single scull as he dipped his oars into the water of Sydney Harbour on a sparkling morning. He acquired many riches over his short but full life, but you would not have known it.

His funeral at the Garrison Church, The Rocks was so well attended mourners overflowed onto Argyle St.

King's Eight for the GPS Gold Challenge, 1999



Andrew Joseph, John Chancellor, Bob Buntine, Basil Simmons, Andrew Reynolds, Scott Allison, Gawain Bowman (cox), Richard Kirkby, Mike Howard, Chris Barton

Contributors:

Basil Simmons, John Chancellor, Richard Kirkby, Scott Allison, Rodney Hammett, David Payne.