

## ANDREW HUDSON (SAM) MARSDEN



**MARSDEN Andrew Hudson 8082 (1962–67)**  
ECH Marsden Bank Manager Parramatta; Bur,  
Bri, Sm. Hm. CUO. Physiotherapist. [26.13]

Born	1 May 1949	Melbourne, Victoria
Died	16 August 2022	Avalon, NSW

We knew him as Sam, a name given to him soon after he started at King's when at a roll call Harry Read came across his name and said you're not Andrew, you must be Sam, after the well-known Parramatta resident, chaplain, missionary and farmer in the early 1800s, the Rev Samuel Marsden. And so it was 'Sam' for the rest of his life.

Sam was born into a family with a long heritage in Victoria and some from a chance encounter between a recovering Australian soldier in England during WW1 and a farmer's daughter. Sam's grandfather Edgar John Marsden married Muriel Alice Aldridge near Cambridge, England in June 1917. Sam's father, Eustace Culham Hudson Marsden was born in England in 1918 and became the Victorian Manger of the Commonwealth Bank. The Hudson in Sam's name comes from a great-great grandmother, Yorkshire born Ann Hudson.

His mother, Jeanne Lawlor Ray, was the eldest of three children in a family where her father had been one of the early airmen in England in the Australian Flying Corps, during WW1. The Ray family lived in Victoria from the mid-1800s.

Arriving at King's in 1962, Sam was a day boy and started with the old syllabus, sitting the Intermediate Certificate in 1963. When it was recommended he repeat, he became part of the first intake for the HSC. Sam then had the unique experience of sitting both the Intermediate Certificate (1963) and the School Certificate (1965). He was undoubtedly a talented student but probably had 'could try harder' in his reports home. Rod Hammett remembers Sam in the same classes of 2<sup>nd</sup> level English, and 2<sup>nd</sup> full levels for Maths and Science where there was good-natured rivalry over getting better marks. Sam also studied Latin and French.

Sam was a house monitor and vice-captain of Britten House. He was also a school monitor and a CUO in cadets. He was a good sportsman being Captain of Swimming in 1967 and played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI.

His HSC results gave him, as one of seven from King's, entry into Medicine at UNSW. In his second year at Uni he had the misfortune to be in a car accident, where unrestrained (this was before mandatory seat belts) he went through the front windscreen cutting his eyes and leaving him blind.

How do you face such a sudden change to your life and your future dreams? 'Sam's spirit during this time was extraordinary, his determination and willpower never dimmed' recalls his brother John. He changed to physiotherapy at Sydney Uni, and then the time came when a corneal graft was attempted – and it succeeded, so that he regained sight in one eye.

Sam married Robyn Mills in 1971, another physiotherapist. They moved to Bathurst and opened a private practice there, but the lure of Sydney proved irresistible, and after a few years in Bathurst they moved back to the Eastern Suburbs. Sam set up practice in Woollahra. However, he came to recognise that an unusual business opportunity existed among the northern beaches, where there were no private physiotherapists, so they moved to Clareville, and Sam stayed in that area, as a physio, for the rest of his life. He and Robyn had two sons, Scott and Luke, but eventually divorced.

Later, in 1994 Sam married Lou: a very happy relationship from which Sam drew great strength. They had a daughter, Daisy, and a son, Harley. The choice of name for Harley was perhaps not unrelated to the fact that one of Sam's best friends at King's was Bruce Harley, who died in 1994 aged 31.



Sam's love of sport and his sporting skills continued throughout his life – at one stage he was teaching abseiling in the Blue Mountains at weekends – and eventually evolved into a passion for lawn bowls. The president of the Avalon Bowls Club remarked to John that Sam was the 'nuts and bolts' of the club. He was a very skilled and successful bowler, helped the club greatly, and enjoyed the social life which went with it.

Sam at the time of his son Luke's graduation in 2005.

Source: Marsden family

Sam died very suddenly, in Avalon, on 16 August 2022, from a heart attack. He was 73.

The family's memory of Sam throughout his life was that he continued to be an affectionate and caring person. The farewell to him was truly unique: a gathering at the Bowls Club, where Sam's oft-expressed wishes were honoured: the large number of people who came all played games of bowls, but wore compulsory eye patches, so that everyone could understand what it was like to have monocular vision!

The games were followed by speeches expressing great love and respect for a person whose life had not been easy but who had done much good for many people. He will be terribly missed.

**Contributors:** John Marsden (brother, OB '68), David Payne, Rodney Hammett

Sam, his father Eustace, and brother John in the 1950s

Source: Marsden family

