

## MALCOLM NORMAN MAKIM



**MAKIM Malcolm Norman 7941 (1961–65) NJ  
& M Makim Grazier North Star; Prep, Jnr  
Mac, Bro, Cdt. Grazier. 23/05/2005**

Born	30 Jun 1949	North Star, NSW
Died	23 May 2005	Goondiwindi, Qld

Commencing boarding at the Prep in January 1961 this fresh athletic lad from North Star, NSW quickly made his mark by playing in the A teams for cricket, athletics and tennis.

The third son of Norman John Makim and Mary Eileen (nee McMeiken), Malcolm was part of the 4th generation of the Makim family to live in the Warialda area, his great-grandfather John Makim being the police sergeant in the early 1870s.<sup>1</sup> His grandfather, also John Makim, acquired a portion of the *Yallaroi* Station in 1899 which he named *Hibernia*, this becoming the home for Norman and the family.

Mal entered Junior Macarthur in 1962 where he was handy at most things and like a number of boys at school preferred to be outside the classroom, although if asked what return you would get if you bet 7/6 at 11/4 his teachers would have been surprised at how good his arithmetic really was.

His usual trip to Parramatta at the beginning of the term was by train, with a number of other boys in the district, departing North Star at 1:30pm and arriving Central at 7:00am the next day, a trip of more than seventeen hours. After one such trip the boys ventured to the races at Rosehill and Mal had the first leg up in the double. It was almost time to return to King's so some boys headed for the station. Mal called out to his friends 'Don't worry about the train boys, if the second leg wins we'll be travelling back to school in a taxi.' His optimism and love of racing were ever-present.

His last two years at school (1964 and '65) were in Broughton House which in 1964 relocated to the Old School.

Mal played cricket in the school A teams and was a member of the U16 tennis team for three years, captaining it in 1965 (see photo). His rugby skills were not so evident at school only playing in the Bs, Cs and lower grades. He was to correct this later in life. But he was known for amongst other things, his goal-kicking: he was Capt of the 10ths in 1965 and used to kick bare-footed; in one match that King's won 81-0 at Northbridge, he converted 15 kicks from 15 attempts!

The Land beckoned after the School Certificate so Mal left King's in December 1965.

In 1966 he commenced his farming career on *Cleveland* with his father. The wool boom was ending and wheat growing was expanding at a rapid rate. Soon North Star became highly regarded as a premium wheat growing area.

This was the year he really started playing rugby, first league but the next year returning to union with the Goondiwindi Emus. Now well over six feet tall, a second rower with natural ball skills he was soon playing A Grade for the Emus in the Darling Downs Competition. He played in the winning premiership team in 1969 and represented Darling Downs and Queensland Country Firsts.

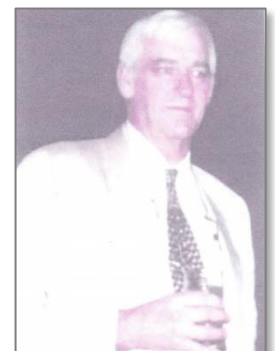
Mal was selected in representative trial matches in Brisbane and played for Queensland Country against the Fijian national team.

It was during this time, one Saturday afternoon in 1974, the Emus played the University of Southern Queensland. Mal's team lost, but in the bar afterwards he expressed pleasure in meeting a few King's old boys including Cyril Payne ('67) and Stacey Barlow ('70). Going further, Cyril recalls, 'he reached into his coat pocket and pulled out a roll of notes that would choke a horse and let us know he'd had a great day at the races and threw \$200 onto the bar to shout the Uni team and anyone else who wanted a beer'.

He continued his involvement with cricket and was one of the district's best tennis players.

Mal served as a Yallaroi Shire Councillor, and also on the committee of the Moree Race Club.

After leaving the land, he ventured into the hospitality industry and, for many years was the joint proprietor of the Royal Hotel in Gympie, Queensland.



<sup>1</sup> His brothers at King's were Maxwell Douglas John Maxim (1950-54) & Geoffrey Robert Makim (1952-57)

Mal remained single and was very proud of his nieces and nephews.

He lived his life much like he was at King's – popular, friendly and generous, interested more in others than himself. He was a loyal and supportive friend, equally comfortable talking to the man on the Stop and Go sign or to the largest ratepayer in the district.

After many years as a diabetic, Mal was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died after a short illness on 23 May 2005. He is buried in the Goondiwindi Lawn Cemetery.

In conclusion, an obituary of this nature cannot do justice to the eccentric, irreverent, entertaining and likeable man that was Mal Makim. A one thousand page book and an art gallery are more appropriate.



U16 Tennis Team, 1965

**Contributors:**

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