

## John Carew's Memorial Service

Eulogy by David Carew (son)

John's coaching achievements are numerous and significant and I am certain he would be proud of the legacy he has left behind. I am very proud of his achievements and I thought it easier to display them rather than me verbally listing them. Being inducted into the sports hall of fame and being awarded swimming coach of the Quadrennium are highlights of a coaching career spanning half a century.

John was very proud of his awards and I mean no disrespect to those that issued the awards, but one of my cherished memories will be of him using various awards as doorstops at the family home. His choice doorstop was "Coach of the year 1992" a large lump of black granite. That award could hold the door open in a stiff breeze.

Easily the greatest of his coaching achievement is reflected in this hall today with the number of people here paying their respects and from those unable to attend passing on their condolences this week. Although he achieved all sorts of accolades in his years as an elite coach his most significant achievement was his lasting impact he had on individuals at all levels in the swimming community and indeed anyone he was associated with. He made the same impact on the knock about kid down the road who swam in the squad as he did with elite champions such as Kieran Perkins. His subtle mentoring and lasting influence on the children he coached is his true legacy. For a man with a short fuse whose outburst cause fear in many I am in awe of the respect he received from pupils, staff, peers, parents and friends.

Over many decades of coaching thousands of swimmers, I can safely say everyone in his squads if not on the receiving end would have experienced a roasting from "Mr Carew". Discipline and respect were his hallmarks. However a special mention must go to a few who received extra attention for reoccurring indiscretions. Murray Allen and Rosie Millgate (Now Potter) for pioneering the now famous mile of fly. Congratulations must go to Jenny McMahan, Phillip Brosgarth, Jodi Tanner and Danielle Farren-Price on making "Mr Carews" hall of grilling greats. Fondly enough they all have the greatest respect and affection for him. I apologise to all the other worthy members I have left out.

I believe he would be comforted by the fact that his work or legacy still continues. It is business as usual with 45 young John Carew Penguins competing in a local swim carnival tomorrow – many of whom are here today in their John Carew Penguin Shirts to pay their respects. Excluding today, the swim school will be open as always continuing the local institution that Barb and John created together through decades of hard toil. His swim school is teaching a new generation of children from the same families - learn to swim and competitive swimming, testament to the quality of methodologies John and Barb produced.

There is so much more to say. You cannot summerise a fulfilling life in 5 minutes so my final words will be Dad was a genuine, humble and unique individual. There will never be another John Carew but I am externally grateful my life has been enriched by his.