

VALE Jim Martin: 1927-2011

James David (Jim) Martin, the first born child to John and Eileen Martin and a great grandson of Bridget Coleman (née Carrucan), was born 2nd December, 1927. Baby Jim was brought home to Rowland Street Mont Albert – a typical suburban home of the post Great War era: 116 m² of timber frame, tiled roof and weatherboard clad construction in the Californian Bungalow style. The family extended in 1933 with the birth of brother John.

The Depression engendered frugality and a spirit of self-sufficiency. They had their 'veggie' gardens. This also encouraged the development of recycling of garden and household waste as compost.

After Kindergarten, Jim attended Mont Albert Primary School and later Surrey Hills State. In each case home was a quarter of an hour walk from the school. In 1940 Jim transferred to Scotch College for his secondary education. Those early days of the '39 - '45 war were to colour his remaining school years. The home was vitally affected for Jack Martin held an executive position in the nation's premier ammunition factory. This meant his absence from home from early morn till late at night. Many family chores fell to Jim, significantly increasing when, toward the end of the War; Jack was transferred to Adelaide to manage a new ammunition factory.

Entering the University of Melbourne in 1947, Jim commenced a science course, following his father's lead with a view to major in metallurgy. Jim reduced his studies to part time, accepting an appointment as a research assistant in the Bailieu Laboratory in the Metallurgy School researching the properties of titanium alloys as high strength materials. In 1952 he accepted an appointment as metallurgist with Rola Company. Later, as a research assistant with Aeronautical Research Laboratories, he worked as a research assistant in the High Temperature Metals Group (1953 - 56).

Responding to appeal of studies in the humanities, Jim transferred to the Faculty of Arts. With the change of direction in his studies, Jim affirmed his sense of calling into the Presbyterian Ministry. He was accepted into the Theological Hall at Ormond College, University of Melbourne, commencing theological studies in 1957, graduating in 1960.

During his university years Jim linked with the Student Christian Movement and the Choral Society. Jim edited the Science Faculty Society's annual magazine, *Science Review* and in 1951, served as Victorian State Treasurer of the SCM.

Jim's marriage with Helen Dallimore November 1960 began a three-year sojourn at Apollo Bay, Victoria as minister to the Joint Presbyterian - Methodist Parish. The Apollo Bay appointment was an eventful period: Jim and Helen's first daughter, Catherine, was born, Jim became a volunteer Ambulance Officer, and was appointed as an Honorary Probation Officer of the Childrens' Courts.

In January 1964, Jim moved to St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, East Geelong while Helen left Apollo Bay for Melbourne to return to Geelong with their newly born son, Richard to the their new Manse in Geelong.

The following three years at St Andrew's saw both Helen and Jim involved in the local and wider community. For Jim, work with the various Councils of the Church increased and the link with the Ambulance Service changed, as he became the representative of the Apollo Bay Volunteers on the Regional Council. In due course he was appointed as that Council's representative at the state level including membership of the State Training Committee and Lecturer in the Ambulance Training School. Elizabeth, Jim and Helen's second daughter was born during this time

In 1967 Jim was appointed as to 'The Geelong College', which post he held until 1971. This necessitated the acquisition of a new home, moving from East Geelong to Newtown, Geelong. It was this new home that Ann Louise, Helen and Jim's third daughter was to enter. During these years, Jim served a term as Chaplain to the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and he also served a two-year term as the Moderator of the

Presbytery of Geelong.



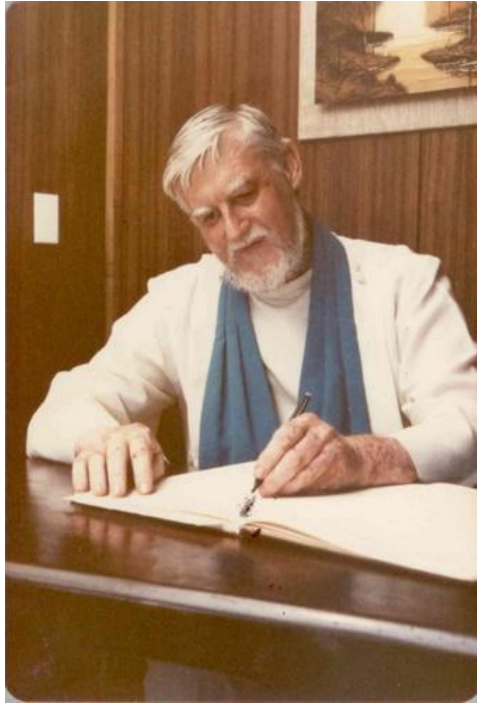
1971 - Jim's and Helen's children Catherine, Ann, Elizabeth and Richard Martin with grandparents Eileen and Jack Martin

Jim was next appointed as Principal of 'The John Flynn College', a co-residential College within James Cook University of North Queensland. The appointment involved the translocation of the family to Townsville, to live in a house yet to be constructed. The foundations were poured, auspiciously the day before Christmas Eve 1971, when Cyclone Althea devastated Townsville, including many of the University buildings. It was a rough and rude awakening to the new venture for Jim, newly arrived from the south. The rest of the family flew in on the first civil flight after the airport reopened, a week later.

As principal of a Church based Residential University College, Jim exercised diverse roles as pastor, administrator, tutor, counsellor, fund raiser, and manager. The principal was automatically as member of the Faculty of Arts and opportunities presented in time to serve the university as history tutor, Chairman of the Board of Studies for the Social Work Department, and member of the University Ethics Committee.

As part of his graduate studies with the University of New England in 1980, Jim undertook a study of residence provided in universities in Britain, Europe, the USA and Canada visiting universities in each area. He extended this later, visiting New Zealand and Australian universities.

In 1978, the year following the union of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches, the Queensland Government sought to eject the church staff from the Aboriginal Communities of Arukun and Mornington Island. As Chairman of Presbytery, Jim took a leading role on the ground during the working out of this tense situation. Jim became the Secretary of Trustees and for several years acted as Director Fund Raising for a Joint Residential Colleges Appeal. For nineteen years he was Chairman of the North Queensland Committee of the Queensland Marriage Guidance Council.



Jim in his role as Principal of 'The John Flynn College', a co-residential College within James Cook University of North Queensland

He retired in 1992, settling with Helen in Balwyn, a Melbourne suburb.

With extra time now at his disposal, he threw himself into many initiatives, including the ongoing Carrucan genealogical research. He travelled to Fanore in 1996 and met our Irish cousins. Filled with enthusiasm, he worked as part of the planning committee for the highly successful 1998 reunion and then took the reins as the family worked towards the sesquicentenary celebrations of 2004. This culminated in a huge family reunion and the publication of 'Dirt Poor ~ Spirit Rich', a comprehensive Carrucan genealogical listing.



2009 – Jim (right) with cousin Michael Carrucan, brother John and cousin Mary Conheady

His thoughts then turned to a book and, for the next 5 years, he cajoled the wider family into contributing anecdotes and stories. Indeed, no one knew the extended family better than Jim.

With enough material now on hand, the book could become a reality and he gathered a small but enthusiastic group to push forwards. But Jim always remained the driving force and it was his vision that guided us all towards a final product.

We all knew that Jim had been struggling in the last few years with a number of serious health issues but he was never one to complain or let increasing frailties get in his way. I used to go over regularly to work with him on book planning so was aware of what a struggle life had become for him. Indeed, I think it was the book that kept him going for as long as he did and he remained fully committed to it right to the end. Even the day before he died, he was working on the final chapter and we exchanged 3 emails during the course of the day (2 of the emails were instructions from Jim!). At least, he knew that the book was on course for publication and that nothing was going to stop it now.

Jim died at home on the morning of Wednesday 13 April. He was 83 years of age. We will all miss him.

Our deepest condolences to his wife Helen and to their children Catherine, Richard, Liz and Ann, their sons-in-law Gregory, Steven and Simon and their grandchildren Jeremy, Anders and Claudia.

Tim Erickson

Wednesday 13 April 2011