

Michael Myles Doyle



“My story really begins in Epping, on August 9, 1939, Tony is 20 minutes older, and in those days there were humidicribs and being premmies weighing only 3lbs each we were swaddled in cotton wool - does this explain everything? Our time at school was not only education but sport and my two loves were Cricket and Tennis. I was a good cricketer and very good at Tennis. One day a Brother drew me aside and said “if you want to be a world player, choose between your Cricket and Tennis”. I chose Tennis, so began my long association with the game.

In those days of the 50’s and 60’s it was an amateur sport and to get ahead the family had to have money, we were not in that category and even though Slazenger were very generous to me supplying tennis racquets, I was never able to go overseas. Many an exceptional player slipped through the cracks male and female, because of this, and only the few were able to go to Wimbledon and the like.”

*** From twin brother Tony: At the NSW Schoolboy Championships in May, 1955, Mick and Tony met the #1 seeds in the quarter finals defeating them (Martin Mulligan & Barry Plucknett). Then in the semi-final they went down fighting to Ron Rowles and John Wheeler 10-12 6-8 in a marathon that went for over 2 hours. That same year in the Easter tournament at Taree, the brothers beat Newcombe and Knox in a memorable match as 15 year-olds. Both boys played President’s Cup, and they also had wins against older, more experienced opposition (Blackwell Cup reps) at various tournaments.*

“I married at 24 built a home at Newport and had a daughter Lesley, eventually ending up at Annangrove on a few acres.

With my wife Margaret, a real horse lover, we had minor success with horses namely “Sporty Todd” and others but eventually gave the game away. Margaret and I divorced and my life took on other priorities.

During this time I had not played much Tennis but played a lot of Squash even hitting up with the famous Heather McKay. I was good enough to be in the NSW State Team; Squash kept me very fit before I took up Golf, becoming a member of Longreach and then The Castle Hill Country Club. These three pursuits I loved intensely and kept up with breeding, racing, trainers and jockeys, having extensive knowledge of the “sport of kings”.

I met Anne in November of 1980 on a blind date in Canberra and by the New Year we were living together. Anne saw that there was a large Tennis Tournament at Easter, being held at Lyneham, so we went down to have a look. Well there was Bruce Cashman, Mick Parslow, Denis Colette, Mick Bruton and many, many others from my Junior days, it was a large gathering of about 200 top seniors and almost all of them recognised me, saying “well Mick, what are you doing?” Being very overweight they recommended that I trim down saying, “OK, get fit and play here next year”, and that is what I did. I started playing at Kaleen; I was

soon red and puffing, which worried Barrie Arnold, "are you all right Mick?" I lost weight, honed my skills and did play in the Easter Tournament the following year -1982.

I joined the ACT Tennis Seniors Committee, working with them for over 10 years. During this time Patrick Moloney and I began the Easter Tournament at Weston Creek, with me as Director and Pat as Admin and Secretary, Peter Breugelmans as Treasurer. During this time Betty Smith and my wife Anne took up the challenge of providing food in the Clubhouse for 13 years. This involved cramped conditions but they provided fresh assorted sandwiches, soup, fresh cakes and delicious slices every day.

I have participated in all but four Australian Tennis Teams' Championships (now called a Carnival) from 1982 until 2015 with many team members but Colin Power has been with me for most of them. It was with great pride that we won in Perth. A great team of mates. It was unfortunate we could not go to many Interstate Tournaments during the late 90's and 2000's but we did go to Grenfell twice a year, Wagga Wagga, Forbes, Miami Qld, Cowra and even got to Singleton & Nelson Bay one year and Forster for the last 5 years. I have been a salesman all my life starting out at a shipping company then onto DuPont where I made a good job of it. I then tried with another chap to get an invention up and running called Wheelad but this was not a goer as no one was willing to take the chance. I got a job with Sunbeam and loved the Company and the clients, travelling up and down the Coast, out into the Riverina, around Canberra a many other parts of NSW. This was a great time for me lifting the sales from \$400K to around the million mark – pretty incredible for the 1980's.

Anne and I married in Canberra in 1987 after living together for 6 years, we had a fun wedding with the guests and others at the Motel getting into our room and waiting for us "Surprise!" - then into the champagne again finishing up at about 2am. We have had a few homes in Canberra, building our own business "Brindabella Books" in 1997 which together we made a success.

We retired at the end of 2007, then moved to Grenfell in April 2008. Once again Tennis came to the fore and I went on the Committee and ran the Open Teams and Grenfell Seniors Tournaments for 5 years much to the enjoyment of many from Canberra. I played in the Men's Tuesday night Tennis Comp and won most of the time against men half my age also loving to have a social hit with my old mate Bill Rudd.

Selecting Red wine became a hobby for me and I loved ordering and studying a particular vineyard's wine and vintage and loved putting the cellar together having one every Saturday night at our candlelight dinner. Just the two of us.

During 2011 we went on a trip of a life time going through Europe then to the UK hiring a car and travelling far and wide including Ireland, the seat of the Doyles, and Scotland. It was eight weeks of wonder and enjoyment for us both."

Brother-in-Law Richard: Anne declares that Michael has always been an honourable, honest husband, a hard- working man with an intense love of Tennis. He was very happy, yes over the moon, that so many of his tennis friends contacted him and even visited him recently while in Hospital, as well as his brothers and other friends. It was Anne's privilege to care

for Michael on his long journey in 2015 and into 2016 and he died peacefully at home after being nursed by Anne and the Palliative care nurse Lyn Peterson, who knew him well and had played tennis with him. Michael loved talking with me and even sharing a joke and talking sport besides how he was feeling and how the treatment was going.

For the record, Anne and Michael's life was a full one, they went everywhere together, with work and play. Anne's loss is just so great to endure for herself and Abbie, their dear little Maltese with whom Michael formed a close bond – he was “her Daddy”.

Attending Michael's service has been an eye-opener for me, and a window into his life.

Anne offers a heartfelt thank you to all his friends and acquaintances for your kindness and support, it would mean a lot to Michael to know he was so well loved.

By Anne Doyle