

Jordan, Colin 18 July 1931 – 1 August 2022

Testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Colin Jordan

Colin Jordan was born on the 18th of July 1931 in Derby Derbyshire, the youngest of three sons born to Albert and Alice Jordan. As a young man he hiked and cycled around Europe, and back in England, found employment as a fitter and turner working for Rolls Royce. It was there he met Eva, who was working for Rolls Royce as an occupational nurse. After a brief courtship, Colin and Eva were married in Derby on the 2nd of April 1955.

Colin had always been fascinated by Australia. Even as a child, he would travel by train to Australia House in London and read brochures about the country he imagined to be “a land of milk and honey”, so in 1964 he, with Eva and their three young daughters, set sail for Australia on the Castel Felici. They arrived in Melbourne on Labour Day in time for the Moomba celebrations.

Initially at least, Australia wasn't quite the paradise Colin had anticipated. On arrival, the family were housed at the migrant hostel at Broadmeadows. The heat and sunshine were unlike anything Colin had experienced before and, after spending one whole day at a local pool, had to be hospitalised for sunstroke. Colin and Eva soon found employment, Colin in real estate and Eva as an occupational nurse. While they were at work, their daughters were cared for by a kindly Nissan-hut neighbour, with the delightful name of Mrs Lovely.

Housing and land were expensive in Melbourne, but Colin heard of a new development at Elizabeth, South Australia, where houses and land were cheap, so in December 1964, the family moved to a house in Elizabeth Field. A few months later, their fourth child, and only son, Robert, was born. In Adelaide, Colin initially found a job as a fitter and turner, but later joined the RAAF where he worked in an admin role. He stayed in the RAAF until, in 1971, he undertook another career change and left to become a probation officer.

It was around this time that first Eva, and then Colin, became interested in Quakers and went along to the North Adelaide Meeting House where they felt warmly welcomed, the children becoming part of the Children's Meeting, which was quite active at the time. With her nursing background, Eva related to the spirituality of the Fellowship of Healing, whereas Colin's strong sense of social justice led to his long involvement with QSA.

In 1973 the family moved to Gawler, to a house in Main North Road, where they continued to live until Colin's death and where Eva continues to live now. The long trip to North Adelaide eventually became too much of an obstacle to be undertaken on a regular basis, but Colin and Eva were an enthusiastic part of a small worshipping group which formed for a time in Gawler around 2000, meeting for worship being held monthly in their home.

Following his retirement in 1992, Colin was able to spend more time in his garden. He discovered he had a talent for making excellent jams and preserves and won many prizes at various Barossa shows. He and Eva also sold their produce and Eva's needlework at numerous Barossa markets along with the free-range eggs from the chooks who inhabited their large garden.

Colin died in the Lyall McEwan Hospital on the 1st of August 2022, maintaining his interest in music, reading, and politics up until the time of his death.

We give thanks for the Grace of God in the life of Colin Jordan.

Minute of Record.

We record the death of Colin Jordan, a member since 1975. We remember with thankfulness his convenorship of Quaker Service in South Australia for fifteen years (1980-1995). He died on 1 August, aged 91. We ask Kerry O'Regan (subject to consent) to prepare a testimony on the life of Colin Jordan.

South Australia and Northern Territory Regional Meeting, Meeting for Worship for Business, 2 October 2022, Minute 3.2.

Notice.

I bring the sad news that Colin Jordan, at the age of 91 years old has died, on 1st August 2022. Colin was a Member of the Society of Friends and attended North Adelaide Meeting and also a worshipping group of Quakers in Gawler some years ago.

Adelaide (SANTRM) Local Meeting e-Notices, 17 August 2022.