

Jim Cox 06.08.42 – 22.03.09



Jim Cox was a character in his own right – he was known as a noisy, fun loving, gregarious guy who was totally outspoken and did not tolerate bullshit. Jim maintained his friendships throughout the years with everyone, he was an advisor and mentor to so many people in promoting their careers and lives. He especially cared and loved

his family and was devoted to guiding Faye and Carolyn (and unofficial son-in-law Jason) to accomplish greater things in their lives.

Jim grew up to be a very knowledgeable man who “knew almost everything” and delighted in interactions and debates throughout his life. In 1963 Jim headed out to Camden, NSW to learn how to skydive. This was the beginning of Jim’s wonderful adventure in life. Jumping was very basic in those early days of the sixties (with only 30 jumps you could be an Instructor) but Jim was a survivor and was completely drawn into this world of skydiving. He was accused of being dangerous by his Instructor, for making 50 jumps in one year - which was considered too many to be safe!

After working and jumping in different states around Australia, Jim spent a lot of time at Townsville, North Queensland. Jim and his fellow jumpers from the Townsville Parachute Club introduced skydiving to Tully, when they organised a training camp at the Airstrip to prepare for the 65/66 Australian National Championships in Port Pirie, South Australia. Jim also trained his future wife, Faye, to make her first jumps at Tully.

After becoming the Australian Champion at the Port Pirie Nationals, he headed off to his first World Championships in East Germany. Jim won a place on every Australian Style and Accuracy Parachute Team at every National Championships he competed at and enjoyed representing Australia at many world and other international events. Jim also competed at National and State level in Formation Skydiving and Canopy Formation over the years. He was a National Judge for Style, Accuracy, Formation Skydiving,

Canopy Formation and Canopy Piloting. Jim had a huge collection of trophies and medals and was recipient of many sporting national and international awards.

After returning from Germany, Jim returned to Faye’s hometown at Perth, where they lived, worked and jumped weekends with the Rockingham Skydivers. In between, they returned to Townsville to more easily continue their competition jumping in the eastern states. They married at Perth in 1968 and shared a beach house at Cottesloe with local jumpers, Bob and Jenny Stafford, but finally the distance and continuous travels to the east drew them back to Townsville, where they settled and lived until 1995.

Together with skydiving friends, Noel and Sophie Weckert, in 1969, Jim and Faye set up the Townsville Sport Parachute & Skydiving Centre at Barringha, a farm property near Townsville. It was very basic with no water, a dirt track for an airstrip, old bush toilet and open shed for shade, but was a place where jumpers could do their thing and have lots of fun.

After Noel and Sophie’s untimely deaths in 1974, Jim and Faye bought a property at Manton, near Woodstock, north west from Townsville, where Jim cleared the wooded land to form an airstrip, large landing area and erected training facilities and comfortable accommodation complex. The jumpers affectionately named the drop zone “Golliwog Farm” because Jim, Faye, baby daughter Carolyn and Airedale dog “Woofa” all had curly hair.

Jim and Faye ran the Centre for 27 years. As the Chief and Senior Instructor, he trained thousands of skydivers, including his beloved daughter Carolyn, and thrilled throngs of people with skydiving demonstrations throughout Queensland and Australia.

During this time Jim acquired his private pilot’s licence and became an avid jump and recreational pilot. He owned several aircraft, mainly Cessnas, which were useful for jumping, as well as a couple of more sporty aircraft. Jim was well known and enjoyed by the maintenance crews at the Townsville and Ingham airports where he was always noisily active in assisting in the maintenance of his planes.

Jim was a Life Member and driving force in the development of the Australian Parachute Federation. He was instrumental in the formation of the North Queensland Parachute Council and represented North Queensland as the Board Member for more than 25 years.

After more than 4,000 jumps all over the globe, Jim “retired” to Coolum Beach in 1996 and became a coach and judge for national and international competitions until last year. After retiring, Jim continued to jump on a more casual basis and he came involved in assisting Faye with the development of the Asiana Parachute Federation. He also enjoyed his casual time with family and friends, drinking red wine and checking out the surf.

Later, in 1997 when Carolyn met her fiancé Jason, Jim and Faye accepted him as a loved and adopted son, and the four of them have been lucky to share their lives together closely over the years.

Jim died just recently after being diagnosed with asbestos cancer. He will be greatly missed by his family and all of his friends. A great man who loved his family, loved life and lived it to the full in a careful, caring way.

