



VALE - Kevin Cummins 1943 – 2019

EULOGY by Melbourne Camera Club Member and 1970 Club President David Ellis about his friend and fellow Club President in 1971 Kevin Cummins at the funeral service Thursday 10 October 2019

Kevin Cummins - c1974 Clubrooms Lygon St Carlton

My original connection with Kevin as with others of you here today was through photography and the Melbourne Camera Club. It must be over 50 years since I first met him. Kevin and I made colour slides at the time which was quite expensive. To make things a bit more affordable Kevin and I together with Barrie Bunning bought Ektachrome in 100-foot rolls and re-wound it into standard 35 mm cassettes. We also bought Ektachrome processing chemicals in bulk which we decanted into small beer bottles. You had to drink a six-pack of beer for a set of chemical bottles. Then Kevin and I saw the error of our ways and started setting up our darkrooms to make black and white prints. Colour was out of the question then.

In the 1960's the club had a yearly outing to club Member Bob Harvey's place at Rye on the Mornington Peninsula where we would have a barbeque and visit the back beach to take photographs. I wouldn't say Kevin was shy exactly, but he was reserved even if he had a booming voice. He didn't have a girlfriend and came each time on his own or with friends. Some of us were getting concerned about him. Then at the next barbeque out stepped from his car a beautiful girl. We were stunned. He introduced her to us as Inga.

Before long the Club walls were covered in pictures of her looking absolutely glamorous. While Kevin might have been a bit reserved, Inga was very outgoing. However, they seemed to complement each other, and it was no surprise that they married.



**Inga & Kevin – PhotoGroup
Sugar Cane Thai Restaurant -
Dec 2004 - Photo Alan Elliott**



**The EYE PORTRAIT by Kevin Cummins
1965 - Permanent Print Collection of
the Melbourne Camera Club**

Kevin had his own ideas of how prints should be presented in the Club. The Club suggested that they had to be no bigger than 16 inches by 20 inches. From time to time Kevin rebelled by making huge prints just to upset the organisers. It had no effect on his popularity and he was elected President in 1971.

Kevin had a very highly regarded & rugged Leica camera in the film days, a camera that we would all expect that would last a life time, however Kevin put through so many films using it for his photography 24/7 that he wore out the rewind mechanism. Leica repairs could not believe the story until receiving it for service.

A group of Club members started meeting informally for dinner at various restaurants and later at each other's houses to look at our latest photographic work.

When Kevin and Inga were first married, they rented a flat - these days it would be called an apartment, in Toorak Road on the north side west of the Toorak shopping centre. At this stage of our lives we took it in turns to host dinner parties as eating at restaurants was not such a fashionable thing and besides, we were all in the same position – saving to buy land and build a house. Kevin very cleverly made a beautiful white timber pedestal dining room table to fit in their living area. It was obvious he was skilled in this area. They later moved to Eltham where Kevin's construction and design skills were used to build their first house. Some years later they built a second house at Eltham. I am not sure, but I think both houses had darkrooms.

Kevin had a dramatic change of career in the 1980s from being a design draftsman. He bought a bakery in Mount Waverly. At first, he employed a baker but then he found that he could do the bread making himself. Unfortunately, this seriously affected his attendance at the Melbourne Camera Club because you can't go out at night to the Club and then get up at 2am to make bread.

Later he had a further career change where he used his knowledge of building in his role as Maintenance Manager at the retirement village where Inga oversaw nursing. Further to this, his regular dialysis put even further restrictions on his movements and photography.

After Inga died Kevin attempted to return to the Melbourne Camera Club but the demanding drive from his home made this difficult.

Our little group of Melbourne Camera Club members and ex-members has continued meeting over the years. Our numbers have been sadly reduced over time. We have always had a Christmas lunch at a restaurant or hotel. I think that this will be the first one without Kevin.

He will be greatly missed.
David Ellis
Oct 2019

