

Neil Raymer

We are thankful and proud to have had Neil as my devoted husband and father of Lucy (11 Years), Julie (9) and Victoria (7). He unselfishly devoted the last 22 years of his life to his family. He loved his girls dearly. He strived to do his best and took pride in everything he did.

Apart from his girls, his pride of achievement was building a house for his family. It was a tremendous effort, with work done on weekends and holidays. Bernie Parsons helped and laid every block and then continued to help Neil for many months to see Neil and Normas dream realized. Neil was diagnosed with cancer six years ago. We thank God for the time we were able to spend with Neil since then. Neil considered these last six years a gift and cherished every day, as we did too. Even after being re-diagnosed with cancer in January 2001 Neil went through the painful and debilitating chemical treatment in the hope of spending more time with his family.

Neil's load was lightened by the wonderful support and generosity extended to his family by friends throughout his long illness. We are eternally grateful to each and every one of you for giving so lovingly in our time of need. We feel proud to belong to this community.

I met Neil in 1979 and journeyed with him to Australia to begin our lives together. After only two weeks in Australia we were on a Caving Club expedition into the wilds of the Mitchell Palmer area, locating, exploring and mapping caves truly an unforgettable experience for me. In the following years Neil and I spent many happy days caving at Chillagoe where we located and mapped many new caves in the Mungana area.

I admired Neil for his honesty, his principles, his sincerity, loyalty, respect for others and his forthrightness. I loved Neil as my husband, father to our children and as my best friend. I must congratulate Alex, his mother, for bringing Neil into this world and for raising him as the wonderful man that he was.

In his working life Neil trained as a wood turner, becoming a tradesman wood turner. Subsequently he had a variety of jobs and worked at a timber mill in Babinda, as a truck driver at Weipa for Comalco, a farm hand for Tom Robinson, a bin-tractor driver for Delta Harvesters and finally joined Telstra where he progressed over 18 years to designing underground networks throughout Queensland.

We will miss him dreadfully but are glad that he is now at rest after his final illness.

Normer Raymer.