Guided by commitment to society

DAVID MARDEN CAIN, PSM
Business manager

Born: August 12, 1934; Adelaide
Died: February 16, 2021; Adelaide

David Marden Cain was the oldest of Marjorie and Reginald Cain's five children.

He grew up in Westbourne Park and Hawthorn, was a choir boy at St Columba's Church and later sang in the St Peter's Cathedral Choir.

David showed determination and leadership throughout his life and his efforts were regularly recognised. He was awarded a scholarship to attend Pulteney Grammar School prior to working as an office boy at The Advertiser.

While employed there, David enrolled in an accounting course, which he completed at the same time as raising a family. During these years, David also completed his national service training in the army and became a volunteer member of the 3/9th SA Mounted Rifles for four years.

He was with The Advertiser for about 10 years, ending up as the office manager for a printing subsidiary, Craftsman Press. He then moved to an advertising agency, Clem Taylor O'Brien, where he spent 12 years, rising to the position of company secretary.

His next move was to Mildura as general manager of the local television station STV8, before returning to Adelaide as general secretary of the Red Cross.

David made a major contribution to Red Cross services. He received the Red Cross Medal for meritorious service for coordinating support services and supplies for those hit by Cyclone Tracy in Darwin.

His next major role was with the Citrus Board of South Australia, where he led the marketing arrangements for citrus at a time of global competition and oversupply.

David's major achievement was negotiating access for Australian citrus fruits to the US. Reaching agreement with the US authorities regarding phytosanitary arrangements, quality assurance and consistency of supply took around eight years to complete.

He travelled regularly to the US to negotiate arrangements and monitor the fruit being packed to meet their requirements. His dedication was recognised when he was awarded the Public Service Medal in 1999.

Through the Citrus Board, he became involved with the Royal Show Society, of which he was made an honorary member in 2009.

David retired from the Citrus Board in 1999 to devote more time to family and friends and to pursue his involvement in Lions International.

Lions was a very big part of David's life. In 1966 he became a charter member of the Mitcham Lions Club and gave many years of service.

He held the prestigious position of district governor in 1978-79 and was well known for his enthusiasm, commitment and drive to achieve. His contribution was acknowledged by the many "Lions" who attended his funeral.

David met his future wife, Jenny, at an early age and married her in 1958. They were totally supportive of their children, Tim, Chris and Cindy, and were proud that they, too, shared their values and commitment to society.

Tragically, Jenny developed Alzheimer's disease and required much care, which David willingly provided. She died in 2005, leaving a huge hole in his life, and in his heart.

David was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2013. He continued to engage with family and friends, while enjoying their support and friendship. He played golf and tennis into his 82nd year and enjoyed overseas and interstate travel.

David is survived by his three children, nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and his companion, Marie.

He lived his life fully and his favourite motto was: It is better to have tried and failed rather than to have failed to try.