



Anthony McLean Watts
13 July 1936 - 20 July 2022

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Today we are celebrating the life of Tony Watts, Dad, and Pa.

Tony was born in West Ryde (Sydney). He was the second son of Ivo Stuart Watts and Marjorie Wallace Watts. Tony had an older brother Dean, and two younger sisters, Eleanor and Elizabeth (Liz). He and his family lived in Rooty Hill in his younger years, then moved to Turrumurra in his teens. He completed Bachelors' degrees in Engineering and Science and then a PhD at the University of Sydney.

Tony met Margaret Downie in 1955. They married in 1961 and then ventured to California, where Tony was a Research Fellow at California Institute of Technology. They lived in California for three years and had two sons, Ian and Duncan. They later had two more sons, David and Malcolm. This satisfied Margaret's premonition, not long after meeting Tony: "I knew he was the one and that we'd have four sons together".

In 1965 Tony joined the Department of Mathematics at the University of Queensland, St Lucia, where he made life-long friends, including with Keith and Judy Matthews. Throughout his life, Tony was an avid musician. In Brisbane, he and Margaret joined the Early Music Society of Queensland. Tony was also part of several music groups throughout his life.

Margaret and Tony bought a block of land in Upper Brookfield, around 1980. They commissioned architect Nigel Brammer to design a mud brick house, then enlisted their sons and the occasional helper to ram the bricks. In 1985 they moved into their haven. Brookfield has been a special home to them ever since.

In 1985 Tony co-founded Opcom, with John Holt a colleague from UQ, which occupied him for the rest of his professional career. Opcom developed into a successful business, and was sold in the early 2000s at about the same time Tony retired. In his retirement Tony had the time to pursue a long-held interest in photography. He joined the Brisbane Camera Group around 2015 and some of his wildlife and street life images are on display here.

Tony and Margaret have seven grandchildren, Kylie, Emma, Ella, Matthew, Alex, Edith and Florence.

In the last few years, Tony and Margaret have both had significant health scares. For the past few months, Tony had been caring for Margaret at their beloved home in Brookfield.

Ian, Duncan, David and Malcolm.