

Vale Paulo

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Obituaries

Herald Sun 6 April

PAUL McCORMACK

Coach gave life his best shot

OLYMPIC PISTOL COACH

Born: December 2, 1938

Died: March 3, 2009

PAUL McCormack, whose involvement in pistol shooting spanned 50 years, was Australia's coach at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and again at the Commonwealth Games two years later in Kuala Lumpur.

He became involved firstly in South Australia before moving to Canberra as the Australian Shooting Association's coach and administrator. By 2001 he was working full time in the sport internationally.

Born at Warrnambool, Barry Paul McCormack grew up mainly in Werribee and was educated at St Patrick's College, East Melbourne.

An early keen interest in cycling, which he had developed at school, led to his first marriage.

After an accident he was admitted to a Werribee hospital, where one of the nurses was the petite and vivacious Cecily D'Arcy. They had three children and were together for 32 years until they parted in 2000.

In spite of his accident, Paul showed promise as a cyclist until shooting became his main interest, initially with clay targets before concentrating on pistol shooting from the 1960s.

Paul spent his working life as a surveyor, chiefly with the federal government's surveying and mapping offices, often spending long periods in the Outback, usually at remote bush camps and offshore on ships on bathymetry. He also spent a season in Antarctica.



Sportsman: Paul McCormack.

In pistol shooting, Paul was an excellent competitor and coach in all disciplines. In 1981 he was the Australian champion for the 25m black powder event.

After he'd left surveying Paul opened a small business as a window cleaner, and by 2000 had organised his time sufficiently to become the Australian Institute of Sport's shooting co-ordinator.

Although this was a part-time position, Paul treated it as full-time and threw himself into the role.

He left Australia in 2001 to begin a new life in Bangkok as the coach, administrator and competition or-

ganiser for the Thailand Shooting Federation.

His work with the Thais, worldwide contacts and shooting knowledge led to Thailand's rise to prominence in the sport and to Bangkok hosting World Cup events and World Cup finals.

Having established and reinforced his international reputation, he moved to Kuwait in 2007 to work in similar areas, developing programs for the Kuwait Shooting Federation and the Asia Shooting Federation.

Not only was he a good coach, he was well respected for his expertise on target systems, range set-up, competition organisation and administration, for which he was in great demand and travelled extensively throughout Europe and Asia.

Even though he was so much involved with other countries' representatives,

his thoughts were never far from the fortunes of Australian teams. In Beijing last year he visited the Aussie Olympic team.

An honest and intelligent man who always put the welfare of others first, Paul had no interest in chasing awards and honours, although the ones he achieved speak for themselves.

Paul, 70, died suddenly in Kuwait while working on shooting ranges as the country's head of coaching. Survivors include Cecily, second wife Pornsuda (they wed in 2001), two children, six grandchildren and a sister.

The following links take you to other articles on Paulo:

http://www.asia-shooting.org/index.php?ind=news&op=news_show_single&ide=26

<http://www.auspistol.com.au/paulmac.htm>

http://www.ausshooting.org/Paul_McCormack_Vale.pdf



Paulo & Laurie O'Connor protecting downed "chopper" from cattle with bush fence in Simpson Desert, 1968 (courtesy Laurie O'Connor)