

A life dedicated to friends and family

KNOWN by those close to him as a dedicated family man, Adrian John Wright was farewelled by family and friends earlier this month.

Adrian was born the youngest child of Dora and Ted Wright at Mornington in December 1944, then shifted with his family to Orbost when his dad took up a positions with the Department of Agriculture.

A later relocation brought the Wright family to Pakenham where his parents spent the rest of their lives.

Adrian attended Pakenham Consolidated school and Kooweerup High School where he forged many lasting friendships.

Last year he enjoyed the school's 50th anniversary celebrations, where many amusing tales of days were exchanged.

Adrian married Maree Cunningham in 1971 and together they raised five children in the idyllic surrounds of Maryknoll.

It was there at the Holy Family Church that the huge complement of friends, family and colleagues gathered on 5 and 6 May to celebrate the life of this remarkable man.

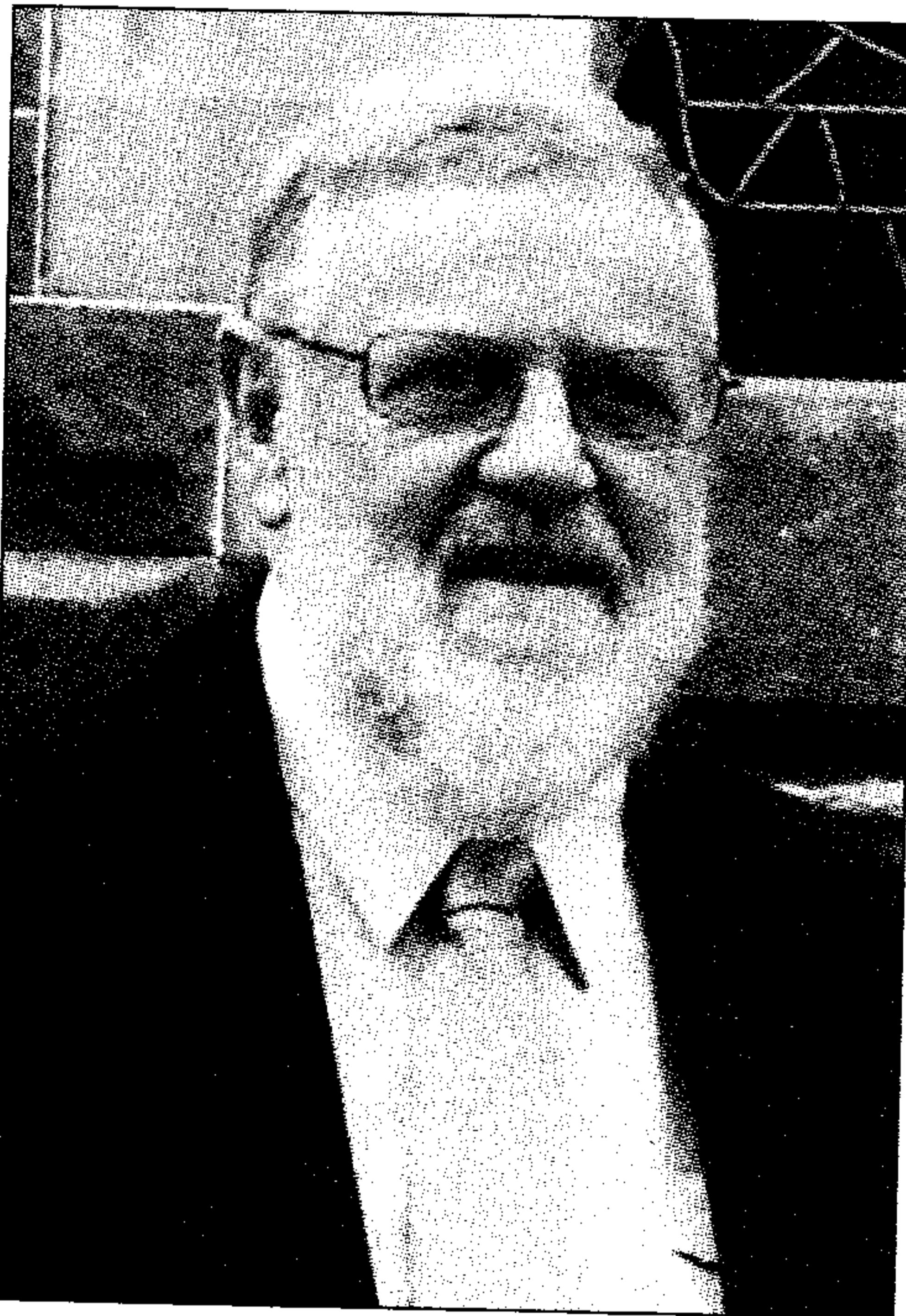
Adrian's passing meant an end to a courageous and determined encounter with cancer for more than two years.

His family and close friends said they were in awe of the dignity and grace he displayed in carrying such a burden.

Adrian's working life began with the Victorian Railways when a chance meeting in 1966 opened for him a world of adventure and travel.

He began a career with National Mapping that saw him travel the length and breadth of this country as a cartographer as he surveyed and charted the remote areas and the northern shoreline.

Throughout his time in 'The Map' Adrian became somewhat of a legend among his colleagues and his impeccable character, strong work ethic and great sense of mischief and fun.



Adrian John Wright of Maryknoll was farewelled by family and friends earlier this month.

Many of these workmates remained close friends throughout his illness and brightened his spirits with their visits to his home and cheery messages all over this country.

For the past 10 years Adrian has been employed by Cardinia Transit of Pakenham where he built up a strong rapport with and enjoyed the company of his work colleagues as well as the students he had transported to school over the years.

In spite of his ill health and obvious need for ongoing hospital treatment, Adrian remained

happy and still loved to follow the races and league football.

While his four sons and daughter played sport at the Nar Nar Goon Football and netball clubs for many years, he was always willing to dig in and lend a helping hand around the club, especially as a team manager.

He showed the same interest in Glen Iris when his son coached there recently.

Adrian was a man dedicated to his family and it was his greatest delight when his 'clan' would gather from the four corners at the home in Maryknoll to reconnect and celebrate cherished family time.

Fittingly, he was laid to rest among the swaying gums and song of the birds at the Maryknoll cemetery.

He continues to live in the hearts and memories of his wife, Maree, sons Jeremy and his wife Katrina of East Malvern, David, his wife Adrienne and daughter Jasmine of Aisby, UK, Samuel, his wife Kylie and their children Joshua, Aliarna, Sophie and Nathan of Swan Hill, his daughter Mary-Claire and her husband Ian Patterson of Pakenham and son Jacob and his fiancée Erika Campbell of Maryknoll.

Adrian's memory lived on in Maryknoll recently with the playing of the inaugural Adrian Wright memorial football match.

After an absence of many years, a large crowd enjoyed having football back at Maryknoll and watched the Coodabeen Red Devils triumph over the Wannabe Yellow Perils by nine points on Sunday 4 May.

Onlookers noted that the action was fast and furious with the ball hotly contested between the two teams.

At stake was the much sought after perpetual trophy, The Kettle, which was awarded to Andy from the Coodabeen Red Devils.

The large crowd had an entertaining and enjoyable afternoon catching up with friends over a barbecue and a few drinks.