

TIME OF DAY

At that time of day
when the world turns away from the sun
and the last traces of sunlight
are gone from the ridge tops,

I lead my old horse down a wild river valley
with two trout in the split sack behind the saddle.

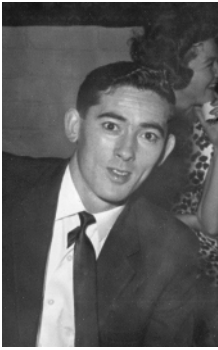
Around the bend I see great wires
strung swooping from pylon to pylon across the sky.

And I wonder how come
it makes that moment of sadness
waft through my thoughts,
and puts that mournful note
in the cry of the putangitangi

- by Barry Crump



A promotional poster for Russ's Best Bets Race Form. The top section is dark blue with the text "RUSS'S best bets" in white, "RACE FORM" in a smaller font, and "1934 - 2024" on the right. Below this, it says "CELEBRATING 89 YEARS" in large white letters. The middle section is split into two columns. The left column has a blue background with "\$75,000" in white, "TERMINATING QUADDIE" in white on a dark blue bar, and "Caulfield Races Saturday 15 August" in white. The right column has a green background with "\$20,000" in white, "BONUS FIRST4" in white on a green bar, and "Te Rapa Races Saturday 15 August" in white. The background of the poster shows a horse race scene with jockeys on horses. At the bottom, there are images of a blue and black pool ball, a white pool ball, a red pack of Pall Mall cigarettes, and a bottle of Lion Brown Draught Beer.



RUSSELL LEW

1934 - 2024



Family and life as a Wharfie

The 1970s brought three boys and a move to the Harbour Board as a crane driver. Working shifts down on the wharf paid benefits with the new house in Russell Terrace furnished courtesy of the Union Steam Ship company... right down to the cat!

Life on Russell Terrace were happy times with big vegie gardens, lots of cooking and friends all around.



Early Life

Born into a market gardening family amidst the great depression, it was a tough start for the son of a Chinese immigrant father and second generation Scottish mother. Early life was a mix of schooling in Christchurch and working some long days alongside his parents and siblings in the market garden on Hargood street.

The early years were about kicking around with his mates Arnold, Eamon, Brian and Dickie and playing 3rd base for the Richmond softball club.

Moving to Wellington

After completing his compulsory military training in Auckland, Russ moved to Wellington in the late 1950s and boarded with Wadfa and her crazy rabble of Lebanese in Kilbirnie. Little did he know where that was going to lead...

So, in walks Pamela and with a little help from Brian and the Morris's, and the rest was history! Russ did his trade at the Ford Motor Company in Seaview as an upholsterer. Russ and Pam moved into a flat in Kelburn and living next door to Barry Crump made for some interesting times.



The Retirement Years

The Island Bay Bowling Club, Newtown TAB and the Caledonian hotel played a big part in Russ's life. If he wasn't tending the garden or cooking, he'd be in one of those places.

Russ was on a mission when he retired, trying his hand at painting, repairing 100s of pub chairs and picking up odd jobs around the town. In quick time, Pam was out of a job as Russ also took over the cooking, washing and ironing.

A Good Keen Man

While Russ certainly took being the strong silent type to whole new levels, there was definitely two sides to the man. Some only saw one side while others were lucky enough to see both.

Russ was definitely the product of growing up through some hard times and diversity. We are sure that this defined many of his values and personality traits. Despite this, Russ was a generous man, always giving of vegies, food and time. He took great pride in his cooking and garden and was a great friend to many people.

While there were some tough times in later life with much pain and frustration, every now and then, that cheeky grin would come out and you would catch a glimpse of the good man that he was.