

*Thank you for being with us  
in this service of thanksgiving  
and farewell for John Sopar.*

*The order of the service will be as follows:*

*Introduction and Prayer*

*Hymn - The Lord's My Shepherd*

*Reading*

*Eulogy*

*Prayer of thanksgiving for John's life and  
support for his family and friends*

*Hymn - Because He Lives*

*Closing Prayer*

*Please join with us for light refreshments in the  
church hall following the service.*

**IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF  
JOHN SOPAR**

*23<sup>rd</sup> July, 1938 - 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2003*





John Sopar was born in Amsterdam on July 23rd, 1938, to Jan and Cornelius Sopar (both deceased), brother to Betty (deceased). His early childhood and teenage years were spent in the Netherlands with the snow, ice and cold, wintry climate.

John came out to Australia in 1957, with his family, to settle in a much warmer climate. He was educated in the Netherlands, and spoke English, as well as Dutch so was able to start working here in Australia soon after arrival. He had started a mechanics course at home and was able to follow that through here. He ended up working shift work at a factory called "Fibre Makers".

He met his future wife, Grace, at the Dutch Club and they married in August, 1964. John was always conscious of the necessity to be employed, as his responsibility was to be the bread-winner and care for his wife and son, Andrew. He had many jobs, but eventually decided to take up truck driving. He never travelled interstate, staying mainly in suburbia and regional areas.

Andrew was born in 1972 and John was aware that it was necessary for Andrew to learn about all cultures, including the Australian way of living, understand Aboriginal culture and learn about the Dutch culture, including Dutch Indonesia.

John's great love was to go fishing - starting as a five year-old in Holland. He continued to fish the streams, creeks and oceans after coming to Australia. He was most relaxed and worry-free sitting on the river bank in the middle of nowhere. John had a boat and often went fishing out in Port Phillip Bay in Victoria and Chris, Brandon, Britt and Jade will remember the happy times going fishing with Uncle John. Andrew remembers well going out fishing in Westport Bay and how we hooked into a school of whiting and all of our families had whiting for the next six months!

John was often heard to say "these 2 'coongas' (meaning Nell and Lin - both deceased) have been such a wonderful support and help to me and my family". Nell and Lin belong to Grace's family and, as far as John was concerned, they were the best.

The last five years of John's life were spent at Quorn. He lived at Colebrook Community Centre, with his wife Grace and dog Lucky, and loved to come to Port Augusta and fish from the old bridge. He spent many hours trying to catch 'the big one' and I'm sure that's how we will all remember him.

He was an easy-going, caring husband and father, but we are all thankful that he no longer has to suffer ill health and he is now at rest.