

A Tribute to Arthur Mullins

The St Andrew's Prep and College community would like to pay tribute to an incredible personality, Old Preppie and Old Andrean, long serving governor of the Prep Board, Arthur Lionel Mullins. Arthur was the last surviving child of Major Arthur 'Alec' Mullins, the second Prep Headmaster. He passed away peacefully on July 4th at the age of 86, having lived a full and generous life.

At the time of Arthur's birth in 1927, Alec and his wife Joan were in charge of Prep's Fairlawn House. During the Great Depression, Alec succeeded his brother, the Rev. Robert Mullins as Headmaster. It was into this world that Arthur was introduced. He recalled his father persuading him to sacrifice his sixpence-a-week pocket money to charity.

Arthur spent his childhood at Fairlawn, which was the family home. The dairy that supplied the school with milk was where the Pre-Primary is located now, and Retief Field was put to crops to feed Prep's boarders and cattle.

Arthur grew up with a knowledge of cattle and horses and an ambition to become a farmer. After his schooling at 'Prep' and St Andrew's College in 1945, where he was a College Prefect, he served in the Prince Alfred Guard (1946) and then went to Stellenbosch University where he obtained a B.Sc. Agric.) (1949).

Arthur developed a thriving pineapple farm on *Avondale* in Salem. He dammed the Assegai River, grew potatoes and other crops, and developed pastures for a dairy herd. He also introduced what was to become a passion for him: The Tuli breed of cattle. Arthur was involved in the Bathurst Farmers' Union, serving the farming community for many years.

Arthur married a Kingswood school teacher, Sheila Barbour, who later became Junior Prep's first Head of Department in 1972.

His relationship with his father's school was close throughout his life, and he served on the St Andrew's Prep Board of Governors for 12 years. The Prep Club House is named after him and his brother, Jimmy. Loyalty was the mark of the man. Arthur made a major contribution to Prep's survival during the difficult latter half of the 20th Century.

Even after he withdrew from the Board of Governors, he continued to take an interest in the school's activities, and loved to watch the boys on the sports field. Only a month ago he attended the production of the Gilbert and Sullivan opera, *Pirates of Penzance*.

Arthur is a most beloved father of his daughter Jane Bradshaw and three sons, Dave, Brian and Andy Mullins and a much loved grandfather of 12 grandchildren. Arthur had just spent some quality time at the beach with two of his four great grandchildren before his death.

A quiet, knowledgeable gentleman who gave fully of himself to others, Arthur will be greatly missed. St Andrew's Prep applauds Arthur Mullins for his unique input to the school, its Board and the many lives that have passed through its doors.

A funeral service for Arthur will be held at the St Andrew's College Chapel at 14h00 on Wednesday, July 10.