

MEET IVAN KIPPENBERGER:

Ivan's parents had moved to Gisborne during The Depression where they met and later married. In 1944, he became the 3rd born son (both older brothers are now deceased) after which the family then moved to the King Country for 4 years where his father was involved in the sawmilling industry as a trained saw doctor. His father's involvement with the "wood" industry saw the family make many different moves over the coming years and also played a part in Ivan's (and later Caryl's) many moves associated with his vocation in Forestry. After their stint in the King Country, the family moved to Te Puke for 18 months, Te Urewera for 6 years and in 1961 to Murupara where his Dad managed a sawmill and Ivan left Murupara/Rangitahi DHS at the age of 18. During his formative years, Ivan gained a passion for the outdoors, especially pig hunting and would often go hunting on his own. This interest would ultimately lead to his disability which will be disclosed later.



Straight out of school, Ivan joined the Forest Service as a ranger trainee which included both practical and theoretical training at many different locations around NZ. It was while being based in Reefton in 1964 that he first met Caryl, a local Reefton girl and even though their vocations took them away from Reefton, they remained in contact over the next few years. By 1966 in his 4th year of training, Ivan was transferred to Tapanui where he was in charge of a pruning/planting gang. During this year, Ivan also completed his National Service training at Burnham Military Camp before returning to Tapanui. He returned to Reefton where Ivan became a Junior Instructor at the NZ Forest Service Ranger Training School but Caryl had moved on to Nelson then Hawera as a teacher although they were still in touch. They became engaged while Caryl was still in Hawera and Ivan in Reefton but another move beckoned so they could be together. In early 1968 Caryl obtained a transfer to teach at Lower Moutere and Ivan to Golden Downs Forest. Ivan's continued passion for outdoor pursuits saw him go pig hunting with a colleague in February 1968 but an accidental discharge from his partner's rifle hit Ivan in the lower left calf causing major damage. While his partner went for help, Ivan was very resourceful and used his belt as a tourniquet to restrict blood loss whilst resting his damaged leg placed up in the air against a tree trunk. He finally got to Nelson Hospital for treatment but after 5 days, the surgeon decided that amputation was necessary due to there being very poor circulation in the damaged lower leg. With Caryl's wonderful support, Ivan recovered well and, in the October, they were married in Reefton whereupon they moved back to Golden Downs to start their married life together.

In 1969, Ivan obtained a position in Wellington as an indigenous forestry valuer which necessitated travelling all around the country but they lived in Pukerua Bay for the next 4 years before he attained the role of 2IC of the Eastern Southland Ranger District. In 1975, Ivan was given sole charge of the Hokonui Forest before being promoted to the position of Log Sales Marketing Manager for the Auckland region where the family lived until 1981. A return to Head Office at Wellington

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that year saw Ivan take a senior position with NZ Forestry. In 1985, as part of the NZ aid programme to the Pacific Islands, Ivan accepted the role of Chief Forest Officer in Tonga on secondment to NZ Foreign Affairs. There was a small but close-knit community of ex-pat workers in Tonga at the time and they did enjoy this company. After 2 ½ years in Tonga, they returned to NZ but as a lot of the Government Departments had been privatised around that time, Ivan found himself without a job and out of work. In late 1987, Ivan was offered a role with NZ Foreign Affairs in Samoa as a forest advisor and in February, 1988, he and Caryl moved to Samoa where they spent the next 2 years. At this time, their 2 children were being schooled in Nelson but they had the best of both worlds being transported to Samoa every school holidays and enjoyed "island life".

In May, 1990, the role finished so he and Caryl headed off on a 3-month holiday travelling all around Europe and the UK. In February, 1991, they purchased a market garden property in Walters Rd, Marshland where for the next 29 years, they grew capsicums & micro-greens using the NFT (Nutrient Film Technique) hydroponic method. After the Covid pandemic struck, Ivan & Caryl made the decision to retire and after selling the Walters Rd property, they moved in to a new build at Silverstream, Kaiapoi in March, 2021. They are enjoying their new life and Ivan is attending the gym, swimming, playing golf and making superb coffee on his "pet" coffee maker.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Seafood and good wild pork.

FAVOURITE PLACE: Central Otago and the West Coast.

FAVOURITE ACTIVITIES/HOBBIES: Golf, swimming, gym & watching sport.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: The 70's and 80's.

FAVOURITE MOVIE: Lawrence of Arabia.

FAVOURITE BOOKS: An avid reader, especially historical novels. Authors, Robert Harris, Bernard Cornwall, John le Carre and Witi Ihimaera.

TRAVEL: Tonga, Samoa, UK, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Russia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and cruises to Alaska and The Baltic.

Ivan said the greatest risk/s he took in his life was to go hunting on his own. In a strange twist, he said that if he had been on his own, the rifle discharge would not have happened but without a partner to go for help, he could well have died from blood loss. Ivan said Caryl has been a wonderful support throughout his life as have his 2 children, Andree & Roger who both live locally and they adore their 4 grandchildren. Ivan said that his amputation was a hard time but it taught him to re-set his life goals and make the most of things.



Thank you for hosting me in your beautiful new home and all the very best for the future Ivan & Caryl. It was a pleasure to be able to profile you in the newsletter.