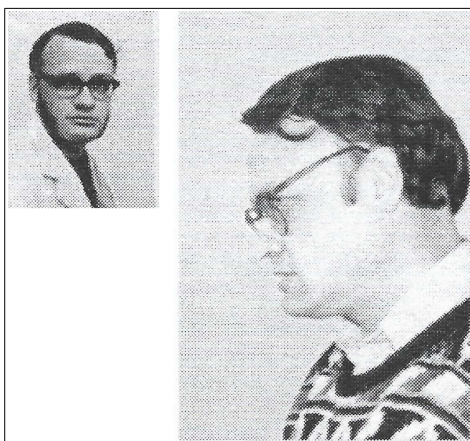


Joel Finck (16.12.1947 to 8.12.1994)



Joel commenced medicine at Monash in 1969, and graduated in 1976.

The following obituary by Eamonn Cooke appeared in our reunion magazine in 1999 ...

Joel died suddenly and unexpectedly in his sleep on December 12, 1994 to the dismay and sorrow of his family and wide range of friends.

Born in Mississippi USA, he emigrated alone to Australia in 1967 after completing two years of Pre-Med at the prestigious Wayne State University, Michigan. Whether he was escaping the American draft or satisfying an adventurous spirit was always unclear, but when he joined us at Monash in '69 he certainly made his presence felt. A large man, passionate, ebullient and feisty, his exotic origins and worldly ambience always stood him apart. Whilst his progress through medicine wasn't without interruptions, he graduated in 1976 and set off for Darwin for internship and residency. When he finally returned to Victoria he trained as a Psychiatrist and Child Psychiatrist, setting up practice in Shepparton where he served the regional community with great care and enthusiasm. It's not often we get a chance to see a colleague's practice from the inside, particularly the intimate workings of a psychiatry practice, but after Joel died, I met with a number of his patients at his rooms. I was singularly struck by the love they had for him and their descriptions of his compassionate and insightful guidance. He wasn't easily fooled and seemed to have a great capacity to get to the (often difficult) point of a patient's struggles. He was at ease working with both children and adults, and played a major role consulting to and supervising numerous community service organisations.

A most literate and constantly curious man, he attracted friends from an unusually broad spectrum and as always entertained them with grand tales and great generosity.

Joel died in Jerilderie, at the family home of his adored wife Suzanna, leaving two young children, Alexander and Claire. Alex, then aged eight, bewildered by his loss, gave a brief eulogy at the service: "You don't come across a man like dad every day".

For those of us who came to know Joel well, how true these words are.