

Jim the Man: Reminiscences by his Friends

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Introduction

This volume celebrates the many achievements of Jim Lowry. He was without doubt one of the foremost amphipod taxonomists of his time and his publication record is testament to this. To his friends, however, he was much more than the sum of his scientific works. He was a warm and generous colleague who enriched our lives. There follow some reminiscences by his friends, reliving memorable times spent in his company, along with a selection of photos taken over the last three decades (Fig. 1).

Alan Myers

I was fortunate to know and work with Jim for over forty years. We spent many hours together enjoying music, art, good food, and drink, and of course we discussed some of our pet grievances: over-population of the world by humans, lack of action by politicians on the environment and the long-term problems of the Sydney water supply! Because he despised what humans were doing to this planet, he sometimes couldn't resist the temptation to add

derogatory remarks to our manuscripts in preparation. The intention, of course, was to remove these remarks before submission. On one occasion, the references section of one of our manuscripts included the paper by Peart & Lowry “The genus *Arcitalitrus* in New South Wales forests”, but what he had actually written was “The genus *Arcitalitrus* in what is left of New South Wales forests”. This was typical of the cryptic remarks that one had to search out and delete before submission!

Jim grew up on a peanut farm in Virginia. Perhaps this instilled in him his love for nature. He recalled strolling down to the river to watch the geese as they arrived during their migration. He was a fan of old cars and bought himself an MG sports car in such a bad state that his stepfather had insisted that he should not buy it. However, Jim, being Jim, took no notice of the advice and spent hours working on it until he had it fully renovated and his father had to eat humble pie when he saw it with its gleaming paintwork. Later, one of the outhouses at the farm burnt down and Jim lost all of his books and possessions in the fire. At the University in Virginia, he commenced a degree in English, but his love of nature and time spent in the company of the renowned marine

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