

## Chris Le Heron

Feb. 6th 1955 - Aug. 6th 2017

Chris Le Heron, 62 of Wellington New Zealand died at Wellington Hospital Aug. 6th. Services were Aug. 11th in Morrinsville, in the central North Island of New Zealand.

Chris, son of Dawn and the late Ernest Le Heron, was born in Morrinsville and spent his early life learning about farming enjoying the freedom of living in a small rural town in New Zealand. He attended the Morrinsville District High School and soon proved to be an excellent scholar. In 1972, during his last year at school, he won an American Field Scholarship and travelled to Montezuma. It was such a long way to go for a young man from a very small community with a limited experience of the world but he was well looked after by Dick and Lea Arendt and their three boys for a year. He attended Montezuma High School made the most of the opportunities that were presented to him. Montezuma became his second home and completely changed the direction of his life.

When he returned to New Zealand he enrolled in Veterinary School but soon decided that being a Vet was not what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. In 1975 he shifted to Wellington, New Zealand's Capital City, and attended Victoria University to study law. After graduation he continued with further training and was admitted to the High Court in 1981. He began his working life as a corporate lawyer and then continued working as a Merchant Banker. During this time he married Debbie and had three children Camille, Tim and Sophie.

In 1997 Chris was presented with the opportunity to renew his ties with Montezuma and purchased Sig Manufacturing. He got himself re-established in the community by purchasing the cabin at the lake and then travelled between the two countries as often as possible. He was very proud of the work done by the staff at Sig and the excellent models they produced and he loved his life style at the lake. Many a BBQ was held here and he enjoyed the hunting trips, the Fly Ins, the trade shows and his extended Sig family. He was particularly proud of the link made between New Zealand and the United States and proudly pointed out the New Zealand flags that flew alongside the Stars and Stripes in Montezuma. A few years later Chris forged a new link between the United States and Eu-

## NEW ZEALAND RESIDENT

# Chris Le Heron, 62



Chris Le Heron, 62 of Wellington New Zealand peacefully passed away at Wellington

Hospital after a brief illness. His funeral service was held at on Friday August 11 in the small town of Morrinsville which is in the central North Island of New Zealand.

Chris, son of Dawn and the late Ernest Le Heron, was born on a farm in Morrinsville and spent his early life learning about farming enjoying the freedom of living in a small rural town in New Zealand. He attended the Morrinsville District High School and soon proved to be an excellent scholar. In 1972, during his last year at school, he won an American Field Scholarship and travelled to Montezuma. It was such a long way to go for a young man from a very small community with a limited experience of the world but he was well looked after by Dick and Lea Arendt and their three boys for a year. He attended the local high school and made the most of the opportunities that were presented to him. Montezuma became his second home and completely changed the direc-

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States and proudly pointed out the New Zealand flags that flew alongside the Stars and Stripes in Montezuma. A few years later Chris forged a new link between the United States and Europe with the purchase of Kavan in Nuremberg Germany. A symbiotic relationship was established and designs and ideas began to flow between the two companies.

Sadly in 2009 Chris suffered a heart attack while traveling by air to Montezuma. Fortunately he was sitting next to a staff member from the Accident and Emergency Department of the hospital and so he received the best of care until the airplane landed and he could be rushed to hospital where he was operated on. It took a long time for him to recover from this and he was unable to continue with the close relationship he had with Sig. Eventually he had to sell the company that had meant so much to him.

Only a couple of weeks ago Chris was again admitted to hospital and he died ten days later. This was completely unexpected and his loss is felt keenly by his surviving mother, brother, sister and of course his children and his staff. He was a larger than life character who has left us too quickly and too early.

PCCR  
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