



Wayne Leicester Buckingham

Born 29 March 1956, Levin

Married: 2000, Gold Coast, Australia

To: Monique Rose Ravallion: b. 1967

Children:

James Matthew: b. 1989

Anna Jade: b. 1991

Renee Kate: b. 1994

Adam Charles: b. 2003

Wayne's parents were Leicester and Mavis Buckingham. Leicester was born in Levin, and represented Horowhenua in cricket and hockey – his two brothers Ross and Clyde from Levin also played hockey for Horowhenua.

Ross sadly passed away suddenly on the Levin golf course at age 42, and Clyde more recently in Auckland.

Mavis was born in Otautau, a small town approximately 40km north/west of Invercargill, and her sisters, the late Dorothy Bartholomew and Mary Creed also lived in Levin for a large part of their lives.

Wayne was the eldest of three brothers: Wayne, Carl and Dene all attended Levin East Primary School, with Wayne and Carl attending Horowhenua College and Dene attending Waiopahu College. Wayne left college after completing the seventh form in 1973.

Carl: (1957 – 2019) unfortunately passed away from cancer in Brisbane, and Dene (1959 -) still resides in Levin with his wife Catherine.

Leicester was an avid lover of Hockey and Cricket, and Wayne followed in his footsteps.

Wayne commenced playing Hockey in 1961, at the age of five, as Leicester was coaching primary school hockey at the time.

At primary school, there was no hockey available as all the boys played Rugby, well the larger ones, and as Hockey didn't have the support, Wayne had to play for a team outside the school. He went on to play in the Horowhenua primary school representative team at the Hatch Cup, the national tournament. The first tournament Wayne attended was held in Whangarei. Incidentally, the team was coached by Leicester and managed by Mavis.

When at Horowhenua College, Wayne college team played in the A-grade men's senior hockey competition. In 1972, at the age of 16, his team won the Horowhenua Seniors Men's Championship for the first, and what Wayne believes was the only time.

He played in the college first 11 hockey and cricket teams until, at the age of 17, he moved down to Wellington to attend Victoria University, and graduated with a bachelor of commerce and administration, and later attained his ACA

During his time there, he played for the University A-grade side at right full-back, along with a number of past Olympians, and later on, for Hutt. Whilst at university he was selected for the NZ University side to tour Australia and he played in two test matches in Canberra against Australian University, which they won. That team was coached by the renowned Cyril Walter who coached the Canterbury Team at that time.

Many members of the Canterbury team played for NZ, and Wayne joined this national training squad from which the final team was picked. The team went on to win the gold medal, on a water based artificial turf for the first time, beating Australia, in the July 1976 Montreal Olympics.



He was also selected for the Wellington Colts team, under 21, which went on to win the national title on two occasions. Wayne then moved on to play for the Wellington A-Grade team for some years and eventually was Captain of the side for 145 games.

In 1981, Wayne was selected for the NZ side for the Intercontinental Cup in Kuala Lumpur, the qualifying tournament for the world cup. Wayne generally played right full-back and he played in 5 of the 7 games that NZ was involved in. NZ was placed third in the final placings, behind Malaysia and the winner,

USSR. He then participated in the world cup in Bombay in December 1981/January 1982.



In the team photo, Wayne is middle row, second left.



This was the last time an international tournament was played on grass. Future tournaments were to be on artificial turf, mostly water based, which was more consistent over time, and a much better

surface.

Previously Wayne was named in the squad for the Moscow Olympics in 1980. However, NZ boycotted these games due to the Russian invasion of Afghanistan at that time, so NZ and many other countries did not send teams.

Wayne moved to Brisbane, Australia in 1982, aged 26, to further his business career, and continued to play hockey for Commercial in the senior men's A-Grade competition, and he later represented the Gold Coast at the Queensland championships.

His professional career was starting to take off in the hospitality industry, where he held finance and operational roles on the Gold Coast, then in Bali and back to Sydney where he became GM of the largest hotel in Australia. Opportunities for promotion came from overseas and he continued moving into senior operational roles based in Bangkok, Singapore, and more recently in Chicago, where Wayne had oversight of the Accor Hotel portfolio in the USA.

His job exposed him to many well-known people, and he was lucky enough to have met Sir Edmund Hillary, Bill Clinton and Nelson Mandela to name a few.

"Covid had a big impact on all of us in the hotel industry", and Wayne and his wife, Monique, decided to return to Brisbane after fifteen years abroad, to support their son Adam so he could finish high school at Anglican Church Grammar School. Wayne's other children; James, Anna and Renee currently live in Sydney and Melbourne.

Wayne's passion is watching all forms of sport, and in particular he enjoys playing golf as much as he can – he was lucky enough to play Pebble Beach, Torrey Pines and TPC Scottsdale in the USA before he returned home to Australia.

Wayne currently resides on the Gold Coast of Australia and if he plays golf with the same ability as he played hockey, he must now have a very good handicap.

References:

NZ Hockey Association records