



# John Colin Padget

JUL 26, 1955 - DEC 10, 2025



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# John Colin Padget

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**J**ohn Colin Padget lived a life defined by hard work, deep love for family, curiosity, craftsmanship, and an unwavering sense of responsibility to those he cared for.

John was born to Colin Arthur Padget (1935–1982) and Hazel Margaret Padget (née Knecht) (1933–2024). He was the second born among five siblings: Dianne, Paul, Vicki, and Julie. He attended St. Anthony’s Primary School from 1960 to 1966 and St. Mary’s Boys College from 1966 to 1970.

At the age of sixteen, John left school to begin a trade—an option available in Australia at the time. Later in life, determined to further his education, he returned to complete his high school studies at night before earning his associate degree. His persistence and strong work ethic were hallmarks of his character throughout his life.

John began a Fitter and Turner apprenticeship with the Toowoomba Railway in 1971, completing it between 1972 and 1976. In 1977, he met his first wife, Patricia (Trisha) Van Hilst. In 1979, the couple moved to Holland, where they lived for five years and welcomed three children: Daniel, Dustin, and Sascha. Following the tragic accidental death of John’s father in 1982, the family returned to Australia so John could support his mother. Their youngest child, Mariska, was later born, completing the family.

John resumed work with the railway in Toowoomba before transferring to Rockhampton in 1985. There, the family purchased a very old Queenslander house on stilts. John devoted countless evenings and weekends to restoring and expanding the home—adding rooms, building a back deck, constructing a striking double staircase, installing stained glass throughout the upper level, and refinishing furniture. He loved reading how-to books and then putting that knowledge into practice, taking great pride in turning a house into a home.



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Trisha devoted herself to caring for injured wildlife, and John supported her fully building large bird enclosures and fencing the yard for animals in recovery. Tragically, Trisha lost her life after contracting rabies while caring for an injured flying fox, a loss that profoundly affected John and his children.

Years later, John met his wife, Laurie, online in a 40s chat room—one Laurie had visited only once. She was drawn to a photo of John with his four children and the love he so clearly had for them. Their connection grew through shared values and interests, including music, books, the outdoors, camping, hiking, and family. Their relationship was nurtured over years of handwritten letters—often ten to fifty pages long—shared music, recorded tapes, and long phone calls. Writing was John's preferred way of communicating and remained so throughout his life.

John traveled to Salt Lake City to meet Laurie and her family, and together they created cherished memories traveling to Jackson Hole, rafting, and camping in Yellowstone. Laurie later traveled to Australia, and the two went back and forth between countries for several years before marrying in Hawaii, followed by a twelve-day cruise through the islands. They later purchased a home together in Midvale, Utah. Laurie spent eight months living in Rockhampton by the beach, allowing John to take early retirement from the railway.

After returning to Utah, John worked for Progressive Rail in a physically demanding outdoor role, a significant change from his earlier indoor work. He later joined an international engineering firm specializing in water treatment, working as a field service technician repairing massive clarifiers around the world. Known for his exceptional work ethic, John often outperformed colleagues decades younger than himself.

While working in Minnesota during extreme winter conditions, John suffered severe frostbite to both hands and ultimately lost three fingers on each hand. He faced this life-altering hardship with remarkable courage and resilience. In later years, John also lived with the gradual progression of Alzheimer's disease.

John was never one to sit still. He was thoughtful, caring, and quietly funny. He showed love through action—carrying groceries and suitcases, washing dishes late at night, hanging laundry to dry, and never allowing Laurie to carry bags due to her back issues. Together, John and Laurie traveled extensively, including many trips to Australia to visit family. On one visit, Laurie felt a strong sense that they needed to go, making that time together especially meaningful. Eight



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months before his passing, they returned to Moab and Zion, enjoying light hikes and treasured time outdoors.

John is survived by his loving wife, Laurie; his children Daniel and Emily (children Jasmine and Evie), Dustin and Monica (child Brin), Sascha and Brett (children Hunter and Tully), and Mariska (child Xavier). He is also survived by his beloved bonus children Asia; Ryan and Tiffany Young (children Stockton, Sloane, Caroline, and Callum); and Christian and Kassandra Young (children Kaleigh, Connor, and Dean). He is further survived by his siblings Dianne and Graham, Paul and Natha, Vicki and Ron, and Julie and Mark. He was preceded in death by his parents, Colin and Hazel Padget, and his bonus son, Jason Young.

John Colin Padget will be remembered for his strength, craftsmanship, quiet humor, generosity, and deep devotion to family. His legacy of hard work, love, and resilience will live on in all who knew and loved him.

In accordance with John's wishes, no funeral services will be held.



# Tribute Wall

**John Colin Padgett**

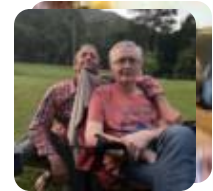
JUL 26, 1955 - DEC 10, 2025



**Dustin Padgett** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I will miss hearing you sing rocky raccoon to Monica and Brin, these memories bring so much joy

January 7 at 3:04 PM



**Paul Padgett** shared 8 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

John was my big brother and we lived under the same roof for 20 years, shared the same bed, went to the same schools together, did our apprenticeships together, laughed together, fought each other, and did all the things that close brothers do with each other. But John was the big brother, and he took that responsibility very seriously. Even back then he lived by the moral code instilled in us by our father. He always protected and looked after me when my ability to speak before thinking got me into trouble. We went to an all-boys school and schoolyard melees were an everyday occurrence. I remember him standing toe-to-toe with another kid, with a devil-may-care smile on his face and enjoying himself. In Grade 8 a Chinese kid joined our class. He was a really big guy and he and John shared a desk at the back of the class. When the teacher turned his back they would take turns punching each other on the arm ... John used to complain at night that that guy hit too hard. But when some seniors ganged up on John's playmate, John was there at his side backing him up. I still remember mum giving him what-for because he had a black eye, ripped shirt, and a silly grin on his face when he got home. He never picked fights, but he always stood tall to protect anyone from bullies. After completing our apprenticeships, I started travelling and kept playing, and John went the other way ... married a fine lady, fathered four lovely children, and became an adult. You only have to look at his children to know how successful he was at that. He faced tragedy, but moved onto the next phase of his life. John was far from perfect, as are we all. He could be single minded to the point of obstinacy, which made him a pain in the butt at times. But, God, I miss him. There is a hole in my life now that will never be filled, and I find myself thinking of him constantly. So many memories of our childhood flash before my eyes. Rest in peace, my brother.

January 2 at 2:07 PM



**Dustin Padgett** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 2 at 2:08 PM





## Tribute Wall

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**Dustin Padget** posted:

Watching my dad eat half a dozen hamburgers at family beach barbecues and making us ice cream sodas We love you Papa x

January 2 at 2:07 PM



# Media

**John Colin Padget**

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**Dustin Padget** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 7 at 3:04 PM





## Media

**John Colin Padget**

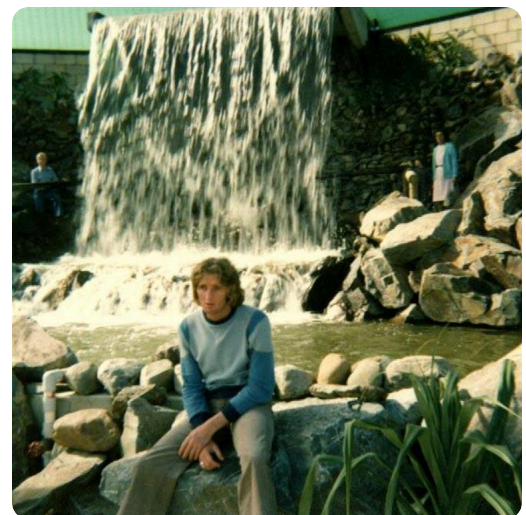
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Paul Padget shared 8 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 2 at 10:50 PM







# Media

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**John Colin Padget**

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**Dustin Padget** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 2 at 2:08 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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