



Vale
Beth Quintal

2nd May 1931 - 28th May 2017

On Saturday 3rd June, family and friends gathered to farewell Beth, Mum, grandma and great grandma.

Beth was a very special person to each of us in so many unique ways. To Lynley, Ross and I mum was our single parent for our formative years. When we lived in Humber Cres in Tauranga mum somehow managed, with the essential help of her parents, to juggle working full time with raising 3 children. An amazing feat in the late 50's and 60's when single parenthood wasn't as accepted as it is today. Lynley, Ross and I each have special memories of this amazing lady we call mum. Mum was our rock, she was always there, non judgemental and supportive of us. I have tried to think of a word that best describes her, but there is no single word with enough breadth to describe our mum.

Mum was born, Betty Clothier, in Matamata, New Zealand on the 2nd of May 1931. Her family were, and still are, very prominent in the Waikato community. Mum was the eldest of her 2 sisters Dawn, June and brother Murray. Being the eldest, mum helped her mother raise her 3 siblings and as her sister June said "I have always loved and admired my big sister who always looked out for me when we were young. I still feel that love and admiration. She has been so brave in the latter years of her life, never complaining and never forgetting how to smile".

Early in mums married life to our father she lived in Rotorua where my sister Lynley was born, shortly afterwards moved to Whakatane where firstly I was born and then a couple of years later Rossco was born. The Comer family then moved to Tauranga where we spent most of our childhood years. Mum and dad separated then divorced when we were young, this affected mums health. She suffered from debilitating migraines and laterly diabetes.

Roy Quintal entered mums life and almost immediately became her rock and soul mate. Mum and Roy Quintal married in 1968 and moved home to Norfolk Island. Norfolk Island has been home to mum and Rossco since that time. Mums beloved Roy died in 1983, his passing left an unfillable hole in mums life. Norfolk Island, with it's connection to Roy, continued

to be mums home and rock right up to Sunday when she passed away.

Mum wrote and published poetry and short stories. She started the Norfolk Island writers workshop. She also wrote the hymn which will be read and the music played as she leaves her little church for the last time. Mum was very much part of the Norfolk Island community, she will always be remembered as a loving, courageous, gracious lady. Her close friends are too many to mention, but her long time friend Mora Winner, and of course the Lunch Bunch, cannot go without mention.

Mum was a much loved grandmother to Joel, Luke, and Hayden, who are here with us today, and Gretchen, Kim and Kris who unfortunately couldnt be here. She was also great grandmother to Bella, Jacob, Violet, Noah, Zara, Elle, Harry, Edward, Jack and Charlie. A very precious memory was seeing mum with her great grandchildren. They all brought out that special smile and the sparkle in her eyes.

For the past 10 months or so home to mum has been the Norfolk Island hospital. Mums family is full of appreciation and gratitude to the staff of the hospital for making her last month's as comfortable as possible. A special recognition needs to go the Rossco and Gae who both selflessly supported Mum in the twilight of her time with us.

While this time is sad beyond comprehension it is brightened and made bearable by the fabulous, funny and unique memories we all have of Beth, like "don't look now Ethel" as she streaked from her bedroom to the bathroom. One of my favourite memories of mum was when she was in the rehabilitation hospital in Sydney, following her stroke, we made a date for her return to Norfolk which was dependent on her recovery progress. At the time I didn't think mum would be ready as she couldn't walk even a few steps unaided. A few days before the appointed date when I walked into the ward mum was up off her bed in a flash and walked over to me unaided with a mile wide smile on her face. She was ready to go home to her "rock".

Often, in reflective moments mum would say "Roy is waiting for me." Her wish has now come to pass, she is reunited with the love of her life and her soul mate Roy Quintal in their paradise.

Rest in peace me mum.

Thank You

The family of the late Beth Quintal wish to extend our sincere thanks for the many kindnesses, and for the condolences and support we have received.

We also send our gratitude and appreciation to the doctors and staff at the Norfolk Island Hospital, the Minister of the Uniting Church, Jodie, The Norfolk Island Police, The coffin maker, hearse driver, Shane and the grave diggers, Aunty Jan and the ladies at the usual place, Rod McAlpine, ukulele Band, the RSL, Lions and the Norfolk Island community and the kind sullen who cooked and dropped us off food.
