

Vale Gaye Sheree Buffett 'Pip'

9th June 1964 - 13th November 2022

Gaye Sheree Buffett was born in Sydney at the Sutherland District Hospital in 1964, the first child to Michael Perkins and Joy nee Quintal. They returned home to Norfolk and Sheree settled in to be adored by her doting grandparents Dottie and Jack, and the rest of her family. Affectionately known as Pip there are many stories of a wonderful childhood spent, particularly with Bossy - the well-loved family dog until 1967 when the family grew with the birth of her sister Maree. The trio of Pip, Miki and Shelly McCoy soon owned Ball Bay, spending many happy hours in Ruthie's banyan tree. Unfortunately, unable to hear, whenever they were called.

She attended school here and her classmates became lifetime friends. Now wi nor gwen laan eni dem storis. With her infectious laugh and positive energy her list of friends grew - with each person she met and each job she took. Sheree was highly regarded and loved by so many that the constant receipt of messages from those who knew her, has been extraordinary. The calls, visits, flowers and more; to know that she was so loved, has been such a comfort to her family.

In 1983 Pip married her childhood sweetheart Ian Buffett and they began an enviable partnership that lasted her lifetime. They built their home beside Joy and Michael's down Ball Bay. Their family grew with the birth of Shanelle, then Trent, then Kyran and Ball Bay rang with the laughter of an inseparable family (en brutus from Ian). Their home was a constant for visiting friends and Pip's talent for cooking was put to good use. She loved rock fishen, out ina boat, picken en iten' hihi, orl kaina pai, weaving and plaiting and all of Norfolk's cultural pursuits. She loved her Island and you could see Pip and Ian driving by, jes aataren orn. Mention must be made - of the special relationship that Pip en Grin had with the people of Pitkern, particularly with Steve en Olive Christian, who phoned Ian in Brisbane when they heard of Pip's passing.

On 24 March 2015, on Miki and John's 25th wedding anniversary, Pip was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer. Her incredible calmness and strength whilst fighting such a fierce battle, was remarkable. And through it all she continued to ensure that her family were well and cared for, making sure everyone knew how much she loved each one of them. That even on her hardest days she would call each of her children to say how much she loved them. During this time our darling Rozzie passed away, and yet, having lost such an influential woman in her life, Pip fought on.

Amazingly, and against the odds she won her first battle with the disease, she was officially in remission. Pip wrote two books of poems about her journey, her life in general, and her love of all things. The family pressed her to publish her beautiful and positive book of healing as we all thought it would be such a help to others who are walking the same or a similar road. Today she's left us, en kaa stop aklan. It will be published. A tribute and a legacy to the beautiful person that she was.

In 2017 the cancer returned, and being the warrior that she was she defeated it once again. At the end of t (continued overleaf)



'Pip' - continued

his battle she turned to her sister and said "Miki, book us a holiday!". She and Ian, Maree, John and their son Jai, then toured the four countries of Italy, France, Spain and Portugal, visiting nine cities and driving four and a half thousand kilometres over 6 weeks, with Alana joining them in Barcelona. The memories of this holiday was a constant source of amusement, amazement and additional anecdotes for all the family. The four of them, joined by other members of their families then toured Tasmania and ran up and down the coast of South-East Queensland, often accompanied by John's boat which was put to excellent use.

Pip was given the wonderful gift of grandchildren with the births of Shanelle and Luke's daughter Juanita and son Hunter and Trent's son Eli and daughter Mila. It's hard to find the words to express how much Pip adored them, for they brought her unbelievable joy. Her babies were forever in her thoughts.

She loved going out to Steeles Point, spending time outdoors with Pa, watchen' kaetl, pig, faul, giis, dak, picken' pawpaw en diggen a tieti.

Pip was very clever with her hands. She took courses in lead lighting and created beautiful gifts for her family and friends. Following a visit to the Crystal Castle near Byron Bay, she was inspired to make exquisite pieces. With crystal beads she made beautiful jewellery and was working on a collection of earrings to be released prior to Christmas. She was constantly creating something and loved to share her work.

Pip fought an extraordinary battle, with three reoccurrences, over the last 7 years - and two weeks after being told that she was in remission, Pip succumbed to the disease on Sunday 13 November, surrounded by those she loved and who in turn, loved her - so very much. In her final days she was with was her husband, her children and their families, her Miki, John and their son Jai, with Joy, Gaye, Tzarn and Michael who had been medivacced out two days earlier. With them, over the passing days where many other friends and family who had called in. How fortunate we are – to be surrounded by such care and compassion.

To say that Pip was loved beyond measure by orl aklan, is an understatement.

To say that Pip has left a huge hole, that we don't know how to fill, is also true.

And we miss everything about her.

So es aa thing f' yoen Sher - you go and lay upon the drifting clouds and float amongst the stars, catch a ride upon a moonbeam and watch the galaxies from afar.

Thank You

The family of the late Gaye Sheree Buffett, affectionately known as Pip, would like to give special thaenks to awas beautiful Norf'k community, along with acknowledgement to the following sullen who stood close by the family, gave their time, and donations as we prepared for Pips final journey. Thank you could never measure the gratitude in awas hearts for the outpouring of love and support yorley se giwe ucklun, we are truly blessed.

Jenny Hen, for all yus love, food ena haelp.

All who have made and delivered food to the family, wi se mussa buss!

Everyone who sent thoughtful messages to the family, phoned, visited, sent cards or had us in your thoughts. This gave us the strength to get through such a heartbreaking and difficult time.

Those who cared for Pip, from the time she arrived home.

Very special heartfelt thanks to Pa, Dizzy, Viv, Sue Kissard, Sarah Christian and Lee Hamilton-Irvine, yorley know fut.

Jan Coop, Spud en Craig for yus assistance with travel arrangements.

Emma for taking such wonderful care of the kiddies during the funeral.

Kaye, Drill, Jackie, Pete, Bing, Nigel, Sam, Tracey, Rosco en Gaelene for accommodation and cars.

Shane and all yorlye fe diggen dar grave.

The wonderful wreath makers and all those who provided so many flowers and greenery.

Shelly, Hen, Viv, Lauchy en all dem sullen haelp decorate the beautiful mound and surrounds.

Derek Macrae for the beautiful entry gate decorations.

Kaye Woods for the floral tributes.

Tardy for driving the hearse en coming down Ball Bay wieh.

Reverend Laurie Carleton for the service and preparation.

The Pallbearers, thaenks f'aklan.

Vince Reeves and the Lions Club for providing the cross.

Fletcher and Rawson for handing out the service programs.

Pip's class mates for the Guard of Honour, she would have been so proud.

Trent Christian and Chris Gatehouse for the sound system.

Gaelene and Jodie for filming/taking photos to share with those unable to be here.

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Commonwealth Youth Games 2023

Scotland 2000 · Australia 2004 · India 2008 · Isle of Man 2011 · Samoa 2015 · Bahamas 2017

Pip - continued

Special thank you to those of you who were able to travel to be with us.

Those who prepared and catered for the Wake -Special mention to Kaye Nobbs, Big Al, those that provided the fish and the rest of the team who went over and above to help on, and for, the night, yorley es truly amazing.

Thank you to the Drs and nurses of the Norfolk Island hospital, along with Drs Mai Nguyen, Paul Vacey and Jim Nicklin who took exceptional care of Pip on her journey and whom she held in such high regard.

Close friends and family who spent time with Pip en Grin, visited and sent messages of love and support, not only recently but over the years, bless all yorley.

Last but certainly not least, the warmth and respect shown by the community as Pip took her final drive through Bun Pine. The businesses that closed their doors, those who stood for Pip and the family as they drove past and special acknowledgement fe dem four lettle sullen from NICS, who laid down their bikes and stood respectfully opposite Norfolk Electrical, es true wi dar lucky fe all yorley.

Wi se do awas baes fe try en remember everybody, wi sorie ef wi se forget anybody - bless all yorlye en thaenks fe ucklun.



