



Vale
Julie Ann South

16th March 1945 - 16th August 2024

Julie’s family and friends gathered at St Barnabas on Wednesday to farewell and pay tribute to her. The following celebration of her early years was given by Susie Gordon, Julie’s youngest sister.

“Over the past 2 years plus” Sue said, “Julie and I have done a whole lot of talking, with me having to put my hand up or both to say “my turn” and as we looked back on where we came from, we always agreed we were blessed and most fortunate to be born, where and when we were, in Te Awamutu, New Zealand. We had a Mum and Dad who loved each other and then loved us as we came along. 3 girls, Julie Ann, the eldest, Lynette Ellen and Susan, me. Our closest family seemed small, 1 grandmother and 2 dotting aunties. Our Mum always being the mainstay of our family.

We never had a lot, but then we never missed out on anything either.

Dad taught us to play tennis on the front lawn sometimes cleverly lobbing the ball quite a distance from us which allowed us to take these amazing returns, with flying leaps, us ending up in the honeysuckle hedge. Anything involving a bat or ball Dad was good at and so we were always encouraged to play sport. Obviously Julie took this to another level with her love of tennis. More to come in Later Days!!

This is really just a skite sheet for our Julie as she was not one to blow her own trumpet in regard to any of her achievements.

Julie was always community minded, starting way back as an assistant to the Sunday School teacher, shepherding or herding little kids from the church to the hall, also a traffic monitor in primary school – a lollipop kid. Her grades were always excellent from Primary to College.

She played Netball very well – College A Team of course! Part of the Tramping Club, Church Youth Club, Debating Club, always in the school operettas such as the Mikado, Pirates of Penzance etc, always a leading principle in any show, and in both the School and Church Choir.

And of course Tennis in the summer. She was elected as a Prefect and then in her final college year, Head Girl. The Head Master wrote that she was an excellent pupil, a role model to others, and always showed such dignity and grace he was proud to have her as the Head Girl. We were very proud of her too although Lyn and I always tried her patience, as we refused to be hurried off early to school AND deliberately wore our panama hats with the brims turned up or back to front!

Julie really did excel at school, always top marks in science, LATIN, English, French etc, etc. Julie won the highest Award of the school, the General Excellence Cup for Scholarship, Sport, Initiative, Service and Leadership. That was a big deal! Her musical talents were encouraged by Mrs Martin-Smith the Choir mistress at our St John’s Anglican Church. She was instrumental in Julie getting some music lessons from Mr Forest, the Music master at the College. Mum also arranged piano lessons to help nurture this talent that Julie obviously had. At about 18 years old she won a competition that featured Kiri Te Kanawa and Malvina Major, two of New Zealand’s most noted singers. Julie won the Sacred Solo section. Not quite Britain’s Got Talent but it was up there!! We listened to it on the radio and couldn’t believe what she had done without FORMAL training.

Julie was the Lions Club Candidate in the Queen of the Te Awamutu Rosetown Arts Festival. She was so pretty and poised. But she was placed Runner-up! --- Really!! -

We always joked it was rigged - as she only ever got first’s.

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|-------------|----------|
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| • Tuesday | • 7-2 |
| • Wednesday | • 7-2 |
| • Thursday | • Closed |
| • Friday | • 7-2 |
| • Saturday | • 7-3 |
| • Sunday | • Closed |

75% LANDFILL DIVERSION

Julie - continued

It seemed obvious that Julie would choose a teaching career so off she went to training college. I think from some of the photos during that time, she got to let her hair down a bit – figuratively speaking. She was involved in the Annual Student Raft Race down the Waikato River. All boats or rafts had to be cobbled together by each student team. Some pretty dodgy designs there!! and no lifebelts. She was elected onto the Student Council, passed all the tests and examinations necessary, and came out a fully qualified teacher, left home with Morrinsville as her first student teacher position. It was at Hamilton training college that Julie met up with her future husband, Dave South. Julie and Dave married in Te Awamutu, where she was baptised and confirmed, and I was honoured to be a bridesmaid along with Patsy, a special training college friend.

So hence her arrival here on Norfolk Island, this place she loved more than any other place in the world. She was a great ambassador and loved to inform EVERYBODY she came in contact with, where Norfolk was and why it was so special. The place and the people.

If all the people Julie had spoken to about Norfolk, over just the last 2 years, whilst she was so ill, arrived on just one day ... it would be like another big cruise ship had come in.

Thank you to all medical teams here, New Zealand and Brisbane

Thank you also to all her Norfolk family and friends who cared for her, called her or visited her in Brisbane.

Thanks to my support Cousin Michael and Jenny, here with us today.

Thanks yorlye for your kindness to us. Ka nui te aroha ki a koutou katoa.

Time to rest up JU

Love you heeps - Sue, or the BRAT as she so loving refers to me.”

On behalf of the family and friends David Buffett delivered words remembering her years within the Norfolk Island community.

The following was prepared for Julie by Chris Gatehouse with some information at the school from Mary Christian-Bailey.

“Julie South was a young lady of 23 years, when she came to live in Norfolk Island. She remained here, as one of us, for the rest of her life-56 years with us in Norfolk Island.

Julie was a person who could enrich your life by knowing her and working with her.

Julie started teaching in Norfolk Island in May 1968, when she was able to step in to cover a position after a sudden departure of a school staff member. After some years Julie became a permanent and valuable member of the Norfolk Island Central School’s staff until retirement.

She taught in the Primary school and was there for decades- we are talking about some 40 years.

Chris was first introduced to Julie through her teaching one of his sons. He was a bit of a clown in class and there were a couple of parent teacher meetings that year with Julie. By then she was teaching the second generation of Chris’s family, and of course her singing with Chris’s father-in-law Kik Quintal, was always appreciated by all.

Julie’s appreciation of music was reflected in her friendship with Timmy Lloyd and the music they brought in to the school. There were musicals and concerts in Rawson Hall. Julie was always there!

Julie was a noted seamstress. She would sew delightful costumes and uniforms for diverse groups on the island. She had a great love of Quilting. Julie recently bought a new sewing machine in Brisbane to complete a job she took on for the Pacific Arts Festival, before she became ill. On behalf of the Quota club- she was a Friend of Quota- Julie voluntarily sewed the Island’s shrouds for funerals.

Julie was a valuable member of this church. First of course she was a worshiping member of the church. The bonus for us was her magnificent solo voice performances and her voice in the choir. Julie was a very talented singer. She would knock the socks off most of the performers you today see on the talent shows on TV. She was choir mistress when we had a choir. She cooked-Julie was a great cook- cooked for the cup of tea after the morning services, was on the church cleaning roster and was always on duty for the spring fair stall.

Julies love of tennis and the friends she made through her involvement with tennis is well known.

Some of what follows was written by Gill Brown when Julie was recognised by the Cheryl Tennis Club- Julie was a Life Member- in December last year. Julie was thanked for her years of personal effort for all those who played tennis, and her unflinching service to the Club.

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Julie - continued

Julie's engagement with whatever she chose to achieve was absolute. The very high standard she set was reason the Vets tournament was a huge success for the club and the players and which endured for 29 years.

Julie was the face of Cheryl Tennis Club for so many years. Whether she was club Secretary or her involvement in bringing so many to play in the annual Vets Tournament. And how Julie so wanted to do the 30th Vets Tournament, but Covid would not let that happen. But that didn't deter Julie, she had already put a lot of work into the 30th year, just in case. All those enduring friendships Julie developed through the 29 years of Vets Tennis, and the number of times so many returned year after year is testimony to Julie's engagement with people. All those long and great friendships Julie developed through the 29 years of Vets Tennis, and the number of times so many returned year after year is what made the Vets Tournament special.

Julie's time was shared on the match committee, tournament director, and always on House and Social. She made sure all were welcomed and enjoyed their time at the Cheryl Tennis Club. Usually she was the first to be at the Club house writing up the matches on the whiteboard in her best school teachers hand. Julie would be dismayed at the efforts of others in the layout of matches on the whiteboard, but she would just show how to do it better.

Julie had the ability to look at a group of players know their abilities and then produce a plan for play that would work with just a pen and paper. Chris particularly admired that ability.

Julie would more than likely also be one of the last to leave the Tennis Club after she had ensured all had the best of times. If the cash draw did not balance she would personally put her cash in until the mistake could be spotted. That did cause some discussion! But those discussions did lead Julie to accept EFTPOS into the Club and soon after she embraced a mobile phone!

Chris has said that personally he has to reflect on Julie, for all her support for the years they worked together to provide good tennis with enjoyment for all. He will miss those conversations had when the club house emptied and they would reflect on the day and the people.

Julie played representative tennis for Norfolk Island at the South Pacific Games in Samoa and New Caledonia.

Her tennis friends will recall she enjoyed tennis trips to New Zealand with them.

The Show is next month. Julie was there on Preserves. Either as steward or Judge. We will miss her.

We all will miss Julie.

Her special friends will recall birthdays or other occasions when she would turn up with a cake, a bunch of flowers or sometimes just words of encouragement, a meal ready and delivered on return from an off Island journey.

We will miss Julie, for the High Standard she set for all of us. We will miss Julie, for the hard work she would put into all that she did for a wide range of people and needs.

Julie was a good person.

God bless you Julie and rest in peace."

My Special Friend Julie

Isn't it funny how some special people don't realize they're special at all?' -

They're thoughtful without even thinking about it.

They're always right there when you call -

They share, not expecting a thing in return,

Yet always seem richer for giving -

Isn't it lovely how those special people can teach us so much about living!

You're One Of Those Special People Julie

Thank You for being My Friend.

Gloria

Julie has been a very dear friend to me and my family for many years.

We have played in many tennis tournaments together (she was always the better player), swimming down Emily Bay, sewing quilts for my great-grandchildren and helping with Byron when he was so ill.

Christmas Day lunch together with Agnes Hain and Chris Laing and the Donald family.

So many memories - thank you my friend.

I love and miss you.

Noelle.

Julie

Hello and thank you for attending this memorial to my friend Julie. Age and distance (I live in Perth, Western Australia) prevent me from being there in person, so these few words will need to suffice.

My name is David Irvine and I am the young boy in the photo taken at the Te Awamutu Primary School sometime during 1951 in our Primmer 3 year when I was 6 or 7, so I have known Julie for at least 74 years.

I was born in Te Awamutu and lived there all my life until leaving at the beginning of 1963 Julie was an important part of my life for as long as I can remember, particularly in my high school years and in the years following.

We were both in the St John's church youth group and in the church choir under the tutelage of a Mrs. Martin-Smith who was something of a martinet. I think that is where Julie's lifelong love of music began.

That interest in music continued through her high school years when she took part in as the lead soprano in the annual Gilbert and Sullivan musicals the College used to present each year under the guidance of the then music teacher Bill Forrest.

In 1960 she featured in *Lolanthe*, in 1961 *The Gondoliers* (I played the Duke of Plaza Toro in that one), and in 1962 she was to feature in *HMS Pinafore*, but it never went ahead after the first few rehearsals.

I still have memories of her soaring soprano voice.

From about form 3 on at College Julie Wood (as she then was) formed a close friendship with Joy Pooley

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Julie - continued

(second name Isobel) and as Julie's second name was Anne, they became known as JIP and JAW. Maybe Julie talked a lot. All through our College years Julie and I studied much the same subjects — Latin, French and Chemistry amongst them. She was a much better scholar than I, always achieving high marks, and was rewarded with being appointed Head Girl for the 1962 school year. I scraped through College but caught up with Julie in 1972 when I graduated in Economics from the ANU in Canberra.

Julie was among a group of close friends that developed around St Johns youth group that included myself and Joy Pooley. The friendship with Julie became closer when my father was taken to Waikato Hospital for the last time in early October 1960 and I spent the afternoon asleep on the couch in the Woods lounge room. Julie also came to Dad's funeral at St John's church a few weeks later.

In January 1963 it was Julie that Mum asked to come up to the Air Force base at Whenuapai in Auckland to see me leave for the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in Canberra.

In 1963 Julie went on to Waikato University to become a teacher and where she met David South. In 1965 I went home for my 21st and Mum asked Julie to dinner at a local hotel to celebrate the event. It was on that visit I first heard about a David South or 'Oto' as Julie's mum told me he was called.

The relationship with David South developed to the extent it led them marrying and moving to Norfolk Island where Julie taught at the school and David grew tomatoes.

I next met up with Julie in 1975 when I holidayed for a few days on Norfolk with my wife Gail and our four children on our way home from a holiday in NZ.

In the intervening years news of Julie only reached me through my mother who was an avid letter writer.

Julie kindly lent us her car to get around in (a Suzuki Jimny I think) and it was interesting to see how everyone waved as they passed thinking it was Julie at the wheel. We enjoyed our stay in Norfolk and spending some time at Julie's home. We were able to enjoy a restaurant meal with Julie and David before we left and it was Julie that took time off from school and got us from our accommodation to the airport for our departure.

It was during our flight to Sydney that the dismissal of the Whitlam government by Sir John Kerr took place. It was probably then about 30 years before I encountered Julie again, although I had on occasion wondered how she was faring on Norfolk. News through Mums letters, stopped when she died in 1986.

I had always attempted to contact Sue for news whenever I visited NZ for family reasons or on business and I think it was Sue that told me Julie and David had separated.

It was during this period that mobile phones, the internet, and email arrived on the scene. In 2005 or 2006 I was in Sydney Airport waiting for a flight to Perth and had just rung home when I noticed Julie's number in my phone book.

I'm not sure how it got there but, on a whim, I rang it and Julie answered. She was quite surprised to hear

from me and that call led to the re-establishment of our friendship.

From that point on we corresponded occasionally, perhaps 3 or 4 times a year, by email. For some reason Julie valued our friendship more than I understand, perhaps because it had lasted since those early days at Primary School.

It's as though I became the big brother she never had and she began the practice of finishing her emails with 'a big Arohanui' which in Maori means 'lots of love', but in family sense. Once I understood what it meant I reciprocated in my emails to her, and so I became her forevermore Arohanui friend on the western side of Australia.

Sadly, Julie has now passed on from this life. I hope my friendship contributed to her happiness and 'joie de vivre.' I will miss her emails appearing in my inbox with news of what was happening on Norfolk or with her Te Awamutu family, good or bad. From March of last year, the news was mainly bad, telling me about Brian Gordon, and Julies subsequent ill health.

Her last email to me was in January this year; again, not good, but Julie always retained her positive outlook on life. One day we may meet again, Until then...

To my forever friend Julie A last 'Big Arohanui'

David

Thank You

The family of Julie Ann South wish to convey their thanks for all the kindness shown in so many ways leading up to and after Julie's Memorial Service at the St Barnabas Church and the interment of ashes at the cemetery. The messages, cards, flowers, food, shoulders to lean on, friends who just made things happen; which ensured Julie's Memorial day was so memorable and such a beautiful tribute to her.

Our thanks to Reverend Laurie, David Buffett and Phil who played the organ before and during the service. The music that Julie loved so much. Thanks to Keiran and Kevin for organising the recording of the service.

The scene at the cemetery was spectacular with blue skies, birds flying, surf crashing in the background, the lawns freshly mowed and so many friends there to lay Julie's ashes to rest back in her beloved Norfolk Island.

We are so grateful to Noelle and her family; Meg and Pete, Margaret Buffett (not only for her lemon pies), Denny Wong, Jono for the Service sheet and Julie's many friends for your love and support in her life here on Norfolk.

Thanks to Chris, Jodie and Julies' tennis buddies who organised a fantastic spread at the Cheryl Tennis Club. A wonderful way to cap off the day as we shared lots of stories about Julie and the full and joyous life she has lived mostly here on Norfolk.

Arohanui from Julie's family, her nieces and nephews; Janine and Mark, Robert and Mykonos, Warren(D), Damien and Sarah, Manawa and Nate, great and great aunty to many mokos.

A huge thank you from Julie's sister Sue, cousin Michael and Jenny.
