



Margaret June Goodwin

*Interment of Ashes service, Norfolk Island
Cemetery*

11 January 2021

Margaret Goodwin was Tony's wife of 54 years and mother to their five children Anne, Jim, Robert, Sarah and Daniel.

Born in Sydney on the 12th March 1942 to Weston and Margaret "Peggy" Campbell during the height of the Second World War, she had one brother Bill who was born the following year. Weston served in the Air Force during the War. After peace was declared, the family moved in with Peggy's family who were farmers at Palmwoods in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. In those early years life could not have been better. Margaret had wonderful childhood memories of playing around the dairy bales while the adults were milking the cows or in the pineapple patch whilst crops were harvested. It helped form her into a country girl for life. Her mother's family was from the Clan Macdonald, and their Scottish heritage was strongly ingrained into their family culture. The grandparents and her mother and aunts and uncles all spoke with a strong Scottish brogue. Even Margaret when she first met Tony had a Scottish flavour in her speech and words.

Her father, Weston, was a builder and when he had built a home for his family on a farm they bought at Bli Bli near Nambour, the young family moved in there.

Margaret developed a great love for horses. She saved up and bought her first horse, a part-Arab mare named Arabian Gold, or "Goldie". She loved riding and was a member of the Nambour Pony Club. Each year she would enter Goldie in events at the Nambour Show and was quite successful, winning many ribbons and prizes. She and her brother Bill would ride through the bush around the farm whenever they could.

Her first job after high school was as a sales assistant on Saturday mornings in a small bakery in Nambour. She then obtained a permanent position as a ledger machine operator in the Nambour branch of the ANZ bank. She was working there when she and Tony met. On weekends she had part-time work in the TAB. After they married in 1965 Margaret and

Tony moved to Brisbane where Margaret was able to obtain a transfer to the ANZ Bank's Adelaide Street branch and Tony worked as a law clerk and continued studying at University at night. In 1968 Tony secured a job with a law firm in Gladstone and the young couple moved there. She was never happy being removed so far away from her family. Gladstone was not endowed with the natural beauty and climate left behind on the Sunshine Coast. Margaret worked as a ledger machine operator at HG Moore & Co, a department store in Gladstone, until they decided to start their family.

They lived in town initially where the first four of their five children were born. Anne was born in 1971 followed by Jim, Robert, and Sarah. They eventually purchased 40 acres of land on the banks of the Calliope River at Beecher and built their current family home. It was after they moved in when Daniel was born in 1983.

Margaret was a full-time mum and devoted all her energy to bringing up the children in the best way she had learnt from her own mother. Like most parents she spent a large part of her life driving children to and from school, sports and other activities. She ensured the children were well fed with good home cooking, nicely dressed and helped with homework. She taught the girls to cook and sew. She never missed a birthday cake, which was always home-made, iced and decorated with candles.

Five children generated many and varied sporting commitments, so much time was taken up with driving them to swimming, sailing, tennis, soccer and pony club, to name just a few. She was a ready volunteer

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Margaret June Goodwin - continued

on the food and drinks kiosks at soccer and to take her turn washing team jerseys.

Margaret was not as much a lover of music as she was of other things. Even so she did grow quite fond of a select few artists particularly Neil Diamond, Abba, Bing Crosby and Roger Whittaker. She took a particular liking to a cassette tape of Roger Whittaker's, which she would play over, and over, and over again in the family's little green Citroen in which she picked up the kids from school. Although a beautiful song, the kids would cringe at school pick-up time when "The Last Farewell" was playing yet again, with plenty of volume. One day, the embarrassment became too much for one of the kids, who took matters into his own hands and hid the cassette tape. The tape was forgotten about for the next 30 years until it was rediscovered in its original hiding place! By then, there were no more cassette tape players around!

Margaret's love of horses influenced life at Beecher, and it wasn't long before horses were acquired and became part of the family. Under Margaret's tuition, all kids developed some level of riding ability, with a couple of them joining the local Pony Club. Very often, weekend sporting commitments included hauling a horse or two to local pony club events or more distant places in Central Queensland, South-East and South-Western Queensland, and even into New South Wales. All this required not just stamina but a four-wheel drive tow vehicle and a horse float. For Margaret, this was all a labour of love.

Margaret was a gifted artist, starting in her childhood with sketching in pencil and later adopting oils as her preferred medium. She was completely self-taught and produced many works depicting scenes of the Australian bush, featuring the gumtrees, fern forests, cattle and horses, all executed with extraordinary faithfulness, and reflecting her love of all things rural Australia. She was a regular competitor in the annual Martin Hanson Art Competition. She exhibited her works in the local art galleries and in the foyer of the Gladstone Entertainment Centre. Her paintings were always admired with locals and visitors keen to add one to their collections. Irish entertainer, Val Doonican has two of her works hanging on his walls back in the UK. Margaret was proud of this and the story of his purchases featured in the local newspaper. She was the Art Judge at the annual Mt Larcom Show for many years and was even an international art judge at The Royal A&H Show on Norfolk Island.

Once all five children were at school, Margaret re-entered the workforce, joining the staff at Chanel College Catholic High School in Gladstone where the older children were students. She was the assistant librarian there for many years, helping new batches of kids each year to navigate the school library. The students liked her because she was always friendly and willing to help. She was known as 'the nice one'. If you were late returning a book, you would see Mrs Goodwin!

In the mid 1980's, Margaret and Tony took a holiday on Norfolk Island following the discovery

of convict family connections on Tony's side to the Island's first settlement, instantly falling in love with the incredible beauty of the place and the warmth and friendliness of its people. Norfolk became the annual holiday destination for the entire family. The kids formed special bonds with the young locals, catching up with the same crew each year. One of the local lads in particular was a nice young fellow named Kevin, one of the islanders Margaret and Tony met on their first holiday there. Their daughter Sarah eventually married Kevin and resides with him and their children on the island.

In later years Margaret became interested in, if not obsessed with, her own family's genealogy. She was inspired by her cousin Peter Bray and was given a head-start from data he had collected. With a strong Clan Macdonald connection it was not long before she had assembled a very impressive profile of that Clan's history. She discovered her Scottish Heritage connected her to royalty and nobility. She discovered family connections to an ancient castle now standing in ruins on a windswept Scottish coastline, once belonging to relations in the Sinclair family. She also discovered the Sinclairs were a very powerful and wealthy family – until some of them were caught in the heist of a ship – they were pirates! They were dispossessed of their lands and possessions and stripped of their Nobility. Margaret liked telling this scandalous discovery.

She discovered she is a direct descendent of Robert De Bruce. She discovered she is 32nd cousin to Queen Elizabeth the Second. She is also related to George and Robert Stephenson, the famous Scottish steam locomotive and rail engineers. She discovered she is related to the first white woman to cross the Blue Mountains in the early days of Australian settlement. Margaret was always keen to share her ancestry discoveries in mind-boggling detail and genuine warmth.

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Margaret spent her final weeks as a patient in the Royal Brisbane and Womens' Hospital seeking diagnosis and treatment for a long and mysterious illness that proved impossible to identify. In her last few weeks of life, Margaret regularly expressed her wishes to be taken out of Hospital and brought to Norfolk Island. At this stage the doctors were still puzzled as to the true cause of her mysterious health condition, and she only seemed to be deteriorating, rather than improving with the treatment she was receiving. Margaret was becoming quite aware that she wasn't getting any better, and that her days on this earth were numbered. Unfortunately, her wishes to be brought to the island for her last days was not able to be fulfilled and she died on 17 January 2020, however, today the family thank Margaret's beloved Norfolk Island and her people for accepting Margaret into their hands and heart.

Today is a particularly special day for Margaret. The family chose this day, the 11th January, for Margaret's interment service for several reasons; one being that "11" was her favourite number, but more-so, today marks the anniversary of Margaret's own mother, Peggy's passing. This Sunday coming, the 17th January, will mark the first anniversary from when Margaret departed this earth and joined her mother and passed loved ones into the new and better life. She is survived by her husband Tony, her children Anne, Jim, Robert, Sarah and Daniel, and her Grandchildren in age order Tiana, Emma, Grace, Kyran, Mitchell, Edison and Alaina.

Margaret was a very quietly spoken person, never known to blow her own trumpet. She will be remembered as a loving wife, mother and grandmother, a talented painter, and a beautiful friend to those who knew her best. She loved her family deeply and would do anything for them, and the family loved her. She will be deeply missed.

Thank You

Margaret's family wish to give their heartfelt thanks to those who have made her interment service possible, including:

- The staff at Burnt Pine Travel – in particular Lisa for handling the ongoing travel changes for the family
- Shane Quintal
- The Rev. David Fell
- Mr David Buffett for delivering the Eulogy
- Chris Gatehouse for organising the PA system
- Simone James for arranging the music
- Trent Christian for leading us in the hymns
- Darlene at the radio station
- Jo & Jonno at Greenways Press
- Those who have contributed in any way through gestures of floral tributes, messages of support and providing refreshments
- Jeremy Watson for helping Sarah craft Margaret's Ashes box
- Vince for crafting the white cross
- The staff at The Castaway Hotel for providing the venue for refreshments after the service.

Margaret would have been very pleased.
Thank you.

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