



Vale

Róisín Marie Richards

Roisin Marie Richards was born in Norfolk Island at the Norfolk Island Hospital on 22 April 1992. Her parents are Eileen “Irish” Sloan and Wayne Richards. She was called “Sheenie” by her brother Ben who, being just 2 ½ years older, had difficulty pronouncing Roisin. She was Sheenie from then on.

Sheenie grew up on Norfolk Island and had a happy, typical Norfolk Island childhood. She attended the Norfolk Island Central School during the years 1997 to 2009.

Her classmates included Amy Steven, Chris McLeod, Alana Buffett, Tash Partridge, Adrian Zamour-Bongout and Jordana Robinson. These all became lifelong friends and are present today - some having travelled from the other side of the world to be here. Schoolmates who also became Sheen’s flatmates, travel mates and lifelong friends included Holly Meers, Nicole Gow, Sophia Gardner and Kit Wilson

From an early age Sheenie displayed characteristics that we all came to know her by–

- She was loved and she loved with intensity. This was Sheenie’s defining characteristic. Sheenie had an innate capacity and need to be loved. She was also a fierce defender of those she loved. We can look around and see in the people here the strength of the love she both felt and inspired.
- She was gloriously disorganised. This first emerged when dropped to school one morning and about to get out of the car she asked her father where her school bag was. The Sheenie Rule became that the intersection of Rocky Point Road and New Farm Road was the Point of No Return. At that point the car stopped, and everyone had to do a final check that they had everything they needed for the day. In later years this gift manifested itself in a procession of cracked, smashed or lost mobile phones, lost or destroyed passports and lost debit cards.
- She was enthusiastic: Sheen was passionate about what she liked –people, things, food, books, computer programs and music. From an early age the Harry Potter books were a passion – to be read and re-read. When the first Harry Potter film was released a website promoting the film had a Sorting Hat. After answering a series of questions the Sorting Hat placed you in the appropriate Hogwarts house. When Sheen was placed in Gryffindor she was incandescent with joy.
- She was clever but focussed. Sheen did not waste her time on drudgery. Her schoolmates recall her using her intelligence to get by with a minimum of study and preparation. But if any topic engaged her interest she brought to bear all her intelligence and energy - her goal was perfection and nothing less would do.
- She had a formidable sense of humour. She was quick witted and applied this to things from a different perspective. Her classmates frequently voted her the funniest person in the class. She used her humour to amuse, charm, confuse and defuse people.

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Róisín Marie Richards - continued

- She had an appreciation of music across a broad and diverse range of genres. This probably was fostered by the music her mother filled the house with.

In sport Sheen liked Netball. She was always proud of being in the Under 17s netball team that competed in the NSW State Championships. Sheenie completed school on Norfolk in 2009. She won the Queen Victoria Scholarship for Senior Girls for that year.

Sheenie must have enjoyed her school years. On her last day of school she was found sitting in her car in the driveway of our house with tears streaming down her face. Her explanation for her tears was simply that “everything was going to change”.

From 2009 Sheenie commenced her Gold Coast Years. She shared flats with Holly and Kit for 2 years, then Amy and Sky, Matt Murphy and Tameka Mallon.

She attended Griffith University studying a Bachelor’s degree in Digital Design. She was prodigiously talented in this area which tapped into her love of English and Art and her facility with computer programs. However, Sheen did not enjoy University. After 2 years, with less than a year of her degree remaining, Sheen deferred her studies.

Sheen then took a barista course and worked as a Barista on the Gold Coast, Norfolk Island, England and Northern Ireland.

In 2016 Sheenie and Amy went travelling through Europe for 6 months. During this time they travelled through 15 countries, England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Italy, Spain, Scotland, Ireland and Portugal.

In late 2016 Sheenie and Amy found work and lived in Brighton for 8 months. They chose Brighton because it was on the sea which reminded them of home.

Sheenie and her great friend Matt Murphy then toured around Portugal in a kombi van. Sheenie returned to the Gold Coast to work for a few months

to fund her next adventure.

In November 2017 Sheen returned to Norfolk and worked for a year on Norfolk at the Olive by day and other hospitality jobs by night. It was a joy to have her with us again while she planned her South American trip. During this time she also studied Spanish. Sheenie was very pleased with her fluency in Spanish.

In late December 2018 Sheenie flew to Chile to work as a volunteer on a duck farm. In the ensuing 12 months she travelled throughout the South American continent - Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

Sheenie left an impact on anyone she met. The following is the text of a spontaneous review left by her Chilean hosts after she finished her term with them

Sheenie, we are so lucky to have had you with us, all your help was from your true heart, you shared your good vibes with all the team of helpers.

I admire your good will, full of good energy. You were a great personal premium sales and delivery assistant.

Thank you for your good quality work on the farm. You learned the simple and demanding farm work, merged into our family, helped in every way. You are the kind that walks the extra mile with a happy and generous attitude.

We are very happy to have been your first hosts in Chile and the world.

In April 2019 while in Brazil Sheenie met a young German man named Morris. They travelled together for a while and they rapidly became extremely important to each other. At the conclusion of her South American journeys Sheenie wasn’t ready to come home. She headed to Europe to be closer to Morris. She settled in with her relatives in Belfast and commenced a new job while she and Morris planned a future together. She had already started to teach herself German.

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Morris is here with us today and is forever a member of our family.

All of us, both here today and around the world, have cause to be grateful for the joy and privilege it has been to know our daughter, sister and friend.

Thank you

There are so many people to thank for their overwhelming love and support for our family following Sheenie’s passing. There are so many people to thank, our apologies if we have missed anyone.

To Janine Nobbs a special and sincere thanks for organising the Go Fund Me page to help us bring Sheenie back from Belfast to her Norfolk home. To the hundreds of people who donated through the page and also privately, our humble and sincere thanks, we just don’t have words to express the depth of our absolute gratitude. You overwhelmed us with your generous and immediate practical help making the task of bringing Sheen home easier to bear.

Thank you David Fell for leading the service and sensitively supporting us to create and deliver our farewells both at home and graveside. Thank you Jodie Williams for not only creating the most perfect handout but also always being available and gently providing us with information, ideas and practical help to guide us through all that needed to be done to organise Sheenie’s farewell.

Thankyou Robin, Edie and all the ladies at the Usual Place for the multitude of beautiful wreaths bringing colour and flowers as if by magic in this time of drought. Thanks to those who brought in flowers and greenery. Thanks to Juliette Grant for making calls to keep flights open so Wayne and Morris didn’t miss their Norfolk connection. Thanks to Sim James for recording the music and to Milton Bradley and the Lions Club for the sound system. To Shane and the grave-diggers and Tardy for preparing and bringing Sheen to her final resting place, we thank you. Thanks to Jack’s mates for handing out the programs. Great thanks to the Norfolk Island Golf Club and members for providing the venue and food for the wake, as well as your generous donation - thankyou Nomes for being chief organiser. To all the people who supplied cars and those never-ending deliveries of delicious wetts to keep our strength going, thankyou.

So many of Sheen’s class-mates and friends made on the Gold Coast flew in for her farewell. Together with those living on-Island we will never forget the depth of your love expressed through the time we’ve all shared this past week including your involvement in digging her grave, making the wreaths and floral tributes, decorating the mound, being pall bearers and sharing our last few hours with Sheen at home. You are all beautiful young people who have supported and surrounded our entire family with your love.

We are so proud to be part of this community. We have been showered with love, messages, food, care and support in so many ways since Sheenie’s tragic

passing. The Norfolk tradition and way at this time is a deeply loving one at every step, and has provided real comfort to us. Thanks fe uklun.

Sudoku Number 412 - Medium

5			9	6				7
			3			5		
	4	1				2		
			5		9		8	1
1								2
4	9		2		7			
		6				3	7	
		7			3			
3				2	8			6

2	9	5	6	1	8	4	3	7
4	7	8	5	2	3	6	1	9
3	6	1	4	9	7	2	5	8
7	5	9	2	8	1	3	6	4
6	1	3	7	4	9	8	2	5
8	4	2	3	6	5	7	9	1
9	8	4	1	3	6	5	7	2
1	3	7	8	5	2	9	4	6
5	2	6	9	7	4	1	8	3

SUDOKU RULES

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There is no math involved. You solve each puzzle with reasoning and logic. Each puzzle only has one solution.

Last week’s solution

I BUY LOCAL
I invest in my community
 I CAN SOCIALLY INTERACT WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

I EAT FRESH
I choose quality over quantity
I worry about future generations

I LOVE HANDMADE
 I buy from a family over a corporation
I like knowing who grows my food
I'M SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT
I support independent artists & crafters