



Vale

Sheila Mary Grimshaw

Sheila Mary Grimshaw was born 07/09/1945 in Bombay, India, the eldest of the four children of Hugh Harvie and Sheila Norma Stewart (nee Dare). She was always known as ‘Shim’ or Sheila Mary to differentiate between her mother and paternal Aunt. Soon afterwards the family returned to her father’s hometown of Dunoon, Scotland where Annabelle, Hamish and finally Hugh Collin (always known as ‘Joey’) were born.

The austerity of post-war Scotland was hard, particularly rationing and for Shim especially the miniscule sweets ration! She was academically clever and freely conversed with all people on numerous levels.

The family made the decision to leave for a better life in Australia arriving at the height of summer 1959, meaning mosquitoes, sand-flies and the heat. The family found it a culture shock, her parents both working long hours as a teacher and a master plumber; the sisters struggled with the curriculum differences and Shim left school early.

She worked for the Scientologists for a period before going to work for Thomas Livingstone Grimshaw, philatelist that was the start of a 30-year love affair.

In 1965 Joey was dragonised with leukaemia, within four months he was dead. Shim was heartbroken and struggled with this grief for the rest of her life keeping a lock of his hair and his prayer card in her wallet.

Two weeks later Tom and Sheila started on a trip that would change the whole family’s lives. Through the GPO, Melbourne they had met Jean Mitchell from Norfolk Island. She introduced them to her daughter Tricia, her husband Peter and baby David.

After nearly two days travelling they arrived on Norfolk and they were smitten.

(continued overleaf)

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“EXCLUSIVE”

Expansive 3 to 4 bedroom home with great views to Kingston world heritage area. Shadow clad exterior with insulated metal roof, huge covered deck, downstairs accommodation & storage, plus double garage & covered carport. Spacious open plan kitchen, family & dining areas. Cathedral ceiling. Main bedroom suite has 2 robes & ensuite. Deck overlooks landscaped valley & sea. 2.261ha Land
\$795,000

“EXCLUSIVE”

Superb property with panoramic views of the valley to the Kingston area and ocean to Phillip Island.
Two bedroom residence with two adjoining one bedroom units. Well fitted kitchen & dining area, spacious lounge, covered front deck & rear tiled deck capturing stunning sea views. Well kept gardens & grounds. Garage. Underground water storage
\$675,000

“EXCLUSIVE”

Well maintained & presented 3 bedroom split level cottage in a lovely rural setting. Ideal holiday home or rental. 2 beds, laundry, WC. & bathroom on upper level. Kitchen, dining and TV room on middle level.
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\$345,000

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Sheila Mary Grimshaw - continued

They returned again the next year and employed the amazing Sam Quintal to build them a home on Fletcher Christian Road. In 1969, she left her family for good and began living on the unsealed road next to the Silky Oaks Stables and the Tanalith Plant.

The following year Samantha Jean was born, five years after that Jonathan Livingstone. Family life was adventurous, Tom and Shim worked long hours, from home on the mail order stamp business, clearing and replanting the two acres around their house and weekly library visits, travelling firstly with Tom and then as a family.

Shim proudly took Tom back to her childhood home (only to find it had been demolished) traipsed around the Giants Causeway and Ireland, and visiting numerous graveyards to look up her ancestors. All this while four months pregnant with Jonathan in sub-zero temperatures.

During the next few years contact was limited with her family, there were the occasional phone calls and some letters but she threw herself into her children, becoming a Brownie Leader, an avidly reading and gardening.

In 1994 her life was enriched with the birth of her first grandchild Blair. This was overshadowed by the diagnosis of cancer in Tom. For the next 20 months, she and Tom spent one week at Wesley Hospital in Brisbane, always catching up with Jonathan at Sizzler. She compulsively knitted Blair at one stage had 22 cardigans. Later she gave them away.

In August, Tom was advised no further treatment was possible and he passed away in September 1996 at home. She then reconnected with her ailing parents moving them out of their house and into one with Hamish and Annabelle. She felt she needed to "make up" for lost time and she and Annabelle travelled to Scotland, England, France and finally America where they caught with her niece and family.

Shim was then diagnosed with breast cancer in 1997, she told the surgeon she WAS having chemotherapy, she WAS having surgery, she WAS having radiation and she WAS going on Tamoxifen. The surgeon didn't agree but she got her way! She stayed in Melbourne for extended periods receiving various treatments for chronic arthritis and the cancer.

After Tom's death, Hamish and Annabelle both stayed with her again Shim was in her element – socialising, introducing her family to Norfolk and sharing the beauty of the island.

She visited Samantha and Brian at least twice a year (she loved IKEA, Costco and especially Aldi). Spending time shopping, socialising and spending time with Blair and Isabelle, later with the same with Jonathan and Katey and their five children.

As time went on her health became more fragile and Norfolk Telecom discovered the joy of Shim and her incessant phone calls, whether it was her singing Happy Birthday, talking to Annabelle, Samantha and her friends on the island.

She served on the Hospital Board and was involved with the St. John Ambulance, wreath making, playing

bridge, Solitaire and attending Probus. She still loved Norfolk and even on the last phone calls to her friends and family on the Sunday she said, "I Just want to go home." And even when her family and friends suggested she leave the island, she said "I will only leave Norfolk if have to lock my house, can't wipe my own butt or can't talk." She passed away suddenly at Jonathan's house on 28th August 2017 and was laid to rest on Norfolk 16th September 2017.

She leaves behind her siblings: Hamish and Annabelle and their families, her three cousins, Jonathan and Katey and their children: Charlotte, Xavier, Sophie, Owen and Amelia and Samantha and Brian and their children: Blair and Isabelle, as well as numerous friends both on Norfolk and overseas.

Jonathan and Samantha and the rest of the family wish to thank the island community for getting Shim home safely to be with Tom. To David Buffett for giving a beautiful service, Joe Adams, Lawrence Funerals, Shane Quintal, the pall bearers, the ladies at "the usual place", Tardie for driving her safely to her final resting place, Don Reynolds and her fantastic friends for the love and care you gave her over 50 years.



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