



Vale

Shirley Olive Summerscales

3rd June 1933 – 1st April 2021

Shirley was born "Shirley Olive Hartley" on the 3rd June, 1933, in Christchurch. To parents, Edna Mary and Charles William Hartley, who were well respected members of our Church, Shirley's dad worked in a bicycle repair shop, while her Mum was kept busy with 2 elder toddlers, Esther, and brother Raymond. Eighteen months later, baby sister Eileen joined the family, and Shirley was pleased to have a younger sister to become best friends.

Baby brother, David arrived almost 2 years later, in November 1936.

It was soon after this, during World War 2, in August

1939, that Charles And Edna had an opportunity to move to a farm, about an hour's drive south of Christchurch, where Charles and his twin brother, Tom, worked on and managed the farm. It was about 150 acres, and was mostly sheep and cropping, though there was usually a couple of horses somewhere. On which the children all learned to ride as soon as they could. The farmhouse was huge, with a very long corridor, running the total length of the house, and the 3 younger children had tremendous fun on their tricycles, having races up & down the hallway.

All five children attended Methven School. When Shirley was 8, the family bought their own farm, only a few miles away, and the kids then attended Highbank School, exactly 1 mile from home, so they then walked to school. As the new farm was only 80 acres, father then obtained a full time job in the stores department at the Ministry of Works in Methven, only 7 miles away. They had to hand-milk 17 cows each morning, before going anywhere. Shortly after moving in, baby sister Lorna was born, a week before Shirley's 9th birthday. Soon after this, the small school at Highbank closed down, and all the kids then went on the school bus to Methven State school. In October, 1944, the last Hartley daughter was born, and was named Marian, which finalised the family of 5 girls & 2 boys, a total of 7 children.

Shirley finished her education, then went on to study at Longburn Adventist College, and gained her secretarial degree, though she did not use this at that time. She worked instead, at the poshest department store in Christchurch, Ballantynes, in their bridal dressmaking rooms, and so made many very flash dresses for brides in Christchurch. She then later joined the staff in the Sydney Sanitarium & Hospital, in Wahroonga, where Eileen had trained & graduated as a qualified nurse, so they were able to spend quality time together again.

At the end of 1954, the family sold their farm and moved into a cottage in Methven township, where Shirley's dad continued his current job.

(continued overleaf)

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Shirley Olive Summerscales - continued

During this time, Mother became unwell (with a brain tumour) and was sent to Dunedin hospital, where she was the first patient to be operated on in New Zealand, and live for more than 3 days. Her recovery was slow and long, and so both Lorna & Marian had to be "farmed out" to friends for 3 months while their father was with their mother in Dunedin. Shirley unselfishly made the move from Sydney to go home & look after her 2 younger sisters, which became a permanent move, as Edna never fully recovered after her operation, and needed care at home. Later, after the family had moved to Christchurch, Shirley took a full time job at the Sanitarium Health Food Company's office, in the finance dept. where she had many loyal and trusted friends.

In October 1960, it was a sad time when they buried their Mum, That left just four of them at home, Shirley, Dad, Lorna & Marian.

In early 1962, one of Shirley's friends had gone to Norfolk Island on holiday, and had visited Church, where she met a single bloke she thought would be suited for Shirley. Needless to say, Norfolk was the next holiday destination for Shirley, and so, after meeting Peter and his family, she invited him to come to Christchurch, Soon thereafter Peter asked for her hand in marriage, he stayed for the ceremony on 14th May, 1962, at the Papanui Church, where all the family attended. Soon thereafter she left for her new home, Shirley had been such a good, loyal sister & friend to all the family. It was the last time she would see her Father Charlie alive, as he had been hiding his serious illness from the family, and finally went to his rest on 14th September, 1962.

Peter And Shirley moved back to Norfolk Island and lived first down the corner where Pat Puss lives (or there about) at Breens, then next door to their house (frank and Sonia's) while they built (probably without electricity to start with) the family home.

Initially they thought they could not have children so Adopted Brenda Locally and then later Ian (9 months old) from New Zealand Both of whom had ties to the Island. Brenda being the daughter of Jimmy Edward

we later find out and Ian's biological parents were too young at the time and gave him up for adoption, later they got itchy feet and moved to Norfolk Island of all places with no idea their firstborn was already here. Strangely, Ian disliked his (unknown to him) Younger biological brother, who was in Alans class at school and would threaten to beat him up. Small world!

A happy surprise turned up in 1969 with the birth of Alan (snowy) and later in 1972 with the arrival of another brother Grant.

This completed the family and Shirley took up the challenge of mothering her four beloved children and you would have to agree she did an all right Job, sometimes having to use her "paddle stick" that she kept on the broom rack, to keep us inline. Just once or twice, trust me!

She also did a great job caring for the various horses, cats, chooks and dog that her children acquired over the years, although she did lose respect for the brown horse that gave her a (purple) good luck tattoo, (horse shoe) on her behind in exchange for feeding him. Nice one cuddles, lucky it was temporary! Moreover, she did not suffer any further serious injury.

Shirley apart from the important role of being Mother and housewife, was also found out in the garden both flower and Vege garden and loved to be in the kitchen preserving the produce she and dad cultivated. She was also to be found baking yummy cakes and biscuits. I ya tull nobody has quite perfected her ginger crunch recipe (despite she probably handed it out to others)

I would be surprised if you have not had some of her baking, jam or even lemon butter over the years the ladies had their stall in the middle of town or later on in foodland, you feel old now unay, remember daa.

She successfully raised us kids despite some trying times both tough times and kids (not guilty...much) and went on to see us grow up and fledge into the world

Brenda Married Philip Wetere and had two boys, Tiraui and Tuai

(continued overleaf)

HEAD FOR THE SHED

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Come and join us at the top of The Village on Wednesday afternoons from 1-3pm.

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Ring Bruce on 53058 or Paul on 23431 for more information on what's happening at the Men's Shed



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Shirley Olive Summerscales - continued

Ian married Bronwyn Ellis and had son Nathan and daughter Sara

Alan Married Natelkka Johansson and had Ben and Ryan

And Grant beat them all and had Jamie, Tarquin and Grace and is already a grandpa, with a new granddaughter arriving just 2 weeks ago .

Apart from young Gracie all the other grandchildren are now adults or at least in uni studying age

So Shirley ended up with 9 Grandchildren and 4 Great grandchildren whom she adored (of course she bin use a spoil dem just a little bit too) she would be sore she did not get to meet them all.

The loss of Brenda and her four siblings in the last few years were a real blow to her but she remained stoic thru the lows that life dealt her.

Over the years, Shirley has been a quiet volunteer in various capacities in the community:

She was the Church treasurer and assistant Organist for 40 years and only gave it away due to age, too many birthdays is a problem and having to use a computer to do it didn't help (she did actually have a computer for a few years and got reasonably proficient, again she gave it away due to failing health. Also her beloved car got abandoned then as well.

Shirley was also involved in the clubs like pathfinders and Pony club that us kids belonged to even attending a pathfinder camporee with us.

She was a white oaks and Probus club member and if I am not mistaken, was the white oaks treasurer, you will recall hearing the notice every Wednesday mentioning Shirley and her phone number for quite some time. I am sure she was disappointed when she could no longer go along, as she was still sharp as whip and loved playing board games and socialising.

I think she got round this small hurdle by having her friends come to her and even roping in the care Norfolk helpers, (no arm twisting needed there) so she had a good supply of friends that she loved dearly.

She loved everyone and very seldom had anything bad to say about anyone, and was a believer in "if you have nothing good to say don't say it" she also taught us all to be kind, gentle, and forgiving mostly thru example and osmosis.

She also believed in order, accuracy and decorum as anyone who learnt to cook with her or saw her (many) timers when she cooked. On the cooking front she always overcooked the veges, a bad habit that she learned from her own mother according to her sister Lorna (who had a good laugh about it when Shirley visited her for medical reasons a while back) maybe she liked bitter broccoli.

On the other hand, she baked for cake stall in foodies for many years to raise money for the church ladies welfare activities and people still comment they can't get her ginger crunch recipe right, the way she did. That is not the only thing she was best at right friends?

She also was known to be out in the gardens and the yard growing Vegetables and fruit. She loved her fruit and was always making preserved fruit and Jams for

rainy days and for others to enjoy. She was frugal in many ways and an avid recycler before it was the done thing and yet found the joy in helping others and did this in various ways wherever she could.

Now if anyone here has had dealings with Shirley they will soon realise one of her quirks, she was honest down to the last cent, and would calculate what she owes and pay up exactly even if she was undercharged she will pay up exactly, including cents, (this makes my eyes roll) but numerous people are surprised by this and appreciated her all the more for it . I often wonder if she felt cheated when 1 and 2 cents went out of fashion.

Rest in well earned peace Shirl-girl. (Care Norfolk Girls name)

Thank You

Shirleys family would like to thank from the bottom of our Hearts all the lovely people who returned the love and assisted us to give her a fitting send off on Wednesday Afternoon.

We wish to thank all the carers from care Norfolk, the hospital and well everywhere on Norfolk.

Even thinking of the random people that I saw Helping Mum shopping in foodland, No good deed should go unpunished so Thank you very much beautiful people.

We thank also Shane and his crew who did the hard slog down a town and Gavin and Tardy and the works depot team.

Thank you Ken and Julie for doing your important part of organising and pulling all together.

Toni for the service sheets, Aunty Rob and her flower people, the suppliers of delicious wetls..... the list goes on and we fraid we gwen mess somebody SO

Thank you all the wonderful sullen ya orn Norfolk who do the heavy lifting when our hearts are overwhelmed with sadness and our minds turn to mush, en we nor da gude, the more we think the more sullen we need to thank, all the people that supported us in big or small ways and all that offered up condolences and support. All those little things add up to become something wonderful.

Really we are truly blessed to have orl Yorlye luukin out fa Uclun! Truly, du we lorise awas weay!

May God Bless and keep you all.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL

when transporting firewood,
machinery, green waste,
plants or any other organic
materials across the Island
to avoid spreading the
Argentine Ants
into new areas.

