



Vale
Vanessa Elizabeth Magri
'Sa'

Vanessa Elizabeth Cooper was born in Sydney the 27th August 1969.

Vanessa was bought into a large and loving family and spent most of her early years down "Dorby" corner with her mum, dad, nan, grandad, aunty Mil and Kev.

From an early age, she was either known as "Bub", "Sa" or "Sarsie" which stuck with her throughout her life.

Those early days were filled with lots of love, laughter and fun where Sa developed those enduring features which made her into the remarkable and fine lady she was.

These were special times also with lots of memories spent with Aunt Dolly, Dayell, Mooch, Meg, Tate and Laurie and all the other families in Cascade and "Dorby" corner.

In 1976 Jan and Coop finished their family home on Driver Christian road and they all moved down there.

In 1981, the family were thrilled with the birth of her sister Nicky.

Sa completed all her schooling at Norfolk Island Central School and at the end of Year 10 went to live with her Aunty Millie and Uncle Rees in Harden where Reece was the Westpac Bank manager.

In 1985, she completed Year 11 at Murrumburrah High School and achieved Dux of that year.

In late 1985 Rees was transferred to the Hay branch of Westpac so it was decided that Sa would complete her final year of school at the All Saints college boarding school in Bathurst NSW.

This move to Bathurst to boarding school was probably where Sa cemented her headstrong characteristics as boarding school was the last place she wanted to be.

She lasted the first term and after returning from school holidays on Norfolk and without telling anyone, she never returned and caught the train back to Harden.

Jan found her later staying with her friend in Harden.

She returned home to Norfolk in April 1986 after securing work with Westpac.

These were fun years with Norfolk really at its best.

Working at Westpac with the likes of Georgie Douran, Jan Christian and Michael Keeping and the large staff that used to be at both banks.

With the South Pacific hotel, the Castaway and Hotel Norfolk all running and having band nights throughout the week there was always plenty of partying.

During this time, also she shared house at Aunt Nins in Cascade Road with Michael Keeping and Anita French.

Plenty sullen bin use a tull that Aunt Nins was haunted but ufine all was, was the tip toeing of sullen in and out of the house during the late hours of the night.

Sa also did a little stint living on the Gold Coast with her long-time friend Anita.

Jan and Doreen still have shivers thinking about sleeping on a mattress on the floor with buster cockroaches on a one-time visit.

Returning to Norfolk in 1990. She started working for the newly opened surfing shop "Peaking Pines".

She also worked at night helping her dad and Barry Wilson at the SeaWorld restaurant.

Working on the floor with her dad, Wayne Boniface, Joss, Cara, Tania amongst others and, out in the kitchen with Dave Smith, Monica Smith and Barry Wilson, Sa became an integral part of the restaurant.

SeaWorld restaurant in those days was the place to be and was well renowned for a good feed and a highly likely tipple of Coop's port to top it all off.

You certainly had to book early for the State Of Origin nights and New Year's Eve!!!

Saving up some money Sa decided along with her close friend Jan Christian and a Commonwealth bank friend Mandy Wright to travel to Europe.

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Vanessa Elizabeth Cooper - continued

It was also around this time that David and her started a coat.

David having returned from working in Sydney in late 1987 to take up an apprenticeship in Carpentry.

David and his long-time mate Wolf also travelled to Europe around the same time and on the odd occasion would meet up with the girls in their travels.

It was in Paris that Sa celebrated her 21st birthday with all the Norfolk travellers there with her.

Returning to Norfolk Sa and David continued their relationship and in 1993 commenced building their house in Cascade.

In the beginning when talk first started about building their home there was plenty of toing and froing as to where they were going to build. Bumboras ula Cascade.

In the end, Sa's block won out. It was the right choice as it was right next door to her nan and grandad, who had lovingly already started planting out a garden.

All that needed doing was built in the middle of it.

Sa loved her home, kitchen and her garden and took great pride in having Christmas days there, each year being a different theme, cooking up a storm with such ease for those days and so many more.

Man, she bin el cook.

During these years, Sa also worked at the NI Administration in the accounts department.

Plenty of fun time were had here too working with the old school of Toon, Bella, Sarlu, Ikey, Midge and Barry and far too many more to mention.

Sa also worked at the NI Gas Centre with Karen, Chris, Celia and the boys out the back.

She still had a close bond with them all.

Sa and David also bought and ran Aunt Ems Guest house for several years.

Sa was a long-time committee member of the Sunshine Club and wholeheartedly endorsed everything that the club stood for.

David and Sa were married in 1996 out at Captain Cook memorial.

It was a special day with only immediate family who had no idea that the wedding was going to take place. It was supposed to be just an Easter breakfast.

After the service, they jumped on a plane and left for their honeymoon.

In 1998, Beau was born followed by Jared in 2001. Sa was the best mum ever and doted over her boys.

These were special times and cemented the bonds forever and made them into a small and loving family closely surrounded by their extended families.

Sa was extremely proud of her boys sporting and academic achievements and was very proud that all in the family had achieved the honour of being Queen Victoria scholarship recipients.

She was always there for them on the sporting fields on the frontline of fundraising or supporting.

In 2008, Sa saw an opportunity to be continually closer to her boys by getting a job at NICS on the front desk with Meg Meer's and Sue Randall undertaking school administration.

Sa absolutely loved this job and soon gained the

trust and an affinity of the children coming and going from school each day.

She was the go to girl and always had a welcome smile, a wide embrace or a comforting word for anybody who wanted it.

She was passionate about her school house Nepean too and always clung on to the hope that this would-be the year Nepean won all sporting days.

Dar daye gwenna come!!

This would have been her 9th year at NICS.

Sa was a talented sportswoman, which emanated from her families love of sport and the sometime torturous training regimes set for her by her grandfather Jim.

She was a formidable tennis player and won awards at touch football.

Look out orn ar card table too cause, she bin el Jaero en eucha!

Samrepresented Norfolk Island at both netball and golf at the South Pacific Games. Netball in 1993 in Vanuatu and Golf in Samoa in 2007.

Sa won several championship events at the Norfolk Island Golf Club over the years however arguably her proudest moment would have been representing the Norfolk Island and Golf Club at the Holden Scramble Golf Championships in Queensland with her husband David and sons Beau and Jared.

Sa loved the Norfolk Island Golf Club and all that it stood for.

She was integral in fundraising, social events and took great pride in choosing the theme for annual presentation night dinners.

But overall Sa's enduring feature was her demure, calm nature and just being a beautiful person.

Nothing was ever too much nor any task too hard, she just took it all in her stride.

She loved her family and in turn they loved her so much back.

She was just a fine, fine lady.

Sa started feeling a little off in late February just after setting Beau up at university in Melbourne.

Sa left Beau knowing that he was well set up and looked forward to her next phase in life's journey.

Sadly, the rest of the story is now heartbreak.

The true strength of her character was amplified by her strength in deciding to come home to Norfolk, to smell that good Norfolk air, to see her Nan, Boyie, her aunt and all her close friends and to be in her home.

On departing the Prince of Wales hospital for the last time on Friday the 14th July 2017, just some 71 days since being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Sa had drawn in all the doctors, nurses and cleaners with her beautiful aura.

They all lined the corridor with eyes welled and shoulders rounded as a guard of honour to wish her safe travels.

Such was her character.

(This paragraph added by Simon Bigg, reader of the eulogy)

An incredible and uniquely beautiful soul who touched the lives of so many, and who in her own

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Vanessa Elizabeth Cooper - continued

quiet and humble way, enriched and inspired those who knew her.

It is these qualities that set Sa apart from others, and it is these qualities that will live on forever through her family and friends, in her man

David, and through their two incredible boys, Beau and Jared.

God speed Sa, you beautiful lady, we too much gwen mess you!!!

Thank you

On behalf of Beau, Jared and all of my family, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have helped us through these last few months. I cannot begin to describe our loss, Sa was such a special person to us all and she will be forever missed.

The diagnosis and outcome of her battle was one that we did not expect nor contemplate and were always adamant that by Christmas all would be back to normal and this little hiccup in life's journey would be soon a distant memory.

For us as a family it has been truly humbling to see and feel the support we have had from the Norfolk Island community, near and far, before and after Vanessa's passing.

It has felt like there has been a blanket of love and support over us and for that I can never thank you all enough.

If there is anything to be gained from this experience, it's a hope we all embrace and make stronger this beautiful asset within this community.

Sa was characterised by this philosophy and without a doubt would want this to strengthen.

There are so many people to thank in addition to those that were mentioned at Sa's funeral.

To the Norfolk Island Hospital, to Doctor Sexton, the beautiful nurses and in particular Jeanie, Janine, Raewyn, Louise, Kally, Heather and Phyllis, thank you. Your care, love and compassion for Sa when she returned back to Norfolk, to be at home was something to behold. Thank you.

To Corrine and the other staff at the Hospital, thank you.

To the staff of the N.I Regional Council, to Shane, Gav, Tardy, Hook and Mike, thank you.

To the teachers, auxiliary and office staff and students at the Norfolk Island Central School. Thank you.

To George, Noel and the boys down on Cascade Pier, thank you.

To the Norfolk Island Golf Club, thank you.

To David and David for Sa's send off, thank you.

To the wreath makers and the amazing contributors of flowers for the wreaths. What a sight. Thank you.

To Wayne Boniface for the amazing floral arrangement for Sa's coffin. Thank you.

To the many wonderful people who have dropped off flowers, food, card's or to just call in and say hello, thank you.

To the many at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney whom I would love to name individually but know the list would be far too long and whom I know went the extra mile to ensure that Sa received the best treatment possible.

The team of Oncologists at the Bright Centre led by Professor Goldstein, the cancer coordinator nurses, the Gastroenterologist team led by Dr Almeida, the Palliative care team, the beautiful nurses of Parkes 4 East especially Ellie, Kirsty and Denni, the dieticians, psychologist, the geneticists, the doctors and nurses of ICU and HDU, the Norfolk Island Clinical Coordinator Michael Hopkins, the social workers and the many people within the health system who mostly we never met but know played an integral role in our well being, thank you.

A special thank you to Jan and Coop, to Aunty Nik and Dave, Millie, Reece, James, Nathan and Katie, Dad and Chris, Umi and Kylie, Winton, Joey, Wesley James and the Buffett's of Melody Street.

My ability to be by Sa's side would have been that much harder without your continued support.

Life for us now has to try to return to some sort of normality. I know there will be dark days ahead but am comforted by the knowledge that so many people will have our backs and lift us back up again just like they have done for so many people before us.

Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Yours Truly,

David

Our Heartfelt Thanks

Sid, Jan, Nikki, David, Kevin, Jayson and Sam wish to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, kindness and support shown to our family during this extremely difficult time with the passing of Vanessa.

We have experienced the overwhelming support of so many people, the list is endless. Trust our family when we say there was no act of kindness that went unnoticed, or kind words or expressions that showed us you all care.

We know that listing everyone would not be possible but again all of you are appreciated; to the vast show of comfort and care, to all who called to our home, the untold amount of cards, phone calls and messages of condolences and support received, to so many who provided food and refreshments from the day we arrived home from Sydney, for the beautiful flowers and floral arrangements, to those who kept the boys entertained, for the loan of vehicles, and a special thank you to all those who traveled home to farewell Vanes. To family and friends thank you for always being there.

This community and its people deserve to be recognised for being truly amazing and we are grateful to you all.

Family are the most important part of our life. Treasure the tears, treasure the laughter, but most importantly, treasure the memories.
