

Kay and Sandra's Eulogy

I am Suzanne's youngest sister - Kay.

Mum & Dad are here today and our sister Sandra.

Sadly, our brother, Stephen can't be with us as he is in hospital in Perth, having had surgery on Tuesday, but we are pleased that he is represented by Willie Laird, his friend of 50 years.

Suzanne Margaret Westcott was born a sickly child who required life saving surgery in her first year. She did not, however, continue life with an invalid mentality – busy, dynamic and involved would better describe Suzanne.

She was a typical oldest child of 4, and was known by us as “**bossy britches**” with good reason. She was always our leader & decision maker – when we played “Doctors & Nurses”, I was the patient, Sandra was the Nurse, Stephen, the sometime assistant & Suzanne was **always the Doctor**. It never changed! We all enjoyed a happy childhood including many memorable family holidays at Wonboyn Lake and later, Sorrento where we had a holiday house.

Suzanne was, in our eyes then, a no-nonsense goody-goody. She excelled in the Girl Guides. While she was earning a great many badges, including the prestigious Queen's Guide Award, Sandra & Mary, & Kay & Elaine were excelling at having fun & being rather frivolous and naughty! Her most dangerous moment came when, on a guide camp, she cleaned her teeth using a tube of “Skeeter Fax” instead of toothpaste. She was quite concerned for her teeth when the bristles of her toothbrush fell out.

As a Sea Ranger, Suzanne was chosen to open the car door for the Queen Mother's Melbourne visit in 1957, - a most honourable achievement, with a photo in the newspaper to the delight of her proud parents.

When the family moved to Charman Road Mentone in 1954, Suzanne went to Mac Robertson Girls High School where she showed great academic ability, and became a prefect.

Perfect, we called it!

At this time, adolescent jealousy put in a brief appearance. Being 3 years older than Sandra, her clothes were conservatively quite trendy, and Sandra remembers (with some anguish now), secretly trying to squeeze her robust figure and feet into Suzanne's dainty clothes, shoes & underwear. However, I must say Suzanne, although a good sport, was totally lacking in any sporting ability whatsoever, all her life.

Mum was our first cooking teacher & her fine example inspired us 3 girls to try & out do each other. In those days, Suzanne seemed to cook up far more failures & disasters than one would expect of a future successful cookbook author! We all remember Mum, in mock rage, breaking a cherry ring cake over Suzanne's head. She had made 3 flat cakes using plain flour instead of self raising!

However, Suzanne's successes far out weighed her few minor idiosyncrasies, which included a certain measure of impatience, and a heavily ironic sense of humour.

We saw Suzanne grow from a happy bossy child to a wise & efficient teacher, organiser, academic, consumer advocate; and a wonderful daughter, sister, wife, mother and grandmother.

After matriculating, Suzanne attended Larnook, School of Domestic Arts for Young Ladies. She graduated, and entered the work force as a teacher of domestic arts at Malvern Girls Secondary School.

Suzanne did not have many boyfriends – mainly Jim, Jim & Jim, off & on, then ON.

Her marriage to Jim when she was 22 was very exciting to Sandra & I who were her bridesmaids. When she proudly produced the first grandchild for George & Margaret, the four adoring Aunties vied mightily with each other for darling little Mark's affections, and Andrew, Peter & Karen soon followed, to the delight of the whole family.

She has sat on a staggering number of boards and committees. I was visiting recently when she had just come from a truth in advertising meeting. A cheese slice manufacturer had applied to advertise their product as “**Fat Free**”, which, by the very nature of the product was of course, impossible.

Suzanne ironically suggested they should have some new categories, such as “**Hardly Any**” or “**Not So You Would Notice**”.

Suzanne has been the hub of our large family. She, with Jim’s blessing was the generous one who gathered us all together at their house for celebrations, Christmas dinners or just Sunday family lunches.

She was an excellent delegater, and the one who organised events so seemingly effortlessly and professionally. Who would forget Dad’s 80th Mum’s 80th, and Dad’s 90th birthday parties? These are recent memories of Suzanne at her triumphant, and organising best.

She has been a loving wife, mother, and grandmother, a wise and wonderful sister, and a caring, practical, helpful & compassionate daughter, who has made her parents, sisters, brother & family so proud of her many fantastic achievements in public life, especially the A.M. award, presented to her by the Governor. Her energy and enthusiasm, and worldly travels with Jim are legendary.

We greatly regret her sudden early tragic passing, and will love and miss her forever.

I expect she is now busily re-organising Heaven.