

To my darling wife Sophie,

Sophie was born in Bankstown Sydney on the 24/2/1960 to father Jan Dziewa and mother Marie.

She was later joined by her sisters Christine and Dorthey and brother John and were brought up in the family home in Yagoona.

Sophie learnt to speak read and write fluent polish from her home upbringing. She went to St Felix Primary School and later attended St Peter Chanel Berala to complete years 7-10.

Sophie spent her final two years at Bankstown Girls High and successfully completed her HSC.

After leaving school Sophie immediately started her training to be a nurse at Lewisham Private Hospital. This was the very place she met a group of girls that all became lifelong friends.

Sophie graduated as a nurse but was still unsure what career path she wanted to take.

It was not long after graduating that she met a guy named Scott at a friends place. Scott had a motorbike and asked if Sophie wanted to go for a ride.

Without any hesitation, Sophie hopped on and they both had a really good time.

Sophie wasn't aware of this yet, but this was the man she would later marry.

Soon after meeting Scott, Sophie joined the corrective services to be a prison officer. She enjoyed this job and put 100% into it.

With all this busy work going on, Scott was still hanging around. Sophie started going out with him more and more. They both began to really like one another. Well didn't this through a spanner in the works! They got engaged in 1983 and planned to get married on 26th May 1984.

Once engaged, Sophie and Scott purchased a block of land and designed a house together. It was built before their wedding day. Sophie had a lot to do with the design and was happy with the outcome. Scott and Sophie very recently visited their old house and Sophie still felt the sense of achievement she did when it was first built.

With Sophie and Scott newly married and living in their own home, Sophie decided that being a prison warden was not the right job for her. This decision led Sophie to another career path in occupational health and safety.

Wanting to climb the ladder in this industry Sophie commenced her studies through TAFE and University. She was extremely motivated and dedicated to her studies, earning her distinctions and high distinctions in all her assignments.

She was so successful in her studies that she landed a job with Tetra Pack. Sophie was extremely competent within her role, earning her higher positions. Within this job, Sophie took over and trained a Fire Crew, competing against a number of manufacturing companies. She started with a bunch of guys who certainly weren't up to scratch and trained them in true Sophie style, to take 2nd place. This was a great result and never achieved before for this company.

Sophie also got the opportunity to travel overseas representing Tetra Pac and would frequently meet clients from all over the world.

In-between working, Sophie met a man named Phil. She decided to set him up with her sister Dorothy. Dorothy and Phil ended up getting married and Sophie would remark with "all in a day's work".

Sophie and Scott travelled all parts of the world together and experienced some amazing things while in their travels. Both Sophie and Scott loved

scuba diving and explored some of the world's most iconic diving spots. Sophie loved adventure; if there was something to see or do Sophie would explore it no matter what.

One particular adventure began in Chiang Mia in Thailand. It was the afternoon and both Sophie and Scott were relaxing, enjoying the peace and quiet when Sophie suggested that they go for a massage. So off they went, down to reception to book their massage. When the van arrived to pick them up, the windows were all blacked out. Scott kept saying to Sophie that he wasn't sure about it but Sophie kept reassuring him by saying "All will be ok." Once in the van they began driving around all the little side streets. Scott became more anxious but Sophie just laughed and said "Everything is okay". When they finally arrived, neither of them had a clue where they were. They went through a door and there was a bar. Scott was still very confused but Sophie was still smiling and laughing. They were actually in a brothel! Thankfully, they got taken upstairs to a massage only room! Scott said he would NEVER do that again. Sophie just smiled and said it was fun.

Sophie and Scott decided it was time to start a family. During her pregnancy Sophie became unwell and had to go into surgery 3 weeks before her due date. Their beautiful baby boy Lyndon Jay Robinson was born on the 6th April 1994. A nurse told Scott that baby Lyndon was the first baby at one-day-old to visit the San Hospital Intensive Care Unit to see his mum. After spending some time in hospital, Sophie, Scott and Lyndon all came home to settle him. Sophie wanted to get straight back to work as she was extremely driven by her career. Lorna and Stan Robinson, Lyndon's grandparents, offered to look after Lyndon while Sophie and Scott went back to work. This started a very close relationship with a little boy and his Grandma and Grandad which made Sophie extremely happy.

Soon after settling into parenthood, Sophie suggested that they sell their house and build a new one. They began planning and designing again and once built, the three of them moved in. During this time, Sophie fell pregnant to baby number two and was still working a very full on job. She became unwell again and her specialist was worried so kept a close eye on her. Sophie had preeclampsia toxemia and was in a critical state. The baby had to come out or Sophie would not make it. Another baby boy was born. Little Kaine Blaze Robinson was nearly three months premature and the doctors were very worried about his lungs. Sophie was in Intensive Care at the San and Kaine was sent to Westmead Hospital to the Nero Natal unit. With time, they both recovered well and little baby boy Kaine went from being 15 inches long to a 6 foot 2 young man.

All was going well and life went back to normal again. Sophie was once again busting to get back to work as she wanted to do the right thing by the company so Kaine and Lyndon went to Grandma and Grandad's place. The boys adored their grandparents and their grandparents adored them.

In a turn of events, Tetra Pack decided to get rid of middle management so Sophie was unfortunately let go. She had a trip booked to Norfolk Island the same day she was retrenched. She decided that she would go away and deal with work when she came back. When Sophie returned she was on a mission to find even a better job. She successfully landed a job as Occupation Health and Safety Manager for the Seventh Day Adventist Hospital in Wahroonga. She was very happy in this role and continued to study at university. A VERY BIG ACHIEVEMENT.

Sophie was steaming ahead and decided that she wanted to learn to ride a road bike. She got her licence and spent lots of time riding on weekends. Sophie absolutely enjoyed the thrill of riding and it brought her so much joy.

Unfortunately, the tide changed for Sophie and she found out some life-changing news. At work, Sophie began to feel unwell and went downstairs to the health clinic. The news that followed changed their family's life forever. Sophie was diagnosed with a brain Tumour in November 2002. Although Sophie was very scared, she was determined to beat the illness. For seventeen years Sophie has had six brain operations and has gone through several doses of chemotherapy to fight her biggest battle.

During this terrible time, Sophie had lost her job due to her health. Losing her job happened like a light switch turning off. She loved working and this was a huge loss for Sophie. Once Sophie had recovered from her brain surgery, she started driving again and later was able to get back on the bike. Riding her bike was good therapy for Sophie. She would often go to Scott and tell him many times that when she rode on her bike she felt free and it was the only time she did not think of her brain tumour. Sophie was living with a time bomb in her head and riding gave her a sense of relief from all the worry.

During Sophie's treatment, her course at Western Sydney University was put on hold. When she returned to university, she had a huge amount of help from her lecturers. She pushed and pushed herself to complete the course and never gave up. Scott went to her graduation and watched proudly as Sophie received her Masters Degree in Business Management and Diploma in teaching. Scott could not have been more proud of Sophie. Sophie was beaming with pride and her head lecturer came over later to tell Scott how damn hard she had worked throughout her degree.

Throughout Sophie's illness she worried about Lyndon and Kaine growing up and that she might not be there for them. Lyndon and Kaine; your mum absolutely loves you both more than you will ever know. All she wants for

both of you is the best. She is very proud of your work ethics, motorbike riding achievements and all your sporting achievements. Your mum has watched you grow from kids to teenagers and now into men. Over the last few years Lyndon and Kaine have brought two more people into Sophie's life; Emma and Chelsea. Sophie could not be more proud of you and the girls you have in your life. She is over the moon with happiness and it touches her heart deeply to see you both so happy.

From Sophie - Lyndon and Kaine, I will miss you both but my love for you will never die. The biggest achievement of my life was bringing you both into the world. I will love you forever.

### **To Mum from Lyndon**

Mum,

I have watched you over the years battle with your sickness. Although I have not always understood, I have always loved you. Throughout my childhood I would visit you in hospital and all I wished was that you would get better and have no more sickness. Seeing you at Neringah Hospital broke my heart and I felt so lost. I just wanted my mum back. I would go home and be thinking of you all night

and I was so sad. It hurts so much to be losing you and it will leave an empty place in my heart forever. When I came to the hospital and you could not speak, I held your hand and gave you a hug. You squeezed my hand and pat my arm as a sign that you loved me. This day was very special to me as even though you couldn't tell me you loved me, I could feel how much you loved me. this day was very special for me.

Mum I will always love you forever.

Your loving son Lyndon.

## **To Mum from Kaine**

Mum,

I was only four when you got sick. I did not have a clue what was going on and Dad used to explain things in simple terms to help me understand. I have grown up so scared to lose you. When you had your operations, I could see where your head had been cut from one side to the other. I would watch you recover and try to be just like you mum and not worry. As I was growing up I learnt so much from you; your strong work ethic inspired and amazed me despite all that you had gone through. This will stay with me forever and I thank you. As Lyndon and I were growing up you taught us to always look for a Bargain. If we wanted something you reminded us to not rush into it and to wait for it to go on special. I remember once you tried to save money getting our hair cut, so you decided to buy hair clippers and become our hairdresser. This did not go well for Lyndon and I and poor Lyndon had a shaved-in dent in his head. Dad got home and the hair clippers disappeared.

Your last operation was April last year when I turned 21. I have missed you in big parts of my life because of this terrible disease. I visited you at Neringah felt so sad, just like Lyndon did. I just wanted you back.

I love you with all my heart and always will.

You loving son

Kaine

## **To Sophie from Scott:**

Sophie,

We married, had a family and we were meant to grow old together but your illness has taken this away from us. Unfortunately life is very unfair

but we cannot change this. If I had the power I would have done anything I could to make you better.

I visited you everyday when you were at Neringah and just wished I could pick you up and take you home. During this time I would wake up at 2am in the morning feeling sick inside worrying about you. I wanted to be there with you so you were not scared. Sometimes your face looked so worried and other times I could see you had been crying. I would always hug and kiss you and you would respond to me with a smile. It has been a very long journey for us with this illness and the hardest thing I have ever had to do in my entire life is write this Eulogy. There is so much history, so many stories capturing our lives together and I become extremely emotional. Many times I would have to stop, walk away and focus on something else as I would become so teary and so sad for you Sophie.

I will always love you, you will never be forgotten. And always be with me in spirit.

You were a person that could meet anybody and always treat them as a friend no matter of what that person was like. You did not judge anyone when you first met them. You had so many special qualities and would often speak your mind if required. You were a very strong willed person but very soft deep down inside you.

When I first met you and you were the 'wow' factor in my eyes. I was lucky to become your husband and still am.

I know you would want me to say on your behalf a large thank you to your doctors. Dr Michael Biggs, your neurosurgeon, performed so many brain operations on you over the years. He wanted to give you the best quality of life that he could.

Professor Michael Back did radiation on your tumour. When he had to tell you that you could no longer ride your motorbike, I remember you standing up and trying to punch Dr Back. He was too fast and moved back. He took

it quite well and had a good sense of humour. He lived near us and would see Sophie walking 7Km from shops with bags and he would stop many times to give her a lift. Sophie would decline as she wanted to see him in his office waiting to get the green light to drive and ride again.

Dr Helen Wheeler, head of Oncology helped Sophie with different chemotherapy drugs. She did all she could to not damage her and give her the best quality of life. She tried everything she could to avoid more brain surgery and went above and beyond to ensure Sophie was looked after.

Marina, her nurse, explained Sophie's medication to me and showed me what to do. When things went wrong at home I would email Marina and she would sort it out straight away.

All Sophie and I can say to these doctors and nurses is thank you sincerely for the years of hard work and support you gave Sophie and I. You all did what you could to give Sophie as much quality of life as possible without harming her. We are so thankful.

Sophie had many friends male and female from growing up, work and motor bike riding but there was a special girlfriend who would drive from the other side of the city to visit her just to help Sophie and I with her illness. She would stay for days looking after Sophie as her health declined and just be there to give a hand wherever she could. Kate Sophie and I thank you from our hearts and there are no words that can express what you did for Sophie. Thank you

Sophie I love you now and always

Scott