

VALMA (VAL) JOYCE GRIMSEY

1941 - 2005

Some months ago, when it became clear that Val would soon be called from this life, she set about energetically and courageously putting her house in order. She did not want to leave her loved ones wondering about her wishes in regard to many things, even down to certain aspects of her funeral, such as the hymn "Be Still My Soul", which we are singing today as one chosen by her.

In a hand that she was no longer always able to entirely control, and which made writing difficult to achieve, and occasionally to decipher, Val wrote out her memories, especially of her childhood and young adult years in the Maleny area, for her family. With thanks to her family, I have used many of the details Val wrote then, for this summary of her life today.

Like her younger siblings Ron and Glenda after her, Val was born in Maleny Soldier's Memorial Hospital. Val noted with precision that it was the 8 pm on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1941, and that she weighed 7lbs 15 ozs!

Val's parents, were David John Hankinson and Margaret Ella, known as Meg, Grace. As they were farmers in the area, many of Val's memories of her childhood concerned the 80 acres she grew up on, the milk and the cream, the calves and the pigs. She remembered her mother's vege patch, flower garden and fruit trees, and the involvement of all the children in various farm chores, including milking, and also plucking the ducks. Her parents were both involved in community matters, their example providing a good role model to their children. She remembered the wind and the constant rain of those times, the childhood games they played, and going to school on the steep, winding gravel roads in a truck that doubled as the local cream carrier. Val completed two "Prep" years at school, then through to Grade 8. This year was 50 years since she sat for her Scholarship, which was the big exam at the end of Primary Schooling then.

Val worked for the Public Accountancy firm of Bentley and Shrapnel in Maleny for five and a half years. She was also secretary of the Junior Farmers and the School of Arts in Maleny for "a couple of years."

In 1964 Val went to New Zealand with Irene Porter and worked there as a housmaid for three months. The following year, on 22 May 1965, Val married Basil Grimsey, whom she had met in 1959, when he was part of the wedding party of one of her cousins. They were married in the Maleny Presbyterian Church, where Val was also baptized on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1942. When they came to live in Boonah, and linked up with the Boonah Lutheran Church, where Val and Basil remained faithful members, Val was confirmed after adult instruction under Pastor Perkins, on 29 July 1973. Val and Basil became the parents of three sons: Chris, Glenn, and Jason.

Val supported her sons' schools, both Primary and Secondary, in various capacities, including as Tuckshop Convenor (over 10 years) and secretary and treasurer. She helped to fund raise for the Scouts, was Secretary of the Boonah Amateur Swimming Club, and in later years knitted countless caps, beanies, and booties and crocheted rugs for cancer victims. She was always active with a variety of forms of craft work: candlewicking, beading, crocheting and cross-stitching.

Val was diagnosed with colon cancer about five years ago, and lived courageously and without complaint with her illness. In recent years cancer secondaries made the struggle greater for her. Her family kept faithful vigil at her bedside as she slipped slowly into unconsciousness in her final days, in Boonah Hospital, where she passed away peacefully at a quarter to three last Saturday morning, in the presence of loved ones.

Val is especially mourned today by Basil, her husband of 40 years, her sons and their partners: Chris, Glenn and Sandra, Jason and Teresa, her beloved grandchildren Erinna and Cole, her mother Meg Hankinson nee Grace, brother Ron and sister-in-law Judy, sister Glenda and brother in law Nick, and many other relatives and friends.

Today retired Pastor Paul Renner of Brisbane, who ministered to Val many times as a volunteer chaplain at the Wesley Hospital, sends his sympathetic greetings to her family, as he was unable to attend. Basil, Chris, Glen and Jason would also like to thank all those who cared for Val, especially Cheryl, Keith and Gail, Joanne, Steve and Linda, Trudy and families, and Flo.

Today we give thanks to God for Val's life, love, and faith, for God is good, and his mercy endures forever. Amen.



Val & Ron



Val & Desley (Neilen) Malone



Val aged 17 in 1958



Irene (Porter) Miller, Val & Marg (Burnett) Zillman at the Maleny HS Golden Annie in 2004