

The Peggy

Hello

Welcome everyone to Peggy's 90th Birthday celebration

Lunch will be served shortly and I thought it would be good to get the formal part of the day out of the way early

Just wanted to say a few words on behalf of my sister Jenny to our Mum Peggy.

Peggy is 90 tomorrow and we are here today to celebrate with her, a milestone life event

Did a bit of search on the Internet and found out the name Peggy comes from a Greek word that means Pearl, also means Child of Light and is the nickname for Margaret.

Mum was born 1925 parents Myrtle and Warren, sisters Noreen, Rhonda, Nancy and brother Lenny and lived at 25 Thornley St Marrickville

Mum was raised in the great depression of the 1930's and I recall many stories from that period of family and financial hardship but my main memory is one of great family bonding working as a family unit and sticking together.

She started working by 14 years old and became a skilled and competent book keeper at Pedifords until she was married to our Dad Jack on 11th December 1945 and settled in Patrick St Hurstville

Dad passed away in 1996 and Mum has continued to live in Patrick St until just recently.

Peggy's sisters and brother are not with us today however we have most of the children some grandchildren and even great grandchildren here today to celebrate with Peggy

Jenny and I thank you all our family, cousins and nephews for coming along today some coming in from your holiday breaks also flying in from other states

Mum has so many friends and one of our enduring memories is the huge Christmas card wall displayed each year in her back dining room and we marvelled and admired the number of people she knows and all stay in touch something in modern life today I am sure we all agree can be a real challenge.

Many of them are here today again many travelling from Regional NSW and interstate

Cath Evans mum's oldest school friend

Arlie Deacon long time friend

Ron and Noeline Sharp and Morvyth and Ross Golstein long time friends

Lois Allen, Elizabeth Watts, Mary Cattanagh, Jan Austin OES Chapter

Eunice Smeaton Long time local Friend

Cathy Mc Girr and Josie and June previous neighbours of Peggy's

We have Peggy's current neighbours with us today as well and Jenny and I pay special thanks to Maria and Chris, Elizabeth and Tony and all their children for their friendship and taking such wonderful care of Mum as neighbours during her later years at Patrick St

We would be here all day if I was to cover all of Mum's life however I am sure you will permit me to hit some of the high points

A great part of Mum's life has been the OES(Order of the Eastern star Chapter and with us today is Lois Allen Worthy Matron of mum's chapter Illawarra daylight Chapter

I would like to ask Lois to say a few words on behalf of the OES

Thank you Lois for those very kind words and memories of Peggy life and work in the OES

Mum and Dad went into business about the time when I was born in 1955/56 and they ran a very successful business with Dad installing television aerials to homes all around Sydney .

Mums bookkeeping skills was a main contributing factor in the success of the business allowing them to keep a true and accurate record of the progress of the business

Next down memory lane is the Toukley Nursing Home.

Born Fairway Investments P/L in the 1970's it was Jack's baby but Peggy was the person behind the man that kept the business running like a well oiled machine and it remained as a family run business well into the 80's

Toukley Nursing Home was the first nursing home in the Toukley area and was considered a major development in its day providing a much needed aged care facility and employment in the town

Overlooking Budgewoi Lake it had well over 100 residents for the entire time they owned the business

We have May Pearce with us day.

May's husband Col Pearce was the highly respected Rugby league referee, great mate of Dad's and director of the company during its life.

Great to have you with us today May

Mum has been part of many orders and organisations too numerous to mention in full however for much of her life she has maintained a steady faith in religion and attended St George's church regularly

I recall taking Mum to church late last year and again marvelled and admired all the people that greeted her on the day

Her good friends from St Georges Elsie Casey, Nancy Ellison and Beryl Birch are here today

You may have noticed on one of the tables are laminated place mats with pictures of Mum with family and friends throughout her life and we would like you all to find one that will probably have Peggy in the frame and maybe even yourself or someone you know, take it home as a memory of our time together today.

We have a guest book/card for your attendance and comments as well if you wish and at this point I would ask you all to raise your glasses and toast Peggy for her 90th Birthday

We will have a cake and candles after lunch with few more memories of Peggy's life and also of the period 1925-through to today along with some cards and telegrams and look forward to catching up and talking with you all, hope you have a great day with Peggy today Jenny and I thank you all for being part of our special celebrations