

In late 1977 I was in my final year at University and had only a couple of months before the last exams. For some reason, Nan & Pop were in Sydney and it was arranged that we would all meet in town to see a picture. At that stage I was pretty broke, and, in fact, I used my last money (all copper) for the bus fare from Annandale to town. I wasn't worried about how I was going to pay for the ticket at the pictures because I knew Nan would come good! She has always helped out her grandchildren whenever they needed something. On this occasion she not only paid for the ticket but also gave me \$20 which kept me going for a couple of weeks until my next pay came through.

That story is just to illustrate how close Nan has always been to the family. All her grandchildren (with the possible exception of Patrick) actually lived in ~~the~~ Nan and Pop's big house in Short Street Bourke at some stage of their lives. At other times we were only a short distance away. This has, no doubt, contributed largely to the closeness of the family.

The family has always been the main part of Nan's life. And I mean the extended family. There is no doubt in my mind that this stems from her experience as a girl where her, Uncle Jack & Auntie Beila were brought up by their grandmother, Ma Bauer, after Nan's mother died. Ma Bauer still had several of her own children at home. This extended family was financially supported by Nan's elder Uncles & Aunts for several years. In fact, Nan's own brother Jack paid for her to attend school in Parkes for a year even though he was only a year or two older than she was. And Nan continued these traditions during her married life. At various times she took into her home different nieces & nephews long before we grandchildren came along.

It's good to see so many of that family here today.

TO OUR NAN

A remarkable woman
To whom we all care
Who brought joy to our lives
A love we all shared.

Her love was so constant
Whatever our wrongs
Her feelings we knew of
Her love for us strong

This woman we speak of
A grandmother true
The most wonderful grandmother
Ena Ruby is you.

Late
In 1977 I was in my final year at University and had only a couple of months before the last exams. For some reason Nan & Pop were in Sydney and it was arranged that we would all meet in Town to see a picture. At that stage I was pretty broke and, in fact, I used my last money (all roppers) for the bus fare from Annandale to Town. I wasn't worried about how I was going to pay for the ticket at the pictures because I knew Nan would come good! She has always helped out her grandchildren whenever they needed something. On this occasion she not only paid for the ticket but also gave me \$20 which kept me going for a couple of weeks until my next pay~~to~~ came through.

That story is just to illustrate how close Nan has always been to the family. All her grandchildren (excepting ^{with the possible} Patrick) actually lived in the same house with Nan & Pop at some stage of their lives. At other times we were only a short distance away. This ^{has} ~~is~~ probably ~~what has~~ contributed largely to the closeness in the family.

~~Then her~~ The family has always been the main part of Nan's life. And I mean the extended family. This, no doubt, stems from her experience as a girl where her and Auntie Lida & Uncle Jack were brought up by their grandmother, Ma Bower, after Nan's mother died. ^{Ma Bower, who had several of her own children at home.} ~~The Bower family~~ This extended family was financially supported by Nan's ^{older} Uncle & Aunt for several years. ~~In fact,~~ Nan's brother Jack paid for her to attend school in Parkes for a year. And Nan ~~the~~ continued these traditions during her ~~lifetime~~ married life. At various times she took into her home ~~not only~~ different nieces & nephews long before ~~the~~ we grandchildren came along.

It's good to see so many of that family here today.