

Daphne May Harm

Funeral Eulogy (short form)

Daphne May Scown was born on 28 May 1929 in Townsville, the fourth child and only daughter to Ben Scown, a butcher in South Townsville, and Catherine “Dolly” Scown, nee Laufer.

Mum told us she was the best child they had because they didn’t have any more after her - she must have been much nicer than her brothers, Bill, Viv, and Alan - and, because she told us, we are certain this is true. Her church and school were St Pat’s in South Townsville, with some of those friendships lasting her whole life - one for 92 years. She spoke with one of them only a week or two ago

The family loved Magnetic Island, and many fond memories come from time spent there visiting Picnic Bay where her parents moved on their retirement.

Daphne learned piano and related her disappointment that she passed the exams, but they would not allow her letters as she was only fourteen - far too young to be a good pianist. We share memories of sing-alongs around the piano with renditions of Daisy, and something about a bicycle built for two.

She worked for the State Government Insurance Office for a year or two after finishing school, typing insurance policies and filing, and then Bert Hanran Motors, where she worked in the office and moved cars as needed.

Nev Harm, a young bike rider from Ipswich, was told to look up the Scown family when he was heading to Townsville for a competition - his family knew them, and he was told they had a young daughter about his age. So, he did drop by, but, alas, his charm fell on deaf ears. But being persistent, he came back on a later trip and was eventually rewarded with a night at the movies - with a friend as chaperone, of course.

The relationship grew and, in 1952, they married and moved to Ipswich. They stayed with relatives while they built their garage, then moved into it while they built the house they lived in for almost 70 years at 41 Dudleigh St. They were blessed with three children - Kevin in 1956, Mark in 1961, and Wendy in 1964.

Their association with the Sacred Heart Parish was a long one - first with the Church and then with the school. Daphne's attendance at this special church extended for over seventy years, driven by her commitment to the Eucharist and the rosary - a very clear part of her faith and daily life - so much so that many people brought back rosary beads from Rome for her.

Daphne made many friendships through the church, the school tuckshop and P&C. Very few school P&C meetings were missed, for many years with two schools at once, and she was always on the tuckshop roster at every school any of us attended.

Mum was a keen social tennis player at the Association Courts at the "Fiveways", dressed all in bright white, with children going along during school holidays to play around the courts and in the park.

Daphne volunteered at Meals on Wheels and later joined the Catholic Women's League, forming many friendships that lasted her lifetime. She very much treasured those wonderful friends and memories.

This year, she was a very proud recipient of a life membership with the Ipswich 'Meals on Wheels', after volunteering for over thirty-five years. Even as her sight failed her, she continued to help for long after with jobs like peeling vegetables by touch.

With Nev, she supported the Little Kings Movement for people with disabilities for many years - organising door-knock collections and providing monthly half-day respite for families. We remember helping in the kitchen, serving meals, and door-knocking Ipswich for donations.

They served as Eucharistic Ministers for people in Aged Care - even though they themselves were 90! Mum always loved to chat - a wonderful gift she maintained through her time at Villa where she made some very kind and beautiful friends, both residents and staff. We are truly grateful for the care and company that Villa provided.

Daphne was a good cook, making traditional hot meals, learning and assembling a great collection of favourite recipes - handwritten, snipped from the Women's Weekly, or copied from friends and family. As a retirement project with their new computer, she typed many of them to leave us with a great digital book of favourite recipes. We still make her favourites with names like "Aunty's Pancakes", "Peach Blossoms", and wonderful biscuits like jam

drops - if you were lucky, you would get one right from the oven with the jam still hot enough to burn.

When the children had left home, and there was more time for herself, Mum showed a passion for learning, studying at TAFE to learn International Cookery, Indoor Plant Cultivation and took a many-week course in stretch sewing. With a new sewing machine, overlocker and skills, she went on to make many wonderful, warm pullovers, tracksuits, T-shirts, and more. Daphne sewed as long as her eyes allowed, and some of the items are still in wardrobes, taken out for special comfort on occasion. Knitting, sewing, crocheting - she was brilliant at it. Often without looking at what she was doing!

Daphne encouraged Kevin to play tennis, Mark the guitar, and Wendy piano – all with support and help from Daphne's skill, knowledge of music, great ear and ability to play just about any melody on the piano. She made sure we learned enough to survive, to cook and to wash and iron, so we were ready to move out to work.

Travel, especially after Nev's retirement, was an important pastime for them. With the UK, Europe, and the USA covered, they then travelled far and wide in Australia and New Zealand - often on trains.

Family was always first, with time always available for anyone. Daphne always kept in touch with both sides of the family, ensuring we all understood the importance of family. She encouraged and supported her extended family and attended every function. Her terrific memory (and carefully maintained "birthday book") never let a family birthday slip past unnoticed. That book is now a valued part of our family history.

She always valued people who came to their home. When they had carers at home, she would get up early so it was clean and tidy, and there were freshly baked goodies for morning tea. With kitchen tools that talked, she was able to keep cooking as her sight was failing.

After Neville passed away in January 2025, Daphne lived at home with the assistance of wonderful part-time carers until she moved in July to Villa Maria, Ipswich. She worked to make it as successful as she could, and we greatly appreciate the love and the care given her by all.

The gardens at Dudleigh St have always been a point of pride - sweet peas, dahlias, gerberas, orchids, and especially rose gardens that were well known

to those passing by. So many of us have been gifted with small bunches of roses, thorns removed and wrapped with a damp tissue and aluminium foil.

But the greatest gift to all of us has been her love and her guiding hand that helped teach us - even when we were not so receptive.

Thank you, Mum. We truly loved you.