

Eulogy by John Tucker

Mary Baldwin is My Aunt, was born Mary Veronica Kennedy on 10 August 1928, in her parents home at 15 Reserve Street Alexandria. She was brought up in an Irish Catholic family, with 7 brothers and sister of which three died young. She was schooled at Alexandria New South Wales and on leaving school worked as a process worker.

Mary was always strong willed and stood up for herself and her younger siblings.

She left her home and moved in with her cousin Nina Moxham, who was more a friend than a relative. This period of time was special to Mary.

My Mother, Violet was 15 months younger than Mary, and after the birth of my Brother Peter, she was very ill and Mary took up the job of looking after me whilst my mother was in Hospital. This period of time developed a special bond between Mary and myself which lasted our entire life. She always loved to remind me that when I was little I called her Mare Mare.

I remember visiting her as a child at her flat at Hurlstone Park, always to be greeted with a big smile and a hug and she always had something special tucked away for me. I so very much looked forward to my visits with Mary.

I am not sure how it started or where they met, but Mary started corresponding with a country Larican by the name of Frank Baldwin, it turned out to be a match made in heaven, he was to be the love of her life and they were married in 1965 at Marrickville, New South Wales. I was eleven years old and remember the wedding and how happy Frank and Mary were.

After their Honeymoon, they moved to Franks Family property at Gum

Flats, New South Wales, which was just out side Inverell. It must have been quiet a shock to her being a city girl and all of a sudden she was landed feet first into Rural Life. But Mary being Mary, nothing daunted her and she put her head down and got on with it.

I can remember spending my christmas school holidays staying with Mary and Frank at Gum Flats. Debbie was born at this time and was less than a year old. It was a great adventure and I was made to feel special and like always Mary made my visit memorable.

Mary and her Family moved from Gum Flats to Urunga, which now consisted of Frank, Debbie and Dennis. This was their family home, a very special place.

If you ever visited Mary, you would have noticed a few Cowboy mementos scattered around the house, the Cowboys were her special team and Jonathan Thurston could do no wrong.

When ever I travelled from Sydney to Brisbane, I would always drop by and visit Mary and Frank and later when I moved to Brisbane, I would make the four hour drive south to Urunga. I have continued to do this for the last 23 years.

Mary Loved her children, Grand Children and Great Grand Children. Every Time I visited, she would show me her latest pictures and update me on what you were all up to. She was so proud of you all.

Mary has always been my favourite Aunt, is a very special person, the kindest most loving person I have ever met, I feel so fortunate to have had her in my life, the world will be a sadder place without her.

Mary is now reunited with Frank and I can only think they are both looking down on us with eternal love and will be with us forever in our Hearts.

Mare Mare, I love you dearly and will miss you.

God Bless.