

Blog #11 - A Sad and Unforgettable Month

Wednesday, 13 August, 2014 -

The first day of July began with a group of ten ladies visiting for morning tea, a wander through the house to look at the needlework displays and make purchases for their next needlework project.

For the past fifteen months my mum had been in the hospital area of the Taradale/ Napier area of Summerset Retirement Village - being totally incapacitated - just lying on her bed every day, not even having the strength to lift and/or move herself to adjust a pillow or reach for anything. Therefore, totally reliant on others to do everything for her. So sad - as that is not life!

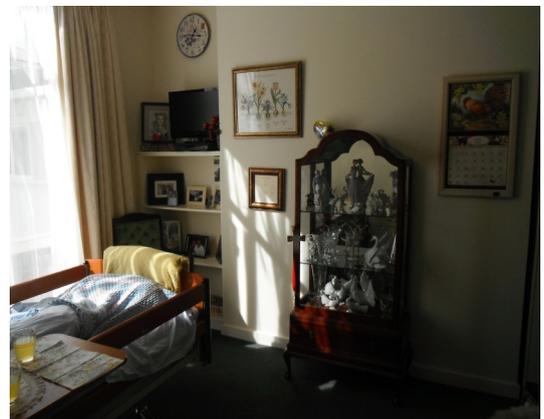
Two photos of her - the first one taken just a few days after her entering the hospital area and the second one taken on her 84th birthday - 21 January, 2014.

When I visited her on Thursday the 10th of July I noticed that she didn't look good and was quite breathless. On enquiry I was told that she had a urinary infection.

As per usual I did not visit her over the weekend as she always had lots of visitors on a weekend. Mid-morning of the following Monday the hospital telephoned to say she was not well but did not say it was urgent that I come to the hospital. Thus, I arrived at the hospital at lunchtime - only to find she was only semi-conscious! Apart from three hours on the Tuesday (to go home and freshen up and something to eat) and another four hours late on the Wednesday afternoon when my brother and his wife arrived - I did not leave her bedside.

She passed away peacefully at a quarter to six on the Thursday morning. She and I were alone at the time and so quite a special time for me.

About 9am my brother and his wife returned to Cambridge and I returned home for some breakfast, a freshen up and to begin telephoning immediate family and friends of the situation and after lunch Keith and I returned to the hospital to pack up and clear out all of her belongings from her room as per the hospital policy that on the death of a patient their room had to be vacated within twenty four hours. For those of you who visited her, you will know that when she moved into the hospital Keith and I took the china cabinet and a lot of her treasures to her room so that she would feel 'at home', and so there was a lot of furniture and things to be cleared out! Some of her things can be seen in this photo -



A very difficult task to do, however, as Mum had not wanted to part with her villa when she went into the hospital area, we carried the furniture to the villa and the rest we put into plastic crates & took them to the villa and left them there to be dealt with another day.

Mum outside her villa in early 2013 with Lillie, our puppy -

The next couple of days were taken up with more telephoning to request persons to take part in the funeral service and telephoning all the friends in mum's address book to advise them of her passing. This latter task took hours.



And then there was all the telephone calls and filling out of forms to cancel things - mail, phone, insurances, subscriptions to various organisations, etc., etc. And too, there was all the planning of the funeral service sequence - that is, choosing which hymns to be sung when (Mum had written down which hymns she wanted); who was to read what portions of scripture; choosing of photos and making the photo memory tape. A lot of the arrangements had to be conducted by phone and Email as the service was to be in our home town of Upper Hutt and at what we call our "home" church that we grew up in. The funeral service sheets (6 pages) I designed and typed up myself for the printer in Upper Hutt.

The front cover of the service sheet:

Photo taken on the day of Mum & Dad's

60th wedding anniversary celebration

The back cover of the service sheet:

Photo of Mum on her wedding day -

11 October 1947

*In Loving Memory
of*



Edna Maureen Bennett

21 January 1930 ~ 17 July 2014

MEMORIAL BOOK

It would be appreciated if you would sign the memorial book as a record of your presence here today. Thank you.



The family thank you for your love, support and kind words of comfort.

INVITATION

Immediately following the service you are welcome to travel to the Akatarawa Cemetery for the committal which will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshments at the Heretaunga Christian Centre. There will also be an opportunity to share personal memories.

If you are unable to attend the committal, please enjoy the refreshments and replay of the photo memories until the family can join you.

The usual stitching Get-together on the last Sunday of the month had to be cancelled and our family holiday at Taupo that we had planned for the last week in July had to be cancelled too, as on Friday, the 25th of July we travelled to Upper Hutt and the funeral was on the Saturday.

A fine day in answer to our prayers as Upper Hutt can be so cold and wet in July and bitterly miserable at the Akatarawa Cemetery.

Our son, Rodney came over from Australia for the funeral and it was lovely for us to see him.



*So too, our grandchildren to see their uncle
whom they had not seen for five years.*

*Rod with his sister, Melissa and her husband, Ross
and his nieces and nephews - our grandchildren -
Jacob (18 : 19 two days later)
Ashleigh (20 : 21 in the following September)
Jackson (11 : 12 in the following November)
Madison (13 : in the previous March)*



*Rodney turned 41 years of age on the Sunday -
the following day.*

Here we are pictured with our two "grown-up" children .



*Returned back home on the Monday to begin days and days of catching up on all the things that had been neglected
for so many weeks.*

And so another month drawn to an end.

