



Des and Margaret



MARY POTTER
matters

~
EDITION 4, 2020

Two baubles - six years apart

Margaret and Des were together for almost 50 years. They had six children and 18 grandchildren. They did everything together. Sadly, they died six years apart – both in Mary Potter Hospice. But before they died, each created something unique for their children to treasure.

And that's because of you.

Des was in the Hospice for nearly three weeks in late November and early December 2012.

While he was there, he created some ceramic artwork with Fra Angelico Creative Arts. Being so close to Christmas, Des made beautiful Christmas baubles for his six children to receive on Christmas Day. Something they could treasure forever. A very personal Christmas gift for each of them from their dad.

Six years later, Margaret also came to stay at the Hospice. It was September.

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Des and Margaret's children with the baubles

Margaret's daughters, Joanne and Cathy, told us: "Mum had come from an aged care facility prior to Mary Potter. The quality of care was good – but she wasn't turned over in bed as often as she needed to be. She had developed bedsores."

"But in the Hospice, Mum was turned over in bed very regularly – and the care was next level."

"I watched one nurse turn her over gently – while at the same time, another nurse brushed her hair as she was being turned. Such attention and such special care – it was just constant. You could see how the nurses treated Mum with great respect, even when she was asleep. Her dignity was really important to them. They just did those things. Taking the time, doing those things like brushing her hair, she would have wanted that. That was how she was all the time, so that was just beautiful."

Joanne and Cathy remembered how the Hospice music therapist would come in and play songs for Margaret on her guitar. "She would play songs that Dad used to sing to Mum. Songs like 'Hallelujah' and 'You are my sunshine'. It was so lovely."

While Margaret was in the Hospice, Joanne remembered her father's Christmas gifts he had made when he was there six years earlier. She approached Lesley from Fra Angelico, with thoughts of a special surprise for her siblings.

Knowing that her mum wouldn't be here at Christmas, Joanne thought it would mean so much if Margaret could make her own Christmas baubles, just as Des had done.

Quietly, Margaret and Lesley worked together making six gorgeous baubles decorated with blue and green butterflies. After Margaret had died, Joanne came back to the Hospice to collect her mum's completed Christmas artwork. She had said nothing to anyone in her family.

Just before Christmas, Margaret and Des's children had a special dinner together. There Joanne presented each of her brothers and sister with their surprise Christmas bauble – this time, made by their mum.

Joanne's sister Cathy remembers that moment. "We couldn't believe it. We'd had no idea. It was emotional, but really special to have these baubles made by both Dad and Mum in the Hospice. We treasure them."

"In the Hospice they are beautiful people, doing beautiful things. The care Mum received was immediate and always focused on her, even though she was close to dying."

Margaret & Des did everything together in life. And because of you, they created tandem Christmas gifts for their children – together, but six years apart. Your gifts to the Loving Tree support our Fra Angelico and Music Therapy programs, creating special memories for patients and their families.

 Thank you so much for what you make possible.

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A special surprise for Oscar and Sophie, thanks to you.

We were privileged to meet Helen on Melbourne Cup Day last year. She spoke to us then about some special moments of joy that were made possible, because of your wonderful gifts to the Loving Tree.

Helen led a big life. A beautician and hairdresser, she worked on film sets, survived Cyclone Tracy, learned to fly a plane and loved an adventure. She adored her husband David, daughter Brianne, and had a very special bond with her young grandchildren Oscar and Sophie.

In the Hospice on Melbourne Cup Day, she got right into the spirit of the race day, wearing her fascinator and sipping champagne. That afternoon she told us: "My stay in the Hospice really is as good as it can possibly be. The nursing care is absolutely amazing – nothing is too much trouble.

Everyone who comes through my door – cleaners, volunteers, nurses, complementary therapists – they all just want to make my day better."



Thanks to you, Helen shared stories from her incredible life with the Biography Service – and also enjoyed pedicures and leg massages with the Hospice's beauty therapist.



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They kept saying,
“Is this for **us**?
Is this all
especially
for **US**?”

It was a true
party room.
Thanks to you,
the volunteers
had decorated
the room with

balloons and garlands of photos from
Frozen and *Harry Potter* (Sophie’s &
Oscar’s favourite movies). There was
lemonade, chocolate crackles, fairy
bread, rainbow jelly cups, honey joys,
cupcakes and chips – and a lovely
bottle of wine for the adults.

But what mattered most to Helen
was to spend time with her young
grandchildren, Oscar and Sophie.
In the Hospice, she created some
beautiful birthday plates with
Fra Angelico – for Oscar and Sophie
to keep forever.

“My grandkids mean everything to me.
They are such a joy. When they come
to see me in the Hospice after school,
I always like to have a surprise food
treat for them. They expect it – they’re
always starving!”

Helen remembered being asked
if she would like to have a surprise
afternoon tea party for her
grandchildren.

“I loved the idea of the surprise –
and that something was being done
for them that they would think was
fantastic.”

“When Sophie and Oscar arrived
to see me after school the next day,
Brienne was with me. The kids had
been told there would be no food
surprises that day – so they were
a little miffed.”

“I said, ‘Let’s go for a walk’, and we all
walked to the Hospice Family Lounge.
When we opened the door, the look of
surprise on their faces was fantastic.

*Helen said: “It was incredible. What meant so
much to me was that it was a surprise for the
kids. That was the best part. Seeing the joy
in their faces. What I love is that Sophie and
Oscar will never forget that tea party –
they will always remember spending time
with me at a party that was all about THEM.”*

“In the Hospice, everyone goes above
and beyond. You did on that day, and
on so many other days. You’ve made
so many amazing moments happen
for me and my family.”

“I will never forget those moments.”

 *Thank you ...*

**for all those moments where you’ve added
life to patients and their families in the
Hospice. By making a gift to the Loving Tree
this year, you will be providing individual,
meaningful care to other patients like Helen
and her family. We are so grateful to you.**



Dedicate a light on the 2020 Loving Tree
and

Light up the Hospice with your Love **THIS CHRISTMAS**

This Christmas we invite you to remember your loved ones by dedicating a light to them on The Mary Potter Foundation's Loving Tree.

The Loving Tree stands at the entrance to Mary Potter Hospice and every December we light it up as a symbol of love. A symbol of the love that burns brightly in our hearts for those who are no longer with us. **A symbol of your loved one's light that continues to shine in your life.**

Using the form enclosed, simply make a gift from your heart and your loved one's name will be added to the Loving Tree. You will also receive a heart for your own Christmas Tree.

Our Virtual 2020 Lighting of the Loving Tree and Christmas Carols

Sadly, due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year we are unable to gather together for our Loving Tree memorial event or Christmas Carols concert. The event has been cancelled.

BUT we will still light up the Loving Tree and honour our loved ones.

It's just that this year we will be doing things differently. Instead of a live event, we are having a special Virtual event.

For full details, please make sure you read the accompanying letter from our Executive Director. And call us on 08 8239 0119 if you need any more information.

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Wishing
you a Merry
Christmas
and Happy
New Year

The team at The Mary Potter Foundation would like to take this opportunity to warmly wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

May the spirit of the Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.

Thank you so much for supporting The Mary Potter Foundation in 2020, and we look forward to sharing Foundation news with you in 2021.

CHRISTMAS CLOSURE DATES:

The Mary Potter Foundation office will be closed from **2.00pm on Friday 18 December 2020**, and will re-open on **Monday 4 January 2021**.

Major
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Proudly
supported by



St Peter's
Woodlands
student choir



HOW TO *Get involved*

2020 LOVING TREE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Please note that due to COVID-19 restrictions, this event is cancelled. Please see [Page 5 for more information](#), call our office on **08 8239 0119** or go to our website www.marypotter.org.au

Thank you.



2021 WALK FOR LOVE

Save the date: **Sunday 30 May 2021**
(depending on the AFL program)



THANK YOU

Thank you to our 2020 Chip in for Mary Potter Golf Day Sponsors:

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- Thomas Foods International
- Calvary Healthcare SA



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OUR MISSION

Inspiring people to share our belief that caring for people at the end of their lives is an honour and a privilege and to work with us to support living every day, every hour.



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Business Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9am to 5pm,
and Friday 9am to 4pm



*The Mary Potter Foundation
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