

Eulogy of Ruth Hall (Ingerson)
Read by Sam Ingerson (Brother)
Written by Desiree Matthews (Dear Friend)

Ruth had no acquaintances, only conversations. Hundreds and hundreds of them. And once a conversation had been engaged a friendship was born.

Ruth lived by these rules I am sure you all agree.

Born to Keith and Heather, Ruth Esther Ingerson arrived 6 weeks prematurely at the Barmera Hospital on 4th August 1970. She weighed a tiny 4 pound something. She stayed in the hospital for 6 weeks. 5 weeks were spent in the humidicrib before going home to Glossop. It didn't take very long for Ruth to catch up to all the other babies and she soon flourished.

Ruth's brother Sam was born almost 2 years later and Keith and Heather's family was complete.

As a child Ruth loved living out of town in Glossop where Keith and Heather had large acreage and plenty of room for the family to grow fruit and vegetables and keep the many different animals that they loved to enjoy. They also had a fruit block where the family spent most weekends in the season harvesting their crops. Keith was a talented builder/carpenter and Heather a School teacher, at Glossop High.

Ruth was a bubbly child at school and every one knew her because of her vivacious personality, long hair, big smile and her constant energy. She made many friends at school and until her last days still counted most of those on her friend list.

Ruth loved being at home with her family and her pets. The family loved to ride horses and they had many.

Ruth's dad was Clerk of the Berri Racecourse for many years and Ruth loved going to the races and watching him ride his big horse.

Ruth and Sam participated in Pony Club from a young age. The whole family were members of the local hunt club. Ruth was an exceptional rider. She had no fear of fast paced riding and loved these events jumping her horse and keeping up with all the adults. Ruth would catch up with lots of other kids her age and share stories about their ride and have campfires and meals after. It was a great time of her life.

Ruth and her family also loved camping and being out on the river waterskiing. They would do this regularly throughout summer with other family, aunts, uncles and cousins along with many close friends. They had great family friends who had a shack on the riverfront and many weekends were spent there.

Ruth completed year 12 high school in 1987. After this she worked for a year in a local factory saving money.

1988 Ruth went to Holland with one of her dear friends and they spent 3 months staying with family and travelling all over Holland, Germany, Paris and Belgium. They were only 17 when they left. Ruth had her 18th Birthday in Paris. She had the time of her life, partying (Especially in Amsterdam), exploring and meeting people. When she left she called all these people her relatives too and continued to stay in touch with most of them.

After this trip Ruth developed her love of travel and the following year took off for 5 years to London working as a companion for Lady Wallace (cousin to the Queen). One day Ruth found Wally (as she like to call her) in the bath drowned. A rather disturbing event for her.

This then took her to her next job as and au pair for 2 young children. Ruth also worked in an Australian pub and lived with some of her old school friends from Glossop High. She would often write home about their adventures and how broke they all were.

Ruth met many people during this time and made some lifelong friends along the way. Naturally they couldn't all be here today but as you will see from all the photos, there are so many people in her circle of friends.

On her return back to Australia Ruth decided to do a degree in Tourism. She did this living in Adelaide and working as a Security Guard at an Irish Pub in the City. She certainly had the height and physique for it.

Once her degree was finished Ruth got a job for Hastwell travel and became firm friends with her boss. She continued to work as a security guard. A few times they caught her asleep at her desk and thought she had been partying all night. When they asked her about it she explained her night job. After this all the staff named her " Zena, Princess Warrior. Quite fitting I believe. Ruth showed them what a brazen and vibrant personality she was. Ruth and Paul along with the kids still visited her old boss for lunch in the hills occasionally.

Ruths next job was at Top Deck Travel.

It was here that she met another dear friend whom shared her passion for travel. They had similar personality traits and were both Leo's so they got along famously. Ruth was invited by her friend to attend the launch of the boeing triple seven in Darwin. It was attended by global dignitaries.

Ruth was able to organize the music for the dinner as she was good friends with a Riverland band and convinced them to fly over and to play live at the function. It was a proud moment for her to be able to achieve this.

In 1997 Ruth was made Fairy God Mother to Roxanne. A role she embraced and always cherished.

In 1999 Ruth also travelled to Minnesota, Minneapolis for an exchange for Top Deck travel. Here she enjoyed experiencing the American way of life. Letters received

from a good friend of Ruth's speak of her uniqueness of making friends so easily wherever she went and she made many.

After 10 months Ruth returned home to be with her family as Keith had a small procedure and Ruth wanted to be around in case something went wrong.

There are too many people to mention individually and they are all over Australia and the world. Ruth's inclusiveness of everyone meant that no matter where she went she always had somebody to spend time with. No matter how long the time passed they always remembered her too.

In mid 2000 Ruth met Paul. Paul and Ruth met by chance (set up) at a mutual friends party. They arranged a date together. They found they both had a love of Cold Chisel and Country rock. I think their marriage was based on this fact!

They attend nearly every concert of Jimmy that he had during their time together. "Flame trees" was Ruth's favourite song, and this was played on repeat whilst Ruth was in her final hours.

Ruth and Paul moved into to Gurra in 2001 and started planning their life together. Paul had a young son Justin who stayed with them every other weekend and he was a big part of their life.

A few months after meeting Ruth left her travel job in Renmark and they bought the Music shop in the Berri Plaza. Ruth worked here for approx two years before they sold. Ruth then won a job at the Berri medical clinic and worked there until she fell pregnant with Mackenzie.

In 2003 on Grand Final day, Ruth's brother Sam married Judy and they have 2 children together Jemma & Ryan, and Sam's son Timothy. Now Ruth had a sister in-law and this made her happy. Ruth loved to catch up with them when she could and see the kids growing up.

On 1st May 2004 Ruth and Paul were married. Their wedding was held at Lutheran Church Bookpurnong Hill. The reception was at Gurra Lake with a beautiful marque. It was a wonderful day with lots of fun and many shenanigans during the day and night. The night was a wonderful celebration and Ruth always relived those fun moments.

This year Ruth and Paul celebrated 15 years of marriage.

Ruth was always well known for her beautiful long hair. She could braid her own hair whilst having a chat with you. In 2005 Ruth held a massive fundraiser to raise money for cancer research by cutting off her long brown locks. She raised approximately \$12,000. Her brother Sam and many friends donated money to be able to cut off a platt of hair.

Ruth and Paul decided to build their new home around their old one. This proved quite difficult. Towards the end when Ruth was 7 months or so pregnant they had to

move..... into a houseboat.....then again into another house. These proved to be stressful times for Ruth and Paul. Needless to say they moved back into their newly built home when

McKenzie was born on 13th November 2007, and their house was nearly but not quite finished.

Mid 2008 Ruth commenced employment at Glossop High School, doing a variety of different roles including working in the Science Lab and Admin. Ruth worked at Glossop High School for nine years and made many good friends during this time. Ruth really enjoyed working closely at this time with her mother Heather.

Scarlett their little girl was born on 3rd July 2009. Now their family was complete.

Finally Ruth had the family she had always dreamed of.

Gurra ridge started developing in 2008. Once all the blocks of land sold it turned out that good friends had bought the block next door and her other dear friend lived just two doors away. In fact, all the neighbours were good friends of Ruth and they regularly all got together for social gatherings. Ruth regularly sent texts organizing events for the "Gurra Crew".

Ruth loved going down to the lake each Easter. She would invite other friends and family down to camp or for meals. Everyone on Gurra Ridge were all great friends of hers.

Ruth cherished being a mum and a wife. She loved to plan birthday parties and special occasions. Each year Ruth would bake the children a beautiful cake in a special theme and give them a party. This is something she always treasured doing.

In 2014 Keith died and this broke Ruth's heart. Since his passing she talked about him regularly and would often say how she missed him. She liked nothing more than to talk about him and what he would be doing up there. If things went wrong at home she would say "DAD" your not doing your job properly!
Both her children participated in many sports. Ruth was very proud of her children's achievements. Her and Paul attended every game and concert possible. They wanted the absolute best for both their children.

Holidays were on the list every year. They would often go to the Gold Coast and catch up with good friends there. Ruth loved to catch up with her great old mates from home and the children would go too.

Several years ago they went on a cruise with other great friends. Ruth loved this holiday and often spoke of going on more cruises. She especially loved the black tie night and dressing up for the occasion. Although she would always stress about the

fact that Paul hated shopping and had nothing to wear. “ How will I get him to buy new clothes she would say”. Often a trip to Adelaide or Mildura with a mate was necessary and she would find something appropriate and send Paul a photo for approval. If he liked it she would take it home. Stress over!

In 2017 Paul & Ruth, went to Monaco, Italy with some close friends for the Grand Prix and Holiday for 3 & ½ weeks. They had an amazing time and celebrated a 40th, 50th and friendship.

On return of this holiday Ruth found she was not 100%. A short time later after some tests, she found was found to have bowel cancer. She had surgery, chemotherapy and continuous treatment. Through all of this her positive attitude and strength continued.

Her goal was to extend her life as long as possible so she could be there for McKenzie and Scarlett through their teenage years. She fought so hard to be here seeking help and advice from every avenue possible.

For 18 months Ruth was going well and everything appeared to be fine. Only few months ago Ruth, Paul, Mackenzie, Scarlett and Heather went with other friends to Phuket for a Holiday. This was to be Ruthy's last holiday with her family.

A bit About Ruth

HOWDY !! The door would swing open and there she was. Your home was her home and it seemed no matter how many times she came she always found something to compliment (or criticize). I love your garden, I wish mine was like that or geez, what are you burning it stinks (if you had candles going, or if you had perfume on she didn't like).

Ruth introduced the Gurra Crew to her love of Sparkling Red! It was her signature drink along with a Bacardi and coke.

That fire red lipstick she wore wasn't just to match the brightness of clothes but also her fiery temper. I am sure at some point we have all witness the extent of her explosiveness 😊

Apparently this fiery temper started when she was little and at home all day with her mum Heather. When Keith would come home from work Heather would just say “Take Her!”. Keith would put her in the car and as they were driving down the dirt driveway track Ruth would blurt out all the things that happened that day and why her mum wanted her out of the house. She was a bit of a handful.

Ruth's phone would ring or ding constantly. There was always an event on or an event she was organizing, or someone ringing her for a chat. Ruth described herself as a ‘Networker’.

Ruth couldn't stand to be alone or have nothing on over a weekend. The busier she was the happier she was.

Regular texts and staying in touch. That is what she did.

Ruth was inclusive of everyone. Be it colour, race, rich or poor. She was indifferent and made everyone feel special.

Ruth was someone you wanted on your team. She always got things done. She wasn't afraid to ask for anything.

However, you didn't disagree or cross her. This was a special gift she had. 😊

Going to the plaza for a cup of coffee was always a bad idea if you wanted a chat. Every person walking by would know her and stop for a chat! Even her quick shopping trips into Berri would take hours because she had to stop and chat to everyone she bumped into.

Ruth played basketball in Loxton for many years and this was another social outlet. She loved the sport and played up until a couple of years ago.

Mackenzie and Scarlett also play basketball. Ruth and Paul were always busy taking the children to sport and also ballet.

Ruth volunteered her time regularly at the Chaffey Theatre, being one of their first ushers. Ruth was a member of the Loxton Lutheran School Governing Council for several years and enjoyed having an impact on the running of the school.

Ruth loved her Thermomix. She would talk about it constantly and show you all the photos of the meals, cakes, biscuits, pastes etc. She loved it so much she had regular parties and made sure all her friends had the opportunity to see it in action and of course buy one!

In fact Ruth loved parties of all kinds, Lingerie, bra's, tupperware, norwex, jewelery just to name a few. This was a social event with platters, wine and lots of different friends each time getting to know each other.

After Ruth's cancer diagnosis, she now wasn't working and needed distractions. She tried her hand at golf, and according to her she was pretty bad! Someone suggested yoga and relaxation techniques. However, she said she couldn't sit still long enough for this to work!! She much preferred her friends company for therapy than any other.

Ruth was vivacious, encompassing, kind and energetic. Ruth was volatile, brazen and could damn right scary!

Ruth was generous, always handing out olives, fig or quince paste, or other things she had made. Ruth was so many things to so many people.

She certainly did fit a full life time of experiences into 49 years.

Ruth would be organizing events in heaven by now and everyone there would know her by name. She will never be lonely. She will be looking down at all of us smiling as

she would feel grateful and humbled to see all the friends and family here and feel the love they have for her.

Ruth has left her children a wonderful legacy in the form of beautiful photos and cherished memories on the walls all around their home and in their hearts.

Some funny memories

Ruth did a deportment weekend with a modeling company in the Berri Hotel. They taught make-up, walking, talking, sitting and how to eat politely. We were sitting at the dining table at the Berri Hotel waiting for starters. There were bread rolls at the table and dishes with the curled butter. When we were allowed to start Ruth grabbed the butter dish and stuck the knife into it. One of the speakers yelled across the table RUTH INGERSON! That is not how you approach curled butter. It is collected with the small fork and placed on your plate. Ruth said loudly "Your joking, I've never seen a fork used for butter, that's ridiculous!!". Everyone else kept quiet because none of us knew what to do either, we just didn't have the nerve to say it.

By the end of the two days Ruth had those ladies eating out of her hand and she stayed in contact with them for years.

Ruth was very protective of her food. No one was aloud to touch it, taste it or have a bit. This was very noticeable at high school and all her friends loved to tease her about this. One day whilst she was devouring her cream bun someone pushed it into her face. You can just imagine the tantrum! She had to lick her fingers for a long time to make sure she didn't miss any of the cream.

In Adelaide whilst working for Hastwall Travel her car got sideswiped by someone who left the scene. Ruth flew upstairs red faced and bellowed in front of the whole team "If I find out who sideswiped my new car I will suck their gizzards out through their nostrils!!! I can hear her saying this. When everyone laughed Ruth then did too. She saw the funny side to most things.

Her achievements were many, but her greatest were her children who she adored and wanted only the best for them and every opportunity they could have.

Paul and Ruth built a life they could be proud of and now her legacy will be her children and the future her and Paul have prepared for them.

Ruth, thank you for all the wonderful times that so many of us got to have and remember you by. You taught us to be strong, courageous, energetic and to live life to the fullest.

The world is a better place because you were in it. Heaven will be brighter because you are there.

Love you always and ever.