

A tribute from Susan:

As I sit in my garden on a very hot early Summer's day, my mind buzzes with so many thoughts and memories. Today is like when we all lived in Melbourne, the hot sun, lovely flowers around us, birds singing happily; all this as I try to understand why and now need to put down words of tribute.

It was really from when you and Vivien married and came to Melbourne to live that I guess I really began to know you. It didn't take long for you to become one of us, you were accepted immediately in to our family, you were no stranger having spent our early years all together.

As you both began your new life I could sense the love between you both and the start of a wonderful life you were to share. The years were good to you; the friendships you both made were strong and have remained over the past 39 years.

To me, life for you and Vivien has always seemed straight forward. You shared and did everything together and were always a good example of a "happy marriage" and "committed Salvationists".

When I married Paul in 1979 at Easton we decided to join the family in Melbourne and just like you, Paul became one of the family being accepted and loved. Mum has always said each one is loved as much as the other, no in-laws.

Your friendship and guidance to Paul has always been valued (especially to me) as I had married a man who had no DIY skills whatsoever and still doesn't, so we are all worried now what the future holds. Paul recalls when at your house a while back you needed something done at the top of the house, as you couldn't take the height Paul was sent up with you holding the ladder on the grass. All of a sudden CRACK Paul had broken a rung on the wooden ladder and tumbled down about 20 feet on to you, with the ladder giving you a nasty gash on the head, so off to hospital, Paul took you for stitches.

The years we all spent together were the very special years in life as our family started to grow with the birth of our 1st son Nathan, another little red haired boy and I remember someone at Camberwell asking Allan how his new son was, I think he blushed!

The following year we were blessed again with Philip and both Allan and Vivien have always given guidance, love and concern and encouraged them as they have grown up and we know they are proud of their achievements particularly their Army service. Allan was never too busy to help them. As small boys they loved the fun they used to have at Uncle Allan's house, sleepover's, baking cakes, and days out they had together and will always hold a special bond with you.

Thank you Uncle Allan.

It was a joy when Allan and Viv returned to Bristol to live 2 years after we came back. We have had some wonderful times together over the last 12 years but sadly those times have ended but the memories will remain forever. We have shared laughter, tears, good times and not such good times, just a normal family life but with a special touch.

As I looked at your back garden last week, I noticed a lovely display of forget-me-nots and thought of you. Allan, there is no way we can ever forget you.

Allan you have never been a brother in law, simply a brother. We all loved you dearly and will remember you always. Thank you for being a part of our lives and thank you for loving my sister. Well done thou good and faithful servant.