

## **Eulogy from the Grandchildren by Katarina Perkovic**

### **Pohvala unucima Katarine Perković**

I'm Katarina, one of Baba Ljuba's four grandchildren. I'm here to say a few words on behalf us all – myself, Stephen, Daniel, and Lucy.

**Ja sam Katarina, jedna od četvero Baba Ljubinih unuka. Ovdje sam da kažem nekoliko riječi u ime svih nas - sebe, Stephena, Daniela i Lucy.**

We all loved Baba, who loved us right back.

**Svi smo voljeli Babu, koja nam je odmah uzvratila ljubav.**

Baba was full of energy, and did all she could to make us happy, sometimes to the annoyance of our parents.

**Baba je bila puna energije i činila je sve što je mogla da nas usreći, ponekad na živciranje naših roditelja.**

When we misbehaved, she would defend us. When we were hungry, she would feed us, especially if she was looking after us. Baba was a really good cook and made delicious food to eat. A favourite was crumbed fish, which my brother really loved.

**Kad bismo se loše ponašali, branila bi nas. Kad smo bili gladni, nahranila bi nas, pogotovo ako nas je čuvala. Baba je bila jako dobra kuharica i pripremala je ukusnu hranu za jelo. Omiljena je bila mrvljena riba koju je moj brat jako volio.**

She was also quite sneaky, slipping us bars of chocolates or lollies from her purse. We were always riding a wicked sugar high and baba would always laugh, usually joining in on the fun.

Također je bila prilično lukava, vadeći nam bombonijere ili lizalice iz torbice. Uvijek smo bili jako visoki i baba bi se uvijek smijala, obično se pridružujući zabavi.

She would also pull me into the laundry and slip me some money, saying “don’t tell your mum”.

Također bi me odvukla u praonicu i ubacila mi nešto novca, govoreći "nemoj reći svojoj mami".

Baba was dedicated to her grandchildren. We didn't live close to baba, but she would still travel by train to look after myself and my older brother. She would drive dad's rustbucket to buy us McDonalds and try to make us laugh by doing random things with her food, like dipping the fries into a sundae. Baba thought it was hilarious.

Baba je bila posvećena svojim unucima. Nismo živjeli blizu babe, ali ona bi ipak putovala vlakom da čuva mene i mog starijeg brata. Vozila bi tatinu rustbucket (staro auto) da nam kupi McDonalds i pokušavala nas nasmijati radeći nasumične stvari sa svojom hranom, poput umakanja krumpirića u sladoled. Babi je to bilo smiješno.

Even after the cancer diagnosis, baba stayed positive. She said she didn't want to leave us –and wanted to be there for her children and grandchildren. Despite her worries and concerns, she was incredibly brave and we were all inspired by her resilience as she fought it out ‘till the end...

Čak i nakon dijagnoze raka, baba je ostala pozitivna. Rekla je da nas ne želi ostaviti - i da želi biti uz svoju djecu i unuke. Unatoč njezinim brigama i brigama, bila je nevjerljivo hrabra i svi smo bili inspirirani njezinom otpornošću dok se borila 'do kraja...

Baba, on behalf of your four grandchildren; we love you. Rest easy.

Baba, u ime tvoje četvero unučadi; volimo te. Opusti se. Pocivaj u miru.

## **Eulogy by Kreso Perkovic - Pohvalno slovo Kreše Perkovića**

We are here today to celebrate the life of Ljubica Perkovic – beloved mother, grandmother, and wife.

**Danas smo ovdje da proslavimo život Ljubice Perković – voljene majke, bake i supruge.**

Mum was born on 20 September 1950 in the village of Repinjovaca, Imotski region, Croatia.

**Mama je rođena 20. rujna 1950. godine u selu Repinjovaca, Imotska krajina, Hrvatska.**

Mum was the fourth of six children, born to Marija and Ivan Vukovic. She had three sisters – Slavka, Mila and Anka, and two brothers – Nikola and Stipe.

**Mama je bila četvrto od šestero djece Marije i Ivana Vukovića. Imala je tri sestre – Slavku, Milu i Anku, te dva brata – Nikolu i Stipu.**

Life wasn't easy in the village, and mum's parents did their best to provide for the family. Things we take for granted today - such as education - was not common, and mum did well to complete primary school.

**Život na selu nije bio lak, a mamini roditelji davali su sve od sebe kako bi osigurali obitelj. Stvari koje danas uzimamo zdravo za gotovo - poput obrazovanja - nisu bile uobičajene, a mama je dobro završila osnovnu školu.**

But mum did not let the lack of opportunity get in her way. She had an adventurous spirit and in her mid-teens left the village to work in Germany. This was an exciting time for her and she wanted to make a go of things.

**Ali mama nije dopustila da joj nedostatak mogućnosti stane na put. Bila je pustolovnog duha i u svojim srednjim tinejdžerskim godinama**

otisla je iz sela kako bi radila u Njemačkoj. Ovo je bilo uzbudljivo vrijeme za nju i htjela je pokrenuti stvari.

Even so, things were tough for young women in the 1960s, and mum, like her sisters, married early.

Unatoč tome, stvari su bile teške za mlade žene 1960-ih, a mama se, kao i njezine sestre, rano udala.

Mum met dad at a County Fair, and if you were to believe dad, he managed to charm her and they were soon engaged to be married, which they did in February 1971.

Mama je tatu upoznala na županijskom sajmu, a ako je vjerovati tati, uspio ju je šarmirati i ubrzo su se zaručili, što su i učinili u veljači 1971. godine.

12 months later, in February 1972, the first of her three children were born – me – Kreso.

12 mjeseci kasnije, u veljači 1972., rodilo se prvo od njezino troje djece – ja – Krešo.

Not long after, Dad made a big announcement – we would be moving to Australia.

Nedugo zatim, tata je dao veliku najavu - preselit ćemo se u Australiju.

Dad had come to Australia in 1962 for a better life, returning in 1970 to find himself a wife, as he would tell us.

Tata je došao u Australiju 1962. u potrazi za boljim životom, vratio se 1970. da bi si našao ženu, kako nam je rekao.

Dad initially went back by himself to finalise the paperwork – and it took two years before we joined him, arriving in March 1975.

Tata se isprva vratio sam da dovrši papirologiju – i trebale su dvije godine prije nego što smo mu se pridružili, stigavši u ožujku 1975.

Not long after we settled in Melbourne, in August 1976, Mum gave birth to her second child, her beloved daughter Marija.

Nedugo nakon što smo se smjestili u Melbourneu, u kolovozu 1976., mama je rodila svoje drugo dijete, svoju voljenu kćer Mariju.

Six years later, in November 1982, her third child came into the world – her son Ante, or as she liked to call him, ‘moj najmladi, najsladi’.

Šest godina kasnije, u studenom 1982., na svijet je stiglo njezino treće dijete – sin Ante ili kako ga je voljela zvati ‘moj najmladi, najsladi’.

Mum was ready to make a life for herself and her young family in Melbourne. She worked hard to provide for her family, with her and dad working alternate shifts in different jobs.

Mama je bila spremna stvoriti život za sebe i svoju mladu obitelj u Melbourneu. Naporno je radila kako bi osigurala svoju obitelj, a ona i tata radili su u smjenama na različitim poslovima.

Life in a new country had its challenges. She would be the first to admit that she missed her family back in Croatia. Apart from dad’s elder brother, Ante, no other family member had followed us downunder.

Život u novoj zemlji imao je svoje izazove. Ona bi prva priznala da joj nedostaje obitelj u Hrvatskoj. Osim tatinog starijeg brata Ante, nitko drugi član obitelji nije nas slijedio dolje u Australiji.

But she found comfort in community and made friends with other Croatians, attended the local Croatian church, and instilled in us, her children, a pride in our heritage.

Ali je pronašla utjehu u zajednici i sprijateljila se s drugim Hrvatima, pohađala lokalnu hrvatsku crkvu i u nama, svojoj djeci, usadila ponos na naše nasljedje.

Mum also loved her western suburbs and would take offence when anyone dared criticise the west. Her and Dad first lived in a rented bungalow in Yarraville before they bought a 10-square weatherboard home in North Sunshine.

Mama je također voljela svoja zapadna predgrađa Melbournea i uvrijedila bi se kad bi se netko usudio kritizirati zapad. Ona i tata su prvo živjeli u unajmljenom bungalovu u Yarravilleu prije nego što su kupili kuću od 10 kvadrata u North Sunshineu.

That was her dream home. It was where she raised us, and where she grew her backyard veggies. So, when we upsized to a more modern brick home in West Sunshine in the late eighties, she still spoke fondly of the home in Albert Street.

To je bio njezin dom iz snova. Tu nas je odgojila i uzgajala povrće u dvorištu. Dakle, kad smo kasnih osamdesetih prerasli u moderniju kuću od cigle u West Sunshineu, još uvijek je s ljubavlju govorila o kući u Albert Streetu (Ulica).

For those that knew mum, she was a fun person, and loved a good time, especially in the early days when families would take turns visiting each other on the weekend, talk politics and play cards into the early hours.

Za one koji su poznivali mamu, bila je zabavna osoba i voljela se dobro zabavljati, posebno u ranim danima kada bi se obitelji izmjenjivale posjećivale jedna drugu vikendom, razgovarale o politici i kartale do ranih jutarnjih sati.

She made friends with her Australian neighbours, despite the language barrier. She invited them into her home, shared her produce and introduced them to Croatian food and culture. They appreciated her kindness and warm hospitality.

Sprijateljila se sa svojim australskim susjedima, unatoč jezičnoj barijeri. Pozvala ih je u svoj dom, podijelila svoje proizvode i upoznala

ih s hrvatskom hranom i kulturom. Cijenili su njezinu ljubaznost i toplo gostoprimstvo.

That was mum – sociable, hospitable, ready for a chat. She also loved to joke and laugh and was utterly obsessed with the TV show Seinfeld and able to recount entire scenes.

To je bila mama – društvena, gostoljubiva, spremna na razgovor. Također se voljela šaliti i smijati i bila je krajnje opsjednuta TV emisijom Seinfeld te je mogla prepričati cijele scene.

Later on, as we, her children, started to marry and have our own children, mum became involved in their lives as well, helping to care for them and being a fun-loving baba.

Kasnije, kad smo se mi, njezina djeca, počeli ženiti i imati vlastitu djecu, mama se također uključila u njihove živote, pomagala oko njih i bila baba koja voli zabavu.

In later years, the extended family would gather at Mum and Dad's and the grandchildren especially would enjoy the Christmas and Easter celebrations.

U kasnijim godinama kod mame i tate okupljala bi se šira obitelj, a u slavlju Božića i Uskrsa posebno bi uživali unuci.

When Mum learnt of her diagnosis in early 2020, there were understandable tears – but she was determined to fight the cancer.

Kad je mama početkom 2020. saznala za svoju dijagnozu, bilo je razumljivih suza – ali bila je odlučna boriti se protiv raka.

For mum, the worry was less about her and more about her children and grandchildren.

“How am I supposed to leave you behind?” she would say to us.

Za mamu je briga bila manje za nju, a više za njezinu djecu i unuke.

“Kako da vas ostavim?”, rekla bi nam.

Mum cherished family – taking pride in the university graduations of her children, the births of her grandchildren, the special moments in our lives. She did not want to stop experiencing those moments. It's what gave her inspiration.

Mama je cijenila obitelj – ponosna na sveučilišne diplome svoje djece, rođenja svojih unučadi, posebne trenutke u našim životima. Nije željela prestati proživljavati te trenutke. To joj je dalo inspiraciju.

If I can reflect at the end, to quote American poet Maya Angelou:

*People will forget what you said*

*People will forget what you did*

*But people will never forget how you made them feel*

...and mum made everyone feel special.

Ako se mogu zamisliti na kraju, da citiram američku pjesnikinju Mayu Angelou:

Ljudi će zaboraviti što si rekao

Ljudi će zaboraviti što si učinio

Ali ljudi nikada neće zaboraviti kako su se osjećali zbog tebe

...a mama je učinila da se svi osjećaju posebnima.

On behalf of your children Kreso, Marija and Ante; children-in-law Sonja and Mark; your grandchildren Stephen, Katarina, Daniel and Lucy; your brother-in-law Ante, and your beloved husband Stipan...

...We love you baba, may you rest in peace.

U ime svoje djece Krešo, Marija i Ante; zetovi Sonja i Mark; tvoji unuci Stjepan, Katarina, Danijel i Lucija; tvoj šurjak Ante i tvoj voljeni muž Stipan...

...Volimo te baba, počivaj u miru.