



YOUR STORY

EDITION 5



Kalyna Care

Personal and Compassionate Care

DEDICATION

This fifth volume is a dedication to Maja Hrudka, whose life story was published in our third volume (2013). Maja was the founder and chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Elderly People's Home (now known as Kalyna Care). Maja passed away at Kalyna Care on 21 July 2014.





FOREWORD

This is the fifth volume of our *Your Story* book. At Kalyna Care we continue to provide a valuable service to both the Ukrainian and the broader multicultural communities – many of our residents are of Eastern European origin. We also provide a service to those from other parts of the world.

In 2014, in recognition of the diversity of backgrounds of the residents who now call Kalyna Care home, the organisation received an award from the Victorian Multicultural Commission for Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria – Aged Care. We are extremely proud of this achievement.

Once again, contained within this volume are many stories from the people who now live at Kalyna Care (previously

known as the Ukrainian Elderly People's Home). These people share their stories of hardship, determination and love of life, family and friends. The stories describe varied experiences and adventures over a long period of time, from their early lives to recent years, thus preserving their memories for their family, their friends and generations to come. Where possible, the stories are in the words of the residents themselves.

We hope you enjoy reading the many stories of these people, and we thank them individually, and their families, for kindly sharing what are truly amazing insights into the journeys they have travelled.

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OLGA ANTONIUK

I GREW UP IN A SMALL VILLAGE CALLED ZAMOSTY



Olga

I was born on 27 October 1925 in Ukraine. I grew up in a small village called Zamosty, which is in the city of Volodymyr. My father, Peter, and mother, Katarina, had a big family: four sons and four daughters. My parents were very good to all of us and every day they worked hard, but on Sundays they would take us all to church. We were very happy to help Mum and Dad on the farm and we learnt a lot from both of them.

My brother John was studying to be a teacher and I recall one day he said to my father, 'I'm going to take my sister Olga to the city to get a higher education.' In the city he rented a room for me. After I had done a year of study the war began and German soldiers came to our city and took all the students to Germany for labour work. As I was only sixteen years old, I was allowed to return to my parents' farm.

During the First World War my father had been taken by the Germans as a prisoner, but he was lucky to have met a German farmer who took him to work on his farm. After the war my father returned home and the family moved to Poland.

In 1921 my father decided to go to America to work for a year and when he returned he was able to buy some land to start his dream of having his own farm. Mum and Dad worked on the farm together. Mum was a very good housekeeper and all the children were happy to help Mum and Dad. They were such good parents.

I married Stefan Antoniuk on 24 November 1942 during the Second World War. Soon after, the Russians came and took over our city. Because my father was a wealthy farmer they took him prisoner to Siberia for ten years. They also took my husband's

mother, stepfather and sister to Siberia. In 1944 we heard that the Russians were coming again and we were afraid that they would also take us to Siberia, so Stefan and I fled with only one small suitcase between us. Sadly, that was the last time I ever saw my family.

For many days we hid from the Russians and slept in the forest. Then Stefan heard that the last train was leaving for Germany and it was our last chance, we had to get on that train. There was pandemonium at the station, hundreds of people, lost children crying. I will never forget it. Stefan told me to stand on the platform and not move from that spot. He managed somehow to get on the train, and as it started to move he appeared at a window and pulled me through it into the train.

In Berlin there were bombs going off all around us and luckily the





Olga with daughter Lea



Olga (at right) with
grandchildren Paul, Tania,
Carla, Bradley, Brodie

Olga, Lea, Jerry, Jenny, Stefan



German Army helped us to get to a Red Cross migrant camp. Then the Russians came to the camp to take the Ukrainians to Siberia, and an English officer told us we must say that we were from Poland, and so we were saved.

In 1948 the Red Cross made arrangements for Stefan, me and our eight-month-old daughter to emigrate to Australia. I found out that I was pregnant with our second child and was not allowed to travel to Australia until after the baby was born. So I stayed behind in Germany and my husband went on ahead to Australia. In 1949 I was sent to Italy with two infant children and boarded a ship to Australia. It was such a hard trip for me, alone with one daughter eighteen months old and another daughter one month old, and I was happy to finally arrive in Australia to be with my husband again.

Stefan, a carpenter, had already found work and had managed to build a little barrack for us. It

was very hard being in a strange country and not knowing whether our families back home were still alive. But we were ever so grateful and happy to be free in a wonderful country, Australia.

We wrote letters home to let our families know where we were but for many years there was no reply – they had not received our letters. Then one day I received our first letter from family in Ukraine telling me that my father had just passed away after spending nine out of his ten years being imprisoned in Siberia, and I also learnt of the death of my brothers in the war. It was the saddest day of my life.

Stefan and I had another child, a son, born in Adelaide, and Stefan built two more large homes over the years. Although we had no family here apart from our children, we had a wonderful life together for 48 years. When my husband became ill, I nursed him at home for seven years, but sadly he passed away 24 years ago.

I am very fortunate to have three wonderful children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They have all studied and have great careers, including running a financial planning business and working as a nurse, an accountant, a teacher, an electrical engineer, a police officer and a commercial pilot. What great opportunities they have had in Australia!

As I write this story, I am 89 years old and now live at Kalyna Care in one of the independent units. I still enjoy cooking, gardening and going to church. I have never been back to my beloved Ukraine, but Kalyna is like a little Ukrainian village to me now and I love it here. Everyone is so nice and helpful, and I have developed friendships here which will last forever in my memories.

God Bless.

HELEN GORSKI

AT THE AGE OF SIXTEEN I WAS TAKEN BY THE GERMANS TO WORK IN A HOSPITAL AS A COOK

I was born in Poland on 12 February 1925. My mother's name was Katrina and my father's name was Frank. Frank worked in a brick-making factory. I am the eldest sibling in the family.

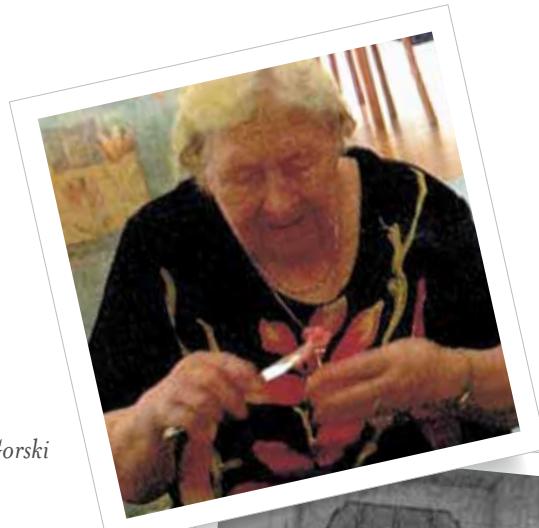
At the age of sixteen I was taken by the Germans to work in a hospital as a cook. Then they sent me to work in a steel factory. In Melbourne, I worked in a car-parts factory for 20 years. So you can see I was a very good, hard worker.

I married Paul Gorski in Germany in 1946 and had three beautiful children, Frank, Janie and Ted. We came to Melbourne and stayed with friends. My husband built our house and we lived there for 50 years, then I came to reside at Kalyna Care.

On Saturday nights, my husband and I would go dancing with friends. I enjoyed going out with family and friends to barbecues, and mushroom-picking. Over the years I enjoyed cooking, sewing and needlecraft. I also enjoyed Polish bus trips interstate to places like Moree, the Gold Coast, Sydney and Hobart. I like listening to Polish radio and music.

Significant life events include my husband passing away at the age of 79, having my three beautiful children and the births of my five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Helen Gorski





FRANCIS (FRANK) GAUCI

I WAS BORN IN KERCEM GOZO, MALTA,
ON 23 MAY 1924

I was born in Kercem Gozo, Malta, on 23 May 1924. My mother was Josephine Gauci (Micallef) and she worked as a lacemaker. My father was Joseph Gauci and he was a farmer. My sisters and brothers (the eldest first) were Francis, Maria (deceased), Gregory, Carmen (deceased), Salvo, Rita, Nenu (deceased), Joseph (deceased) and Stella. My grandparents were Francis Gauci and Carmen Gauci (Sultana), and Salvo and Carmen Micallef.

When I was young, I used to go with my father on the ferry from Gozo to Malta and help him with the goats and cows for Dad to sell and buy. My family would go to mass nearly every morning, then go to the fields to plant wheat, vegetables etc. or to look after the livestock. When it was time I went to school, for my father wanted me to get an education, but I didn't like it. I learnt how to write and read in Maltese but wasn't good in English. I left school at fifteen.

Even though life was hard in those days, my parents always provided

food on the table. Dad would see to the livestock and Mum would make lace dolls and sell them. The house wasn't big: a bedroom for my parents, one for the girls, and the boys would sleep on the hay. We all were happy and healthy growing up.

In Gozo I used to help my dad in the vegetable garden and with the livestock. My next job was cutting and lifting huge boulders, which were used to build houses in those days – a very heavy and exhausting job.

I was in Malta during the Second World War when the Germans and Italians bombed Malta. It was a very frightening time, but I loved going to Maltese feast days, especially at our church and my wife's parish, hearing the bands play and watching the fireworks.

In Malta during the war I dug underground shelters. When the war ended I returned to cleaning and cutting boulders. I did four years cooking in a restaurant that was owned by my brother-in-law.

In April 1948 I was on a small boat carrying 31 people from



Malta to the island of Gozo. It sank during a storm. A fifteen-year-old boy and I were the only survivors.

When I worked in Malta I met my future wife Elizabeth (Lisa) while she was working in her auntie's restaurant. We got married in 1946, in Kercem Gozo, where my wife's family lived. We stayed with her parents after marrying.

Between 1946 and 1948 my wife miscarried three children (two boys and a girl). On 18 December 1949 my wife and I had a daughter, Rita, and in March 1950 we came to Australia. We lived with my uncle Louis and his family in North Melbourne. We bought our first home there and while there my son Joseph was born in 1951. A year later our daughter Mary was born. We stayed in North Melbourne for seven years.



I worked two years in Spencer Street, salting and wrapping cows' and bulls' hides. In 1952 I worked as a waterside worker at the docks, loading and unloading cargo ships manually. The first weekend I did at the docks, when I got my pay and brought home the money my wife thought I had stolen it, for I had never earned that much money in all my life for a couple of days worked. I worked at the docks for 32 years. In 1984 I retired at the age of 60.

In 1957 we moved to Albion and that is where I lived until I came to Kalyna Care. My wife and I watched our children grow up, marry and have their children. I have eight grandchildren and soon I will have five great-grandchildren.

My wife and I travelled to America, England, Malta (a couple of times), Europe, Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Tasmania, Perth and around Melbourne with the St Albans Maltese social club. My son and

daughter and I went with the social club group to New Zealand in 2010. I loved travelling around Europe, especially Spain and Rome, and going back home.

I liked to travel to the country and go rabbit-hunting, either with nets or by shooting. A few times I went duck-shooting. I loved going fishing, either on the rocks or in a boat. I also loved working with wood, making chairs and cupboards. I built a couple of brick fences and garages.

I like working in a vegetable garden and watching fruit and vegetables grow. I like collecting stamps from other countries and Australia. I also like looking at and reading animal, bird and fishing books.

I love hearing Maltese music and watching the SBS 32 Maltese program. I also enjoy the golden days songs. I like watching movies, especially Westerns.

I like to eat pasta, fish, chicken,

meat, pastizzi, rice dishes, salads, ricotta pies, soups, chips, and all desserts, especially ice cream. Sometimes I don't like beans.

I like being outside now and again. I also like going for drives in the country or near the beach or lakes and just enjoying the peace and quiet. I don't like having the lights on unnecessarily.

My daughter, Rita, passed away in November 2001, and my wife, Lisa, passed away in July 2008.

The people who are important to me now are my daughter Mary and my son-in-law Joe; my son Joe and my daughter-in-law Alyson; my sister Rita and her family; my brother Salvo and his family; my Daughter Rita (deceased) and son-in-law Joseph; my grandchildren Warren, Rachel, Darren, Monica, Denise, Michelle, Matthew and Ashleigh; and my great grandchildren Nicholas, Nathan, Chase, Jasmine, Aidan, Ashton and Elysha.

ULIANA HERCZANIWSKI

WE WERE FARMERS, SO ALL THE KIDS HAD
TO WORK HARD



Great grandchildren



Uliana Herczaniwski

I was born in Ukraine on 26 June 1924. My mother's name was Yustine and she was a housewife and farm worker. My father's name was Nestor and he was a farmer. My sisters and brothers were Maria, Pilip, Ivan, me and Fedora (eldest first). All my siblings have passed away.

The village where I lived when I was younger was under Polish rule. We were farmers, so all the kids had to work hard either on the farm helping Dad or in the household helping Mum. I had the opportunity to go to school for three years. Mathematics was my favourite subject.

When I was eighteen, the Germans took me to work for them in Kasel, a small town not

far from Berlin. I was in the factory producing weapons, and other stuff for the war. I lived in the camp with other young people. We had to work twelve hours a day, seven days a week. I was there from 1942 to the end of the Second World War. Then I went to another camp. The Russians wanted to take us back to the Soviet Union, but I had some luck and some help from the Americans, so I didn't go.

At the camp I met Meron, my future husband. In 1947 we married in Germany. We were married by a Ukrainian priest, and my childhood friend Ana was my witness. Ana now lives in Brisbane with her daughter. We didn't have a party as we couldn't afford it. I have two sons, Bohdana and Voldemer.

Meron and I wanted to go to Canada, but chances were we would get to Australia sooner so we came here. My first job in Australia was in a carpentry factory. Later I worked in a towel factory and then a chocolate factory.

Ardeer was the place where we built our first home, and there I lived for 60 years. It was a good life. Many Ukrainians used to live in that area. We built our church and community hall; we had many occasions to get together and celebrate life.

My husband got sick and couldn't work, so we could not afford to go back and visit Ukraine although we really wanted to. My son Bohdan did return to Ukraine with his wife and kids.



He found my brother Ivan, who was very surprised that all of them could speak the Ukrainian language so well.

I enjoyed sewing and gardening. We had such a large and very nice vegetable garden. I didn't go with family to distant places, but we did go camping and fishing a lot. I used to sing a lot of Ukrainian folk songs. Unfortunately I can no longer do that.

War had a huge impact on our lives. Australia changed our life for the better. When my husband passed away, I found it hard to carry on at times, but my children and grandchildren brought a lot of happiness into my life. I have six grandchildren: Mark, Pavlo, Nadia, Diana, Michael



Great great grandchildren

and Semon. I also have six great-grandchildren: Talia, Lyana, Jake, Sara, Evelin and David.

I came to live at Kalyna Care in May 2014. I like to watch the news and sometimes the weather. I do wonder sometimes how

I came to live so long; I never thought I would get to this age.

My kids, grandkids, and great-grandchildren are the people who are important to me now.

DANUTA ORAC

I HAVE SO MANY MEMORIES OF OUR HOUSE,
MY FRUIT TREES AND FLOWERS I ADORED.



Danuta Orac

I was born in Poland on 21 April 1938. My childhood was a time of fear as trouble was brewing in Germany. One year after my birth the war broke out, and I, along with my mother and brother, were taken to a German camp. My father was taken in a different truck and we never got to see him again. I don't really have a lot of memories of my childhood, except that milk and food were scarce and Dad used to go everywhere trying to find some for us. It was a terrible time.

I spent six years in the German camp, and as if that wasn't bad enough, my mother was made to work in the ammunition factory on night shift. While she worked I had to be looked after by strangers – in the place we lived there were a few families that stayed in the same room. I was very frightened and missed my mother a lot.

In 1964 my mother, brother and I migrated to Australia. Within six months I met my husband, Ivan Orac. He was so good to us, and that is one of the reasons I fell in love with him. Two years later we were married and moved into a two-bedroom flat. My mother stayed in one room and my husband and I stayed in the other. Eventually we bought a house in Hallam, a place I could finally call home. I have so many memories in that house, my fruit trees and flowers I adored. The heat was something I couldn't get used to so we made sure we were never far from the sea.

I was very close to my mother, as it was just the two of us for a very long time. So when she got sick I did not hesitate to leave my job at the chocolate factory to take care of her. I enjoyed looking after her; I just didn't like her

being unwell. She had taken care of me for so long, now it was my turn to do the same. Sadly, she passed away in 2000 at 96 years of age.

My husband had a car accident in 2012, which left him with a bleed on the brain; he had to have an emergency operation, which they said was successful. However, two years later he passed away from brain and lung cancer. I miss him so much. It is important for me to visit the grave site of my mother and husband each year so that I can light a candle for both of them.

Being in the home in Hallam was hard for me after my husband and mother passed. That is why I made the decision to move to Kalyna Care. I have made friends here and I like living here more and more each day.



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Danuta ORAC

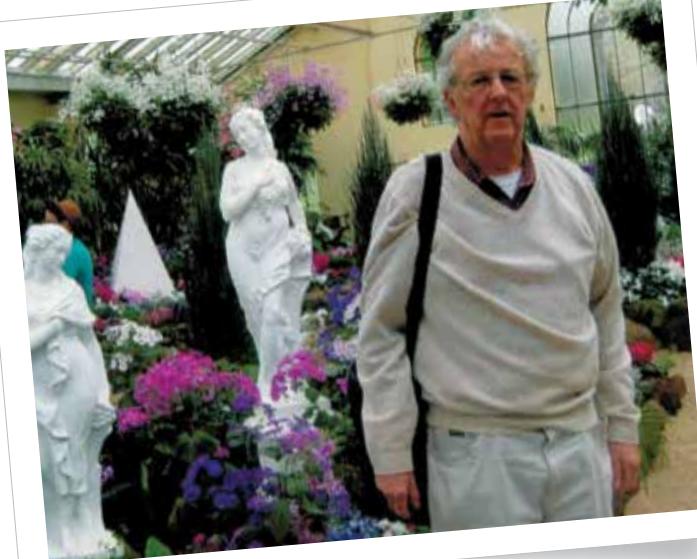
VISA FOR AUSTRALIA 300

SUBJECT TO TO GRANT ONE ARRIVAL OR AN ENTRY
PURSUANT UNDER THE IMMIGRATION ACT, 1958-1966

1. Visa Number 111104
2. Type of Visa INDEFINITE Re Entry
3. Date of Issue 20 November 1974
4. Date of Expiry 10 December 1975
5. Good for 3 months. Entitles to Australia
until date of expiry, subject to passport remaining valid.
6. Power of entry to Australia which may be
authorised by head of entry permit on arrival.
7. Special conditions None
8. Visa Fee CHAVIS
9. Signature of issuing Officer Orac
10. Place of Issue MELBOURNE

PETER ROONEY

I WAS AN EASYGOING GUY SO I HAD LOTS OF FRIENDS.



Peter Rooney

I was born in Lithgow, New South Wales, on 6 August 1949. We moved to Nymagee, also in New South Wales, where my parents owned a pub. Later we lived in Birrong, where I worked as a paperboy. Then I moved to Petersham.

My mother, Eileen, was an accounts clerk and my father, James, was an accountant. I had an older brother, John, and a younger sister, Annette. I was quite close to my Uncle Perce and Auntie Glad. Uncle Perce taught me how to shoot.

I was an easygoing guy so I had lots of friends. I found that I was good at all sports. I played Rugby League with the Newtown Jets. I also loved cricket.

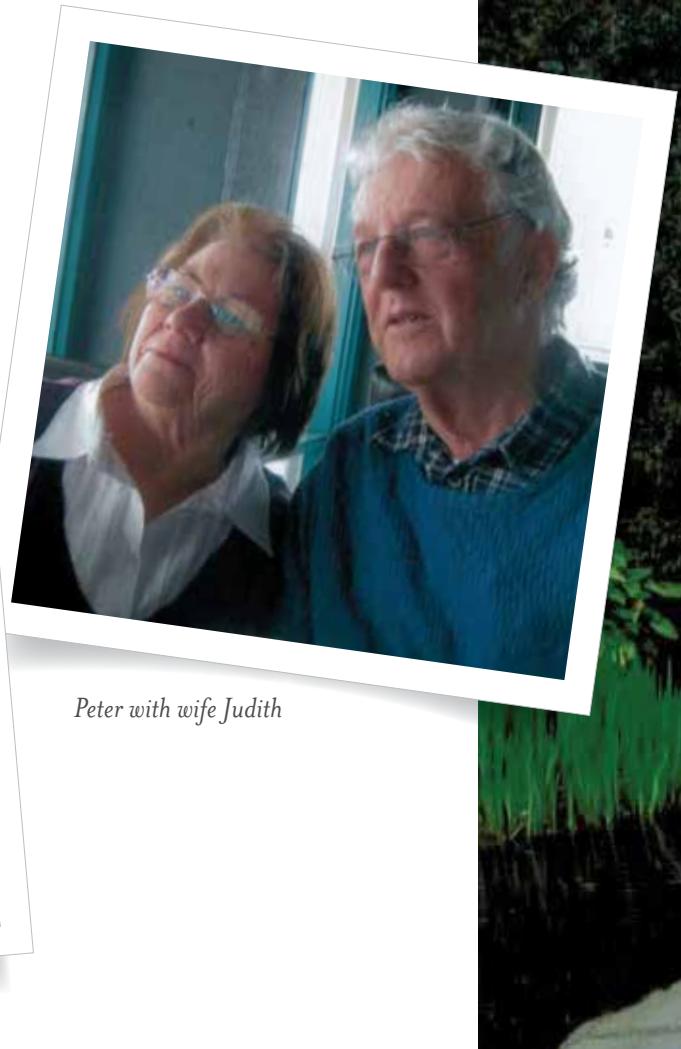
My first job other than being a paperboy was as an office boy at Sandy's Glass Company. I was later promoted to sales representative. Eventually I ran my own company selling commercial glass.

I worked part-time for the NRL (National Rugby League) for 15 years as ground manager. The job did take me away from time to time, and although I missed my wife, the money was good and we both knew it had to be done. I did enjoy the job. I remember one of the bosses didn't like anyone and never spoke to anyone, but every time he saw me he would come over and shake my hand and say, 'Hello Peter, it's good to see you, you're such a great bloke.'

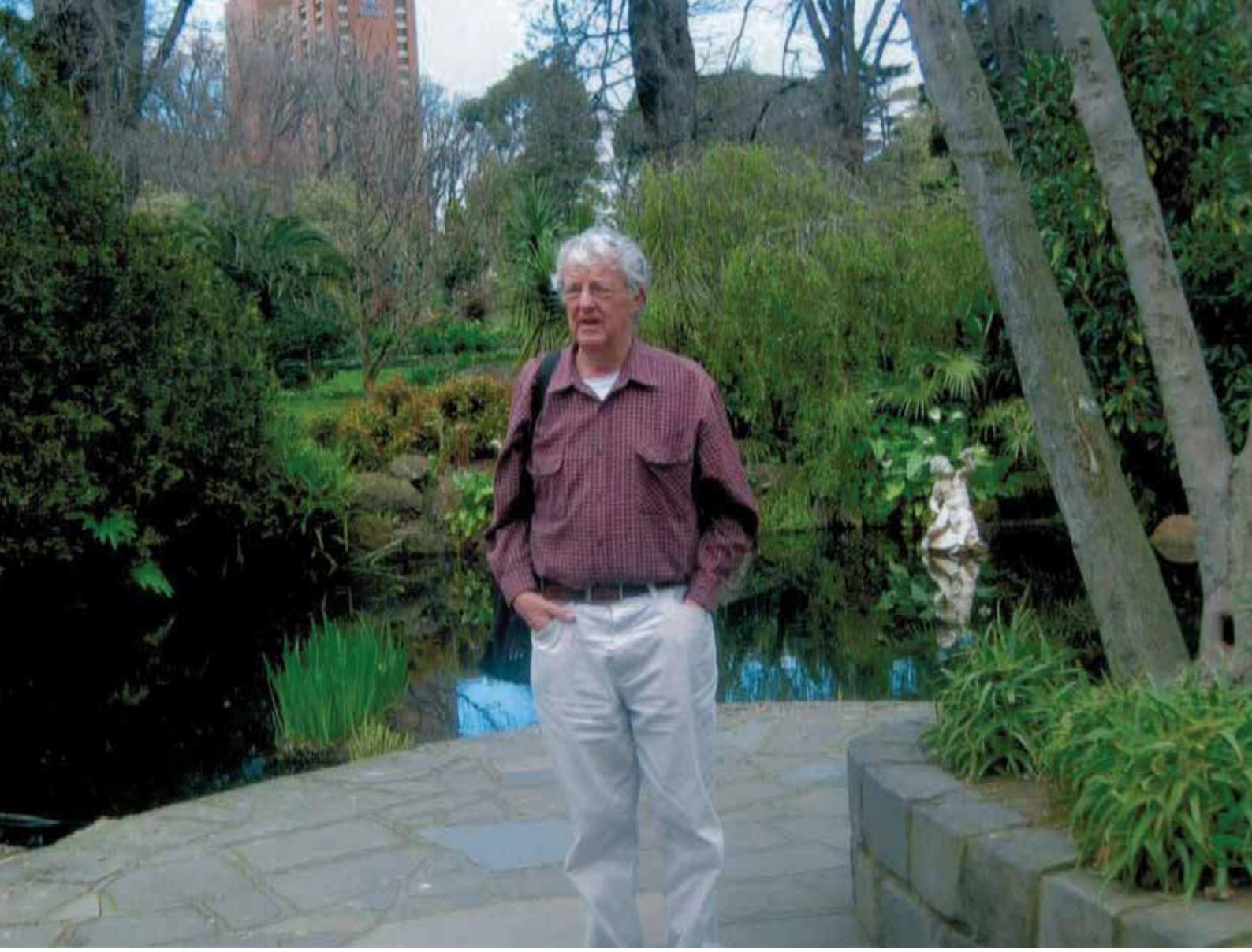
I married my wife Judy in a church in Nymagee on 4 October 1975, which happened to be a long weekend in New South Wales. I have such happy memories of the two of us. I recall Judy would buy my birthday cake a day before my birthday. She is such a good wife.

I have three children – Allison, David and Brendan – and four grandchildren – Jake, Ben, Jaxson and Bella. I feel so lucky to have all my children and grandchildren.

My best friend was Chris Turner. We played footy together. He was a very funny guy and would tell a lot of jokes. He was a ladies' man and made friends easily. I had a lovely wife so I didn't need to have



Peter with wife Judith



anything funny with the ladies. I was very happy with my Judy – I love her to bits. Chris and I would have a drink together. My friends would call me 'Pierre Rooney international drunk'. It makes me smile when people say these words to me. Tank, my dog, comes to visit me regularly.

For 25 years I lived at Culburra Beach with my family. Culburra Beach is on the south coast of New South Wales. I loved to travel. I went to England once, which was nice.

I enjoyed sport, particularly cricket and Rugby League, and collecting sporting memorabilia. I also liked horse-racing and going fishing. I enjoy country music, particularly Kenny Rogers,

Neil Diamond, Slim Dusty, Johnny Cash and Charley Pride. I enjoyed Christmas dinner with the family, and going out for dinner. Christmas is very important for the family to be together, and if you weren't there you were in trouble. I also like going for a walk, current affairs, the Catholic religion, and helping other people.

The births of my three children were significant life events. I'm sure I spoilt all my children; I love them all so much. David is the quiet one – he keeps everything to himself. Brendan is the funny one – he is very much like me. Allison is so helpful and got away with everything. It is sad when your children don't think they need you anymore, but no

matter what, I will always love them.

I like Aussie food, especially fish, and a glass of red wine with my meal. I also like chocolate and Vegemite. I don't like liver, brains or kidney, and red onion. I'm not really fussed on chicken, but I will eat it.

I like news and sports, and the shows *MASH* and *Get Smart*.

SOFIA PAWLUK

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO SCHOOL FOR FOURTEEN YEARS AND COMPLETED SEVEN GRADES.



Sofia Pawluk

Sofia with daughter Irena



Sofia, Natalie, Irena



I was born in Ukraine on 21 August 1921 to Theodore and Parashka. I had two older brothers, Ivan and Vasil, and one younger sister, Ana. My father worked in America, then Canada – that was the only way he could support the family. For that reason we had rather a good life. Mum was a hard worker as well, and we kids would help where we could.

I had the opportunity to go to school for fourteen years and completed seven grades. When war started the Germans occupied our homeland and began taking young people for work in

Germany. I was given to a butcher to work for him as a helping hand; they were twelve to fourteen hour days, seven days a week.

It was in Germany that I met my now late husband, Ivan Pawluk. He was a young man from Ternopil, and soon after meeting we were married in Germany by a Ukrainian priest. I wore a long white dress which I had borrowed. We lived at the camp for a while, and then in 1948 we came to Australia.

My first job in Australia was in the Alfred Hospital working as a helping hand in the kitchen,

and also cleaning, and serving food. I quite liked working there. My husband was working as a bricklayer. During that time we lived separately for about a year and a half. We lived in Pascoe Vale for about 65 years. I do miss the beautiful countryside in Ukraine, though. We were blessed by a daughter, Irena, who now has two daughters of her own, and three grandsons.

These days I enjoy talking to other Ukrainians and taking walks outside.



WASYL DAZKIW

I GREW UP IN A SMALL VILLAGE NOT FAR FROM THE CITY LVIV



My grandparents



I was born in Ukraine in 1919. I grew up in a small village not far from the city Lviv. I was the second of eight children. My father was a farmer; he had five brothers and two sisters. He had served in the Austro-Hungarian Army. He sent me to school in a neighbouring village. I left home at 21 and never saw my parents again.

I was 21 years old when I was taken into the army before the Second World War. I was trained by the Russians how to be spy. I was in the army until the war began, but eventually I escaped. I came to Australia after the Second World War to find a better life. If I'd remained, I believe I would have been killed.

My wife, Paraska, grew up in Javoliv. Her mother passed away



while giving birth, which meant her grandmother raised her. I met Paraska in Ukraine while staying at a camp. One night I went strawberry-picking and accidentally knocked into my wife-to-be. I apologised and from that moment our life together began. We were blessed with four sons: Roman, Myhaylo, Bohdan and Petro. I have five grandsons, six granddaughters and two great-grandchildren.

Our first home together was in Bendigo, where we lived happily for 20 years, then we moved to Tullamarine. My focus was to work hard so that I could provide for my family. On Sundays the family would attend church in North Melbourne. Most of my free time was spent doing family activities. Paraska and I shared our lives together for 63 years.

I feel strongly that men should respect women and that a husband and wife need to love each other. Then their life will be easy and better for their children. I would like to be remembered for being a good husband, and a good provider and teaching my children to respect women. My wish is for my children and their partners to live well.



My granddaughter in traditional Ukrainian outfit

MELANYA BUTRENKO

MELANYA LOVED HER VEGETABLE GARDEN AND FRUIT TREES



Family gathering 2013



Melanya Butrenko

Melanya was born Melania Oneschak 'Lviska Obast' in Ukraine on 23 December 1923. Her parents were farmers and they owned a little land. Melania would look after the cows in the pastures. She attended school for four years in her small village (higher grades were only available in faraway places). The main language spoken was Polish, but Ukrainian language lessons were given twice a week. Her favourite subject was history.

Melanya met Wasyl Butrenko while working on a farm in Germany. They married in Germany and made lifelong Ukrainian friends who were also living in Germany. They travelled to Australia on the *Skaugum*. During this time Melania became known as Janina. She and Wasyl lived

in a house they built together, and they worked hard to make it into a loving home. Melania worked packing biscuits at the Swallow's, Guest and Nabisco factories until she retired at the age of 60 for health reasons. Melania and Wasyl had two children, Slavko and Odaria. The most important thing for Melania was her family. She cooked and baked traditional Ukrainian food and did embroidery for many years until her eyesight deteriorated.

The Ukrainian (Catholic) Church in North Melbourne has always been important to Melania. Her main interests were her home and family. She loved her vegetable garden and the fruit trees in their backyard. For many years she preserved the fruit and made jam and pickled cucumbers.

Melanya's family who are now living are her son Jaroslav (67 years) and her daughter Odaria (66 years). Melania has three grandchildren (Andrew, Natalia and Julia), and two great-grandchildren (Lily and Thomas). Her mother passed away in Ukraine at the age of 83.



EVICA GROSZOW

EVICA WAS THE YOUNGEST OF FOUR CHILDREN

*Evica and sister
Kata Janusko*



*Evica and Vladimir
Groszow*



Evica Groszow (Molnar) was born on 7 April 1937 in Odzaci, in the former Yugoslavia. Evica was the youngest of four children (three girls and a boy). Her mother died when she was only eighteen months old. Her father remarried and the family instantly became larger, with her stepmother already having two boys of her own from her first marriage.

Evica's youth was not easy; she married at a young age. At seventeen she gave birth to her first child, a daughter whom she named Rozalija. Rozalija currently lives in Germany. Four years on, Evica gave birth to her son Janika, and three years later came another son, Stevan. Both sons currently live in Australia.

As she raised her children, Evica worked in all sorts of jobs, but eventually settled into a kindergarten called Radost

(Happiness) in Vukovar, Croatia, where she spent over 20 years working as a chef. This was a perfect place to spend her time, as she loved being around children and the good company of her co-workers. In her spare time, Evica was always gardening. She loved music, dancing and going out to functions.

Once her children had grown up and started their own families, Evica took a trip to Australia in 1991 to visit her sister, Kata Janusko. Here she met a man, Vladimir Groszow, who she fell in love with and soon married. In Australia, she continued her favourite hobbies, gardening and cooking. Evica and her husband regularly visited the Russian club in Yarraville, where they danced and mingled with friends.

After the passing of Evica's husband, her sons both came to

Australia with their children. Her grandchildren, six in total with four already living in Australia, were her priority. Soon she became a great-grandmother to three girls and a boy. Evica's eyes light up when she sees them!

Recently, after dementia took away Evica's immediate memory, she was settled into Kalyna Care. Here she continues to enjoy life, with activities and going on outings. Evica still loves going to functions and dancing, but most importantly spending time with her family. To this day, Evica often takes a walk down memory lane, remembering her days cooking at the kindergarten and gardening in her home in Sunshine. Recently her sister Kata joined her in Kalyna Care, and it is a joy to see the only two living siblings so close together.

ORESTIS STOIKOS

IN 1963, SOON AFTER I MARRIED MY WIFE IN THE VILLAGE, I CAME TO AUSTRALIA ON THE *PATRICE*.

I was born in Cerevo, Northern Greece, on 15 May 1938. My mother's name was Lena, and my father's name was Milan. He was a farmer. My brothers and sisters (eldest first) are Pande (deceased), Vasil (deceased), Niko and Boris (deceased). My paternal grandparents were Milan and Nunna. I grew up in a simple village. As for many others, times were tough, but we were happy. I went to school for three years only due to the Second World War. Once I was old enough, I would help my older brothers with the sheep and cows.

My father passed away when I was three years old. My mother struggled to raise five boys, but had the help and support of my paternal grandparents and other relatives.

As I did not have a formal education, I became a shepherd like most of the boys in my village. To earn extra money I helped herd the sheep for family and friends. I had a working dog named Sharko; he would help me herd the sheep. I was very fond of my village life. We were poor, but we were happy and had respect for our family and friends.

In 1963, soon after I married my wife in the village, I came to Australia on the *Patrice*. My father-in-law had been in Australia since 1937. He paid for the trip to Australia for myself and my wife's daughter.



Orestis Stoikos

I had two children: Loui, born 1964, and Helen, born 1965.

A self-taught handyman, I always found things to do around the home. I also helped many of my friends by building outdoor pergolas, painting houses etc. No money was exchanged as I was happy to help out.

Our social life was busy as we would always be visiting family or friends. I was a member of a Macedonian organisation for over 30 years. I would attend dinners, dances, picnics, day trips, and overnight trips with my family. I love traditional Macedonian music. I enjoyed the music so much that I would find myself whistling a tune or two.

I lost my wife in 1995, aged 61. It was hard but I had the support of my son, his wife and my daughter's family.

My son passed away in 2001, aged 37. My health slowly declined after this tragedy. The support and love from my daughter, son-in-law and, most of all, my only two grandchildren, Daniel and Deanne, kept me going.

These days, I enjoy watching animal programs on the National Geographic channel. I also enjoy folk dancing programs (Slavic).

I now need assistance at meal time for eating as well as drinking. I eat most foods. I don't like plain bread and beetroot soup. I cannot eat unpeeled fruit. I like to have clean clothes, clean bedsheets, and a clean room and bathroom. I like to be clean-shaven with teeth brushed. I can no longer shower myself so need assistance.

THEODORE WINNICKI

IMMIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR.



Theodore Winnicki



Visiting relatives in Ukraine, circa 1988

Theodore was born in Ukraine, in 1920. He immigrated to Australia after the Second World War. He found work in Tasmania before settling in Melbourne.

Theodore was a hard worker. He enjoyed gardening, socialising with friends at dance parties, fishing and playing chess. He never married but he did have two de facto relationships.

One of his regrets would be not getting married and having a family.

Theodore has always been grateful to have settled in Australia. However, he still reminisces about the 'Old Days' in Ukraine and how he misses his parents and siblings.

It was a difficult time when

Theodore's friend Victor passed away, as they were like brothers.

Theodore was honoured and shocked that Victor's wife, Luba, asked for Theodore to give away her daughter when she got married.

Theodore can be described as headstrong with a healthy sense of humour and a love for life.

New Year's Eve party at 4 Kent St, Yarraville



KLARCHEN (KLARA) AHR

KLARA WAS BORN IN GERMANY IN 1937.



Cairns, July 1991

Klarchen, who prefers to be called Klara, was born in Germany in 1937. She was married to Guenter Ahr, who has passed away. Klara had very good neighbours in St Albans. She worked at Taubmans paint factory for some years.

Klara loved life, dancing, going to parties and having a social drink and meal with friends. She was very sociable. She loved her garden in St Albans (see the picture of flowers she helped grow). She often filled her house with flowers.

Klara also loved to travel with friends. She went to Cairns in 1991, Port Fairy in 1998 and the Gold Coast in 1999 with her husband Guenter.



MARIA MELYNK

MARIA LOVES MUSIC AS IT MAKES HER FEEL HAPPY.



Maria was born in Ukraine on 12 April 1924. Her mother's name was Anna and she worked with people. Her father's name was Kim. Maria was the youngest of six children: Maranka, Nistra, Yelca, Anna, Vaslil and Maria.

Maria's mother passed away when she was four years old. Maria does not remember a lot about her. Maria's father looked after her; she was spoilt by her father, as she was the youngest. Others would smack her, but never her father. Maria went to school for only a short time. She left Ukraine for Germany at the age of twelve.

Maria's first job was in Germany, working on a farm, milking cows, feeding animals etc. She enjoyed working on the farm as it offered many different tasks.

Maria married her husband Joseph in Germany at the age of 21 or 22. The two were introduced to each other at a dance. They had one son, Roger, who was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. Roger studied Psychology at Melbourne University. This made Maria very proud and happy for her son.

As a younger woman, Maria liked to look after her son by cooking and by cleaning the home. Being a mother to Roger was a full-time job, so Maria didn't have a lot of time for social activities. Every day she would collect her son from the bus stop. She also liked to listen to music.

Maria had to leave Germany due to the war. She was poor and needed money, and that is why she came to Australia. Her husband passed away due to an accident at a sugar refinery.

Maria has no family to look after her, as sadly both her husband and her son have passed away. She loves music as it makes her feel happy. She watches television and listens to radio, and she likes to watch shows on dancing and history. She enjoys talking to people, and likes to go on outings and to church. She also enjoys reading the Bible and other books. Maria does not like it when people are ignored – she wants everyone to help one another.







In memory of
Maja Hrudka
1925 - 2014



UKRAINIAN ELDERLY PEOPLES HOME







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