



Mrs Sein Jun Lowe

January 10, 1930 - March 18, 2020

Passed away with dignity on 18th March 2020;

Beloved wife of Edward Yin Chee Lowe (Deceased);

Adored mother of Lorraine, Janette, Rhonda, Hilton, Vivienne & Melissa;

Cherished Daughter of Jong & Hung Wan Leong (Deceased)

Loved mother-in-law of Michael Bambridge, Michael Reiners;

Cherished grandmother of Bradley, Jung, Holly, Rory, Coco, Jarred, Lucienne, Luca, Bodhi, Sienna;

Aged 90 Years. Will be sadly missed and forever in our hearts.

Eulogy by Rhonda Lunn (Daughter)

Mum was a glamorous and smart woman, wife to Eddie for nearly 7 decades, mother to 6 children, grandmother to 10 and great-grandmother to 4.

She was an extremely loving family person – not just regarding our nuclear family but also the extended family, including ancestors.

As the eldest child of six to father- Jong Yin Leong & mother - Hung Wan Leong, Mum was born in Canton (Guang Zhou), China.

She loved her studies and would have liked to continue beyond high school, but events such as the war curtailed those plans. Her fear of war was punctuated by two major attacks. One was the Japanese attack within her mother's home at the age of 12 and trying to hide from soldiers into the mountains. The next was with the civil war, as the Communists fought and won against the Nationalists— with a home invasion from the Communist soldiers.

In 1947, at the age of 17, she married our Dad, Eddie. Eddie had been in Australia at 16 years of age, completed his Leaving certificate year in Newcastle at Marist Brothers School & had been managing his father's business after his father passed.

Dad returned to China to marry Mum after the war. He flew her at great expense to Hong Kong for their honeymoon and together they lived in China for 2 years. Hearing that his manager in Australia was sick, Eddie had to return to Australia early. So, Mum was left to make the long journey by ship to Australia, pregnant with their first child (Lorraine) in 1949. Her mother asked another gentleman who was also travelling to be her chaperone.

In Australia, (as discovered 50 years later, in a Chinese letter on blue aerogram paper from Dad ..) she was to be met by him as the boat arrived in Brisbane, Queensland & he would take her to see a doctor and then travel to Newcastle, 800kms south in NSW. There, he had bought her a brand new, fully furnished house.

Though concerned about going to a foreign country, a new life of opportunities

opened for her; cushioned by a caring husband who had already lived in Australia during the war years and had established himself, his business & friends.

Preferring to be with Dad & not left in the suburbs with 2 young children, she asked Dad to fix up a room above the Steel Street shop in town, so they could stay together during the work week.

Community minded & generous: They consistently sent money back 'Home' to China for family members and community projects.

Mum & Dad loved to dance. Asked when she actually started dancing, Mum replied: When Dad's former Marist teacher only had a bike to ride about town, they organized ballroom dancing classes to raise money for a car. They raised two thousand pounds for a Mercedes for Father Hillary.

Within a few years, Dad then helped Mum's parents & siblings to migrate to Australia. Mum's father & 2 brothers, Raymond & Robert, arrived one year. Mum's mother & Mother-In Law, our grandmother Lowe - Dad's mother, arrived together in 1952 with Mum's two younger sisters, Elaine & Brenda. Her youngest brother, Nelson was later born in Newcastle.

She mixed with many social groups in the years to come, but in the early days, when English lessons were difficult keep up with, whilst having two toddlers at home, she often spoke to the Chinese market traders across the road from the Steele St shop, as well as the Chinese garden market farmers in Maitland. When her father was to arrive from China and she knew she wasn't able to cook for him, Mum said they decided to open a Chinese restaurant. They went those Maitland garden markets to choose the first chefs for the Khing Doo Cafe, located in Beaumont St Hamilton.

It was Grandmother Lowe- Lee See Lowe, who lived with them in New Lambton, who proved to be the ideal babysitter, making it possible for Mum to go to work.

Her English improved as she worked long hours alongside Dad in the business. Her Chinese traditions mixed in with her newfound Australian lifestyle.

Never abandoning her cultural upbringing in China, she mingled such knowledge as the reading of face & body features to discern a person's character, feng shui and numerous herbal remedies, including the then dreaded Bitter black Tea -giving us children the promise of bit of rock sugar afterwards to expel the taste. She and her mother, Grandmother Leong would spend many hours discussing their dreams – often of the ancestors to decipher their true meaning, and continued Bai Sarn at the cemetery, where we paid homage to those who had passed: definitely an important ritual.

She was very industrious in work and play. As Yuen War, Dad's company, was an importing company for Chinese products, Mum created space in half the shop for other Chinese wares, such as 'Cheongsams, children's clothes & anything I wanted ..' she added, 'bowls and chopstick, fans..' etc. Items both for family use as well as for selling, and eventually for the restaurant, The Eastern Restaurant, which they opened next door in 1964.

As in Chinese tradition, she taught us respect for elders, expected young arrivals at the house all to come up to her to first greet her. Proud of her heritage, Mum taught us to speak Chinese: how?- by not answering us until we spoke Chinese. She provided Chinese lessons to read and write after school in primary school.. yes whilst friends waited to play outside! well, it was compulsory really.

Many trips to China were made after China opened its doors to ex-pat Nationalists. She was able to return with Dad and her mother to see her grandmother and aunt & families.

Whilst raising 6 children, she worked hard and long hours alongside her husband, Eddie - her life partner & champion. They continued in the restaurant business in Sydney's Chinatown, having moved to Sydney in the 1970's.

Sometimes we wonder how she found time to show her talents and creativity, like sewing and knitting, art and dance & exercise. Mum also loved music and singing. Whenever she was home, either Chinese opera played on red LP records or her singing Chinese songs would fill the home and as Janette says, 'We will remember your exotic singing in our ears forevermore!' - especially as recently we have caught her laughing and singing little songs we remembered from our childhood. In the early years of motherhood, she also sewed dresses for all us children, nieces and friends. She made ballet tutus with velvet petals & sequins for ballet eisteddfods & found time to knit herself mohair cardigans.

It was after retirement that she sought to educate herself at Randwick & North Sydney TAFE for English classes as well as art, woodwork, tile mosaic lessons classes. She thrived on learning - Had a Chinese/ English dictionary by her table to look up new words she heard on tv.

She took up tennis, swimming - could do 39 laps, went to South Juniors in Kensington with Dad for Ball room dancing - weekly escalating to 6 days a week, sometimes travelling to Rockdale, North Sydney & Burwood venues by car or train.

She loved going to Tai Chi, Chi Gong, Falan Goong, as she believed in the health benefits as well as liked the social aspect of these classes.

Mum played Mah Jong with Dad & friends a lot at home in New Lambton on weekends, then later, at Beatty St in retirement days, where we witnessed 10 hour stints with lunch & dinner breaks.

Yearly, Mum went with Dad to Surfers Paradise to their timeshare with a group of 6 or 7. Along with them was always packed a Mah Jong set! Some of these were friends from old school days. She often went to reunions in China to meet up with the schoolmates and they established a group in Australia – the Chung Sarn Society to raise money for projects back in China.

Apart from trips to Hong Kong & China, Mum travelled with Dad to San Francisco, L.A. & Hawaii in the USA, to Italy, France & England & to New Zealand and Thailand. They enjoyed many short and long cruises with family and friends to places such as New Caledonia and Fiji.

Social butterfly, a galloping horse always making friends: Mum was a kind & generous woman. We often came home to Christmas to find mum had invited different friends who had no family to celebrate with. During the Newcastle era, they were Lions Club members who donated to charity.

For the yearly Lions Club Ball, Mum would order a new custom made, beautiful, silk cheongsam dress from Hong Kong, adorn herself in wedding diamonds, depart with Dad in a tux - leaving like a princess, we thought, a waft of Chanel No 5 trailing behind her.

Together with her former Chinese schoolfriends in the Chung San Society in Sydney's Chinatown, she was an eager and active member who often volunteered to organise trips to China and to raise money for projects in their region.

Many overseas university student boarders from Asia still keep in touch with

letters & cards. Recently a Japanese friend living in Hong Kong, who sent her a card to get in touch, mentioned they met at TAFE, so many years ago.

In later years, Mum looked after Dad at home together with the help of carers and family. She drove to Chinatown and their favourite club, South Junior's, until she reluctantly had to give up the car. Then together, they managed to get about by train and buses.

Even when Dad had Alzheimers, Mum kept him active and interested, going to regular dance sessions with lifts from Charlie and Joyce, and playing Mah Jong at home with Jeff & Marg. We were astounded that even with Alzheimers, muscle memory kicked in & he still knew how to dance.

When Dad went to St Brigid's Care around the corner, Mum was able to walk there to visit him every day for the most of the three and half years. Later she was driven there often by carers.

It was an extremely sad and painful loss for her when he passed away. With the onset of Alzheimers, her memory would lapse only to suddenly recall his passing and that in turn proved excruciating sadly for all of us as that repeatedly happened.

Mum loved 'company' and she was a social being. How did we forget? We had been concerned how she would get on, when she eventually also went to St Brigid's when she also required high care. However, we found that she was better cared for- the constant warm temperature soothed her arthritic aches and so did the warmth of socialising with more than just family. It was new company and a captive audience in other residents as well a bevy of nurses & young carers. She liked to converse and was even proud of herself for teaching some of the carers to count in Chinese. She often mellowed in good cheer, momentarily forgetting any aches & pains.

Mum was able to show off her children & grandchildren, great grandchildren who constantly visited & never ceased to make her glow with pride.

Remembering how we would ask what she would like for her birthday or Christmas, she would always reply:

Nothing better than good children.. -‘ ah summon jay gwi lah, Ho lah!’. I think she did get what she wished for!

Mum had a long and fulfilling life – one which was brimming with much joy and happiness- with many witnesses to her buoyant good nature amongst her family and friends, persons of all ages & from many countries. Most amongst whom can't be here to due to the worldwide restrictions of this time, have kindly sent their condolences, wishing her to rest in peace.

We thank you all.

Previous Events

Burial Service

APR 8 (AEST)

Rookwood Anglican & General Cemetery
Hawthorne Ave
Rookwood, NSW 2141 (AU)
<http://www.rookwoodcemetery.com.au/>

Funeral Service

APR 8 (AEST)

Rookwood Memorial Gardens (West Chapel)
Memorial Ave
Rookwood, NSW 2141 (AU)
<http://www.rookwoodcrem.com.au>

Tribute Wall

DA

“ *I'm sad to hear about the passing of Aunty Jun. I'll always remember her fondly and as someone who was generous and with good sense of style. Love from her nephew Daniel*



Daniel - April 18, 2020 at 10:00 PM

VL

“ *Saddened to hear of Aunty Jun's passing. Condolences to all of the family. Will always be remembered with a smile and love in our hearts.*
Vanessa, Danny, Myles and Zac



Vanessa Leong - April 11, 2020 at 07:29 PM

ME

“ *In loving memory of our dear Aunty Jun.*
Nathan, Melinda and Daniel



Melinda - April 11, 2020 at 08:12 AM

“*Sein Jun was my dear Por Por. A charming, witty, charismatic lady, steadfast in her opinion and heightened sense of style.*

Por Por, I have so many wonderful memories of you from growing up in your home in Beatty Street. I loved staying with you, sleep on a mattress at the foot of your bed, eating your wonderful food and marvelling at your wardrobe overflowing with bold prints and shimmering fabrics. To a small girl, you were somewhat mesmerizing. I remember being particularly enchanted by your dresser crowded with creams and jewellery, hair curlers, combs and bobby pins. Your dedication to glamour throughout all your days was awe-inspiring.

Por Por, you let me stay up late to watch TV and cooked prawn crackers for me a treat, routinely buying char siu as you knew it was my favourite. I will always remember this, just as I will remember how you used paper to take the oil off the top of your soup, and the way you heaped sugar into your dainty little teacup. These are small memories but they will remain dear to my heart.

I was truly grateful to have been able to spend time with you as an adult when Frank and I, and our newborn son Bo moved in to Beatty Street to help care for you. It was an honour to learn more about your youth spent in China, to gain a better appreciation for your intelligence, your determination and your lifetime full of achievements. It was so interesting speaking to you as a mother, having had 6 children of your own.

Thank you for the time we shared together, for the dresses you made me, the innumerable family feasts you hosted, and for developing my appreciation for Chinese food and restaurants - I am committed to passing this down to Bo and Mia.

You will forever be in my heart, and I will think of you fondly whenever I look at my hands (just like yours), and each and every time I smell white pepper.

We love you and we will miss you deeply, Holly, Frank, Bo and Mia.

Holly Lowe - April 07, 2020 at 07:03 PM

BR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Brenda S Revell - April 07, 2020 at 05:55 PM

PT

“ *Paul Tombleson lit a candle in memory of Mrs Sein Jun Lowe*



Paul Tombleson - April 07, 2020 at 09:46 AM

PT

“ It is with sincere regret I hear of the passing of Sein-jun. Jun was called ‘po po’ 婆婆 or the anglicization version, por por and later tai por to my son and grandsons.

To me, however, she will always be known as the Yin as in Yin-Yang of the Lowe family. A strong woman who blended the old world with the new. Who helped forge a fledgling immigrant family and business in a foreign land into a success while lifting others along the way to do the same.

While she has passed from our view, her words and deeds live on along with her uncompromising spirit.

R.I.P 婆婆

Paul Tombleson

Paul Tombleson - April 07, 2020 at 09:41 AM

JC

“ Jun was so elegant and such a hostess - even when I met her only 13 years ago.

I distinctly remember a day when we were chatting and she started talking about when she was first married. It seems she was wise at a young age, being able to fit in with Eddie's family with grace and respect. Hearing about the way China was in those days was so fascinating.

Sending our condolences to the whole Lowe family who have embraced Darius and me as part of the family, which I value so highly.

Jun was a true matriarch and her passing seems to signal the end of an era.

*Much love,
Jane and Darius*

Jane Caldwell - April 07, 2020 at 08:48 AM

ET

“ For Dai Ga :

“Jun” signified a 'Pearl beyond Price', according to our father. Jun was greatly loved in our family, the Leongs of Khing Doo Restaurant, Newcastle. Dad would pay for her items when she accompanied us to the shops – for fabric, clothes – a thick winter coat from David Jones even.

She and Eddie were our entree into a charmed life with a Debutante's Ball, (Jun dazzling in a Parisian styled gown), outings such as at King Edward Park with its towering Norfolk Pine trees and many happy sleepover days. I was eight then and life with Dai Ga was a ball,;.

If my father was the best dressed man in town according to our solicitor (Mr Cannington) and Mr Mitchell (another Newcastle notable) with his bespoke Italian suits and two-toned shoes- this was pre-Valentino days- then Jun was the pearl of the Orient, in her sleek Pontiac, doing a probably illegal U-turn in broad daylight in the main street, Hunter Street. Newcastle. Anyway, Eddie seemed to know everyone who was anyone in the local constabulary, in those days!

In all this good fortune (and two grandmothers on stand-by) it happened that Eddie wanted a son. So after bearing the three girls in quick succession, Jun dutifully obliged, bearing a boy, Hilton. For his part, like the devoted husband he was, Eddie always deferred to Jun, as she would (often) call out, with prolonged emphasis on the first syllable – “Ed -ward “.

As they got older, Jun now living close to mum and dad, did volunteer work at the Chungshan Association, (Sydney) always gracious with a ready smile. With her wit and charm, a hard act to follow was our Sein Jun. Unforgettable.

Thanks for the Memories, Dai Ga. We miss you so very much.

Elaine,

Nee Leong Sein Mee.

Elaine Teoh - April 07, 2020 at 07:53 AM

GL

“ A very much loved, elder in my extended family... Thank you Aunty Jane ...kum por... You were so kind and beautiful, inside and out... Thank you for being family to me... Love Glenda, Lum siu guin... xx
ox

Glenda Lum - April 07, 2020 at 01:27 AM

CE

“ Dear Lowe family, my deepest condolences for your loss. Your mother always had a smile for us when we were together. She will be remembered as a warm and embracing lady who we will miss. Cecilia Chin and family.



Cecilia - April 06, 2020 at 06:55 AM

CR

“ Dear Vivienne,
I will always have lovely memories of your mum. She was always kind and welcoming when I came to stay .She was the most elegant lady I had ever met! A fantastic cook and hard worker. My thoughts are with you and your family
Regards
Carmel Ramsey

Carmel Ramsey - April 05, 2020 at 11:04 PM

SR

“ Sein Jun Lowe was my “Dai Gah- “my Big Sister .She was the leader of the pack of six children and went on to have six kids . Together,she and mum created a magic number of twelve kids -the Leongs and the Lowes.

Now, our safety circle is diminished .Sein Jun graced the earth with her charm, glamour and indomitable woman power.

A survivor of the Japanese Occupation ,she was smart in the two cultures she wove together .She was literate in Chinese and later learnt English . The consummate business woman ,she was both intelligent and socially skillful .

My first memory when I arrived in Australia was of a beautiful lady in a bejeweled ball gown .She was the original working mother and devoted to Eddie, her lifelong sweetheart husband. They had a 1960’s baby blue Pontiac Cadillac . She’d stick her hand out the window for me to kiss goodbye after they had dropped her kids off for a sleepover. I would obediently kiss that elegant hand with red nails.

She would speed around Newcastle and when stopped by the cops would say in her incredulous high pitched voice -

“Oh, Solly ! I din’ know !! “

Jun was a great cook and became the matriarch of our family - the Boss-Lady . “Dai Gah!” I would have to address her, signifying my status as younger sister . “Hay Ah-Moi - It’s little girl “ I would say . Eddie would laugh - “ It doesn’t matter how old she gets, she’s always Ah Moi !! “ ..I’m still playing catch up .

Thank you, Big Sister . Let me kiss your hand farewell ,until we meet again at the round table with our beloved family .

I offer tea, incense and love .

Brenda Sein Yin Revell

Sinan Revell - April 05, 2020 at 12:09 AM

“Mrs Lowe was my great aunt (Shu-por). Together with my great uncle (Shu-gong), the late Eddie Lowe, they had been the most generous persons in my life and they had changed my life, for which I am forever grateful.

I first met Shu-por and Shu-gong in China. My eyes were lit up by this handsome and elegant couple. I still remember Shu-por's bright dresses, some with beautiful patterns. The relatives gathered for a lovely dinner and chatted till late. It was lovely.

Somehow I must have made a good impression. A couple of years later, Shu-por and Shu-gong invited me to study in Australia. They took me into their home as if I was their own daughter.

Shu-por was a great cook and prepared scrumptious dinners for the whole family. I took on the task of washing dishes and had a reputation for breaking many of them. She loved her cup of tea. Over tea, she told me stories from the old days in her witty and humble way, always with smiles and appreciation of what she experienced.

Shu-por was always there to give me support and advice. She found me my first job in Australia. She was there when I graduated from university. She was there when I bought my first home and she helped with the post-auction negotiation.

Shu-por was a stylish lady, always immaculately dressed and softly spoken. But she never told me to put on make-up or dress up. She accepted me as who I was and I really appreciated it.

Shu-por was a kind person, always concerned about others' well-being. She told me about the Peanut King in Newcastle, a family business where they worked when she first arrived in Australia. "There was a table in the shop and there was always a pot tea on the table", she said, "for the old Chinese ladies to come in and have a chat", she smiled, "it was nice for them to get out of the house

while their children are at work”.

Highly educated in China for those days, Shu-por was an intelligent lady and was very skilled with words, something I yet to master. Once I observed them at a rent negotiation meeting. She was such a tough negotiator, yet in such a gentle and friendly manner.

I learnt many skills and virtues from Shu-por over the years which had made me a better person. I hope that in heaven, Shu-gong and Shu-por can be proud of me. I will forever be grateful for their kindness and love.

And thank you for offering me your wonderful family, which I will always love as my own.

Rebecca



Rebecca - April 04, 2020 at 07:33 AM

JM

“ To Lorraine, Janette, Rhonda, Hilton, Vivienne and Melissa.
Your lovely mother was much loved by our family.
We have many happy memories, she was so welcoming to everyone when we came to her home.
We will greatly miss her.
Thinking of you all at this sad time.
Our condolences also to the extended Lowe and Leong families.
Jenny, Milo, Dane and Astrid.



Jennifer Mew - April 02, 2020 at 11:52 PM

RL

Thank You Jenny and family. You and your parents were spoken of so fondly by mum, even very recently. Rx

Rhonda Lunn - April 03, 2020 at 07:53 PM

JA

Thank you Jennifer, what a lovely snapshot of that wonderful world my and your parents shared together.ove always Janette

janette - April 03, 2020 at 08:54 PM

DY

“ Dear Melissa, Vivienne, Hilton and Family,

I am so sorry for your loss. Sein Jun was so full of life. I have many fond memories of friendship and travel with her and Eddie.

With Love and Sympathy

Mrs Eng Young and family.



David Young - March 31, 2020 at 09:23 PM

TG

“ To all the Lowe family, our condolences for your loss. Your mother always had a smile for us when we were together. She will be remembered as a warm and embracing lady who we will miss, love Tracy, Dave and Michelle

Tracy Greer - March 30, 2020 at 10:41 PM

AL

“ Alexandra And Staff, TFW See & Lee lit a candle in memory of Mrs Sein Jun Lowe



Alexandra and Staff, TFW See & Lee - March 29, 2020 at 07:27 PM

RL

Thank You Alex. Your father was also a great friend to mum and dad. Mum always remembered him.

Rhonda Lunn - April 03, 2020 at 07:57 PM

LI

“ *Dear Lorraine, Janette, Rhonda, Hilton, Vivienne & Melissa,*

Our deepest condolences to you and to the Lowe extended family.

Your mum and your dad have been very kind and generous to me, during my stay at their place and after I have my own family. They were and still are my Aussie parents and I would not be a person that I am today, if not for their help and kindness.

We will pray for her and Eddie.

LB, Teque, Saskia and Clara Irawan



LB Irawan - March 28, 2020 at 04:13 AM

EK

Dear Lowe family, my deepest condolences for your loss

Eshrat Karpour - March 29, 2020 at 12:30 AM

RL

thank you LB for your kind words. Mum was always thrilled to see you and your lovely family too-Rx

Rhonda Lunn - April 03, 2020 at 08:00 PM

RL

Thank you Eshrat for your kind and wonderful home caring for mum for all those years-Rhonda

Rhonda Lunn - April 03, 2020 at 08:01 PM

JA

dear LB, thank you so much for being a part of our family and receiving the wonderful welcoming grace that my parents extended to all. I know you especially reciprocated their hospitality.

janette - April 03, 2020 at 09:02 PM

JS

“ *Dear Vivienne,*

Peter and I would like to express our deepest sympathy to you, Michael and all of your family at this very sad time.

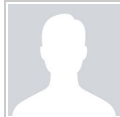
*Much love,
Jan and Peter*

Jan Shaw - March 27, 2020 at 09:42 PM

RT

*Dear Rhonda and Jung,
I'd like to send my deep condolences to you and your family on the passing of your mum and grandmother, love Rena and family.*

Rena Tsiros - March 28, 2020 at 01:07 AM



Dear Rhonda,

Please accept our deepest sympathy to you and the family on the passing of your mum. She will be greatly missed,

love from Wei Ting and Phil Jennings and Leong family

Weiting Jennings - March 28, 2020 at 03:12 AM

RL

*Thank you Rena for your thoughts and support. you are a great friend,
Rx*

Rhonda Lunn - April 03, 2020 at 08:04 PM

RL

*Thank you WeiTing, Phil &all, a sad passing, but as memories flood
whilst creating the tribute eulogy for next wed, a joyous and full life. (to
be posted soon0 Rhondax*

Rhonda Lunn - April 03, 2020 at 08:19 PM