

VALE

William David (Dave) Elliot

1931 - 18th May 2012

William David Elliot was born at Kogarah on the 20th December 1930, to Laura and William Elliott. He was the eldest of four children. He has three sisters Beth, Enid and Nerida. David grew-up in Arncliffe. He would often mention how he would go to school barefoot as his parents couldn't afford to buy him shoes. He left school at the age of 15 and went to work in a factory as an apprentice sewing machine mechanic. It was about this time that he met Ruth as they both belonged to a youth club.

A friend asked David if he would like to 'go' with Ruth. He looked down at her and said, "OK, but she's a bit little." Ruth was 14 and David was 16. This was the beginning of a wonderful reunion which lasted 65 years.

David and Ruth were married at Arncliffe on the 1st June 1955. They had two beautiful children Kerry and Greg who later presented them with seven magnificent grandchildren, Leah, Paul, Leonie, Christopher, Kate, Laura and Elsie.

David decided he didn't want to be a sewing machine mechanic after all and with his best friend Hartley, he joined the air force in 1949. He loved being in the air force and he was so sad when he had to leave, although he remained in the air force reserve for 32 years.

When he was 12 years of age, David joined the Australian Air League and devoted many years to the organisation. He enjoyed the parades and joint activities and rose to the rank of Chief Commissioner before he retired.

David was an avid St George follower until he moved to Seven Hills then he barracked for Parramatta. This used to upset his brother-in-law, Ged, who loved St George and accused dad of being a traitor. When the two teams were playing against each other there were always friendly arguments over which was the better team.

David loved to organise trips. He would get out paper and pen and would say, "I'm just going to work-out a trip to and he would be occupied for days working-out the mileage etc. He would ring me every other day to tell me about his latest plan which included everything from petrol stops to motels all of which was written-up in his beautiful handwriting. He would drive off with a smile ear-to-ear and say, "I love being on the open road!"

In 2000, with Ruth, Kerry, Christopher and Katie, he went on a trip to his favourite country, England. David loved England and he would often sit on the front verandah of the holiday house and daydream about the time he spent there and the other trips he used to go on.

David hated spiders and cockroaches and if he saw any he would get out the insect spray until he either killed them, or rather, drowned them in an entire can of Mortein. He would say, "Gotcha you 'B'."

He couldn't be trusted to do the gardening. His motto was, "If it's green, pull it out!"

He loved to do the washing and, Gordon, our next door neighbour would torment him over the fence. When he had a ramp put in the back, Gordon wrote in the wet cement, "Dave loves washing."

His pet sayings were:

"I like a coffee after meals."

"What's the weather going to be today?"

"He's been doing that since Pontius was a pilot."

When Greg and I were children, dad terrorised us and all the neighbourhood with threats of contracting 'Fantoss'. Whenever we came up to show him a cut or had a pain somewhere he would shake his head and say, "Oh no, I think you might have Fantoss of the left kneecap or right toenail." I finally asked him what fantoss was, but unfortunately, mum has banned me from repeating it so it will have to remain an Elliott family mystery.

On a trip to Tasmania, the entire family was discussing what we would do when mum finally won lotto. When we got to dad instead of saying buy a new house or car, he replied, "I'm going to get my knees done." When we asked why, he said, "So that I can wear a kilt." We all laughed hysterically until we realised that he wasn't laughing. He was serious. He was most indignant and walked off.

David was a loyal friend to all who knew him. He was honest as the day is long. He would never do anything that wasn't right. If Ruth or the children drove into the wrong entrance to a car park he would just about have a fit.

David was a member of the Masonic Lodge for many years and was committed to his Masonry. On the 7th May he was presented with a medal for 50 years as a member of the Masonic Lodge.

David was a loving wonderful husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather and he will be sorely missed by all of us. We love you with all our hearts, Dad.