

## VALE - SUSAN CRAWFORD (SCARF) Year 1956

From classmates Geraldine Wegner (Elliott), Sue Milliken, Carolyn Chown (Cropper) Jan Bowen (Oldfield) Helen Walne (Adams)

It is with great sadness that we write of the passing of our dear Susan (Sue), whom we all called Pud. She had battled cancer for some time and succumbed in February this year leaving behind two sons, Clyde and Donald, Clyde's wife CASSIE with whom she had a close relationship, and two granddaughters Carys and Ella whom she adored. In her latter years Sue devoted all her time to her family, playing bridge at competition level in her spare time. Always focussed on her fitness, once she retired from her work as a Careers Advisor at Hornsby Girls High, she enjoyed swimming daily at a pool near her home on the Northern Beaches of Sydney.

In recent years Sue had eschewed all reunions and get-togethers organised by the girls so Geraldine, Sue Milliken and Joan Surgeoner (Sutton) paid a surprise visit to her home and gave a rendition of "Girls of the Grammar School" on her front doorstep. That certainly got Sue's attention and they enjoyed an hour of chat and coffee - that was about four years ago and it was sadly the last time any of us saw her.

She did maintain phone contact with some of us and as recently as December 2010 when she completed her chemotherapy treatment, she was stoic and positive on the phone to Helen, making jokes about her plans following recovery.

The overriding memory we all have of her is her wonderful sense of humour, a sense of the ridiculous, and her great laugh. Her face lit up with an enormous smile. She was a gentle woman given to compassion and introspection. Her family background was Syrian and, in line with the old traditions of that custom, Sue was conservative to the point where she believed daughters played an accepted role within the family. However, being highly intelligent and clever, she achieved a teaching degree at Sydney University and followed this career all her life.



Scenes of Sue acting up with Judy Friend (Cameron) Helen Walne (Adams) during Saturday bedlinen changing on the verandah Senior Dorm...taken by Sue Milliken



Geraldine (Wegner) writes of their friendship:

At school I was impressed by Sue's easy going nature, sense of humour and friendliness to all which meant a lot to me being the new girl on the block. I remember her wonderful rendition of Winifred Atwell on the piano at a school concert in the dining room. □ Another school memory was our mad dash to Sydney to apply for our Teachers College scholarships. We missed the train at Moss Vale and had to chase it by taxi to Bowral, just making it as it pulled out from the station. Very dramatic for a couple of girls in blue but a fun day and a great escape from school for the day. □ After completing our training, teaching for three years and travelling, we caught up again and flatted together in Woollahra where we had many fun times, parties, met our future husbands and became each others bridesmaids.



Our children were born and Sue was Godmother to my youngest son. □ When our children were young, to maintain our sanity we started a weekly Solo school with Mrs Scarf Senior, my mother and two other friends and travelled from Eastern Suburbs and Beverly Hills to Mosman and Newport to play. We must have been keen especially as we had to pack up children, cots and bottles and be at our destinations by 10:30 am. I think these card days must have fostered Sue's future love of Bridge. □ □ We lost contact for many years before Sue died and I am sorry that this happened but pleased to hear she had much pleasure from her grandchildren, sons and daughter in law who I'm sure, miss her greatly.

