

Heartfelt words for my SF

I'm so grateful to have known and loved my dear friend...Sweet Felicity.

We shared a love of laughter, people, wine and food and... dogs

About 15 years ago we met through the Australian Society of Wine Education.

We would see each other across the room at wine tastings.

Our friendship flourished after a wine education conference in Brisbane. It had been a long afternoon tasting fortified wines. On our return flight to Melbourne we sat together at the back of the plane like naughty school girls swapping stories, giggling and laughing.

She had many gifts, one was to zero in on your funny bone and keep rolling out comments, accents and facial expressions which would escalate the wonderful tension and laughter until you were doubled over with tears rolling down your cheeks.

A few minutes with Felicity was better than an hour with some people!

In 2007 she commenced at WAI as the Vet in schools co-ordinator. I joined WAI shortly afterwards as a teacher. She was a magnificent mentor to me as a 'new teacher' and 'new mother'. Felicity was always generous with her time and encouragement.

There are many people from WAI here today. She enhanced our lives and those of her many students.

Her positive energy, humour, food knowledge, intelligence particularly social intelligence, compassion, inspiration, courage, determination, work ethic, passion for social justice, inclusiveness, sense of style, and eagerness to celebrate were admired throughout the Institute, as Gianna Natarelli says, she has left an indelible mark on our lives.

Such was her popularity at WAI among the 400+ staff members, she was voted onto the institute board as the staff representative.

We admired and supported her fundraising efforts for the GOYA Foundation and the people of Timor Lesté. We celebrated Felicity's great achievement, receiving the Order of Australia Medal for service to International Relations.

Outside of work Felicity and I enjoyed yoga sessions and dog walks.

She knew how important my Chocolate Labradoodle was to me. On Flash's first birthday she brought Richard and Hunny, their long haired Chihuahua over to celebrate. We drank Champagne, enjoyed a delicious dinner which even included a cake from Laurent Bakery with Happy 1st Birthday Flash and a single candle...perfectly normal.

A few weeks ago I held Felicity's hands and said I Love you Felicity, she said I know, I love you too Rozzie. I said, I will sing for you. She said AND drink Pinot AND eat duck so that's what I'm going to do and I encourage you to do the same.

Let's celebrate her wonderful life.