

To 'Pam-pa': Marcus Doumany

On behalf of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I stand here today a most proud and honoured representative – a representative of Pam Barkla's legacy – her 15 grandchildren and, most recently, one great grandchild. Pampa, as she was affectionately known, left an impression on us all. As a grandmother she was a beautiful lady, a compassionate and caring mother figure and a strong woman. It is these virtues that will be carried in our hearts and continue to shape our character long after this day.

Pampa's virtues were born out of actions and sacrifices that we as her grandchildren have all recognised. It amazes me just how closely linked our fondest and most profound memories are as a group – but then again it should not surprise me as her love towards us all was unconditional and without limit.

Pampa was a truly beautiful and genuine lady – As a grandchild I will always remember her as the most gracious host, welcoming all to the hallowed ant bed tennis court of Craigmore. I am sure the adults were probably dabbling in a sip of Pimms, but we were constrained to lime cordial and current pasties. Christmas and Easter, her unparalleled skill as master of ceremonies was once again brought to the fore. With at least 10 children at a time running around - she still managed to pull off the occasion and marshal everyone into the kitchen for wash up duty - given the absence of a dishwasher at old Craigmore - And then herd the family out of the kitchen and around the piano to be swept up in chorus. And when some could not be a part of such festivities, she made sure they did not miss out – Sally and James Barkla lamented so fondly at how a smashed batch of Easter eggs from Australia were more highly prized than any whole egg found in Africa. In fact her manners and organizational skills were such that when taken as a squad of grommets to the pool, a red carpet was laid out to protect tenderfeet from bindies on the lawn. Jane Fox recalled to me how regal she must have looked escorting us all down to the waters edge, only to have us all hobble back up to the house with feet red raw from the cement base of the old Craigmore pool – good thing we were protected from the bindies though. On return from the pool and back inside the house a hot casserole was always prepared, followed by a steaming bowl of rice pudding. Only to then be hypnotized by her skill with the knitting

needle – most likely knitting socks for 15 different sets of feet for 15 different birthdays. She was also a lady who took pride in her garden – although despite all of Pampa's gorgeous bulbs, blossoms and blooms, the one feature of her garden that I will never forget is old man whiskers hanging from the tree at the kitchen entrance to old Craigmores. She was a true lady who behaved with grace and skill.

Pampa was a caring and compassionate grandmother. The Glennie School, Fairholme, Toowoomba Prep and Toowoomba Grammar all knew Mrs Barkla well –for never was an Eisteddfod or Speech Night missed and there was always a spot in the back seat of the old Peugeot when one of her grandchildren needed to be picked up from school. Her care extended far beyond school duties, as all the granddaughters constantly tell me. The pink bathroom at Craigmores played host to many a bath time for us all – and for the girls it was always finished with being bent over Pampa's knee and having a healthy application of talcum powder patted on their bottoms. Looking back I think we all realise just how much she cared for each of us and how much we responded as children to her maternal guidance. We used to follow her like ducklings following mother duck, whether it was while she tended to the garden or brought up eggs from the chook house as children- we were drawn to her and felt safe and loved within her company. But her compassion and care extended far beyond us. Year after year the number of kittens that missed a long bath, after being born under Craigmores's back steps, grew and multiplied due to Pampa's compassion and influence. And indeed her compassion and care have left a resounding influence on all of the fifteen who were touched by her maternal presence.

The final virtue that Pampa exemplified was strength. The courage and fortitude with which she handled herself through her hard times is something we as grandchildren cannot forget. We must not forget that she never complained and never stopped clinging to the life she shared with us all. In carrying on Pampa's legacy we have a duty to ensure we learn from her and when we find ourselves amidst hardship we stand strong and proud for this is what Pam Barkla would have wanted.

The virtues that Pampa exemplified cannot be forgotten. The 15 grandchildren and 1 great grandson that line this chapel today can always draw on her memory as an example of grace,

compassion and strength. If we learn from her example incorporate these virtues in our lives she will never be lost, never far away and always in our hearts and minds.