

DR PAM JOHNSTON

MY BIG 'BLISTER' SISTER

Pauline Mitchell and family

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Red Shoes. Retrieved from Pam Dahl-Helm Johnston's Facebook page

PAM CAME INTO OUR LIVES BACK IN THE MID 1980'S. SHE CAME WITH TWO BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN, DANCE AND KEERA. OVER THE YEARS PAMMY WAS A ROCK TO EVERYONE. IF YOU HAD A PROBLEM THEN RING BIG SIS, AYE, AS SHE KNEW HOW TO LISTEN AND HELP SO MANY PEOPLE. PAM DEVOTED SO MUCH TIME TO OUR MUM, THE LATE GREAT DOCTOR RUBY LANGFORD GINIBI. SHE WOULD CHUCK MUM IN THE CAR AND SAY, 'COME ON WE'RE GOING AWAY FOR A BIT TO GET OUT OF THE CITY'. PAM ALSO PUT TOGETHER A BEAUTIFUL PHOTO DISPLAY OF MUM'S LAST LIVING RELATIVES AT CASINO AND BOX RIDGE MISSION, CORAKI, WHICH WAS PROUDLY EXHIBITED BY THE TWO OF THEM AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN LISMORE MANY YEARS AGO. ONE OF THE BEST TIMES WE ALL HAD TOGETHER WAS MUM'S BIRTHDAY IN 1990 WHEN PAM PICKED HER UP AND DROVE OUT TO MY SISTER AILEEN'S HOUSE IN BIDWELL, MOUNT DRUITT, FOR THE PARTY WE PUT ON. ALL THE FAMILIES WERE THERE HAVING A GREAT TIME. I MADE MUM A BIG FAT CHOCOLATE CAKE TOO. IT WAS A STINKING HOT DAY AND AILEEN DIDN'T HAVE ANY AIR CON. AT THE PARTY MUM STARTED TEARING UP, AS SHE ALWAYS DID, OVER OUR DECEASED SIBLINGS PEARLY, BILLY AND DAVID. THAT WAS IT. WHEN SOMEONE THREW WATER OVER MUM IT WAS ON FOR YOUNG AND OLD, AYE. I REMEMBER PAM RUNNING EVERYWHERE TO HIDE BUT WE ALL GANGED UP ON HER AND DRAGGED HER INTO THE TUB AND SOAKED HER BIG TIME. WE ALL GOT COOLED OFF THAT'S FOR SURE AND I CAN STILL HEAR THE LAUGHTER TODAY. WE CALLED PAM 'MISS PRISSY' BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS LOOKED AMAZING. EVEN WALKING TO THE SHOP TO GET A BOTTLE OF MILK WAS A RED SHOES AND RED LIPSTICK MOMENT. I'M CRYING WRITING THIS BUT I WANT THE WORLD TO KNOW HOW MUCH WE LOVE AND MISS HER STILL.

LOVE ALWAYS, PAULINE MITCHELL AND ALL OF OUR FAMILIES.

Biographical note. Pauline Mitchell is a proud Aboriginal woman from Bundjalung Country north coast of New South Wales, Australia. After having her first daughter Roberta when she was fifteen she handed her baby to her mum Doctor Ruby Langford Ginibi so she could work to make a living. She had second daughter, Kylie, who was born twenty-two months later and her third and last daughter, Tenneil, who was born five years on. Pauline has worked as a Caterer for the Royal Easter Show, Football events and Cricket. She began to work for Aboriginal Home Care looking after Elders where she was poached in 1989 and became an Aboriginal Education Assistant supporting and looking after the Aboriginal Students and the wider Aboriginal Community. Pauline began to attend guest speaker conferences with her mum which empowered her to move to the forefront in Education where she became the Regional Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for Metropolitan West Region. Pauline spent eleven years in Education before moving to the Gold Coast where she became a Cook in Retirement Villages. Pauline is currently working back in Education as a Community Liaison Officer.



Pamela Dahl-Helm Johnston, 2009

Retrieved from Pam Dahl-Helm Johnston's Facebook Page