

Mum was distressed in losing her brother Reg at an early age, followed by sister Molly, brothers Jeffrey and brother Gilbert. Yet more heartache was to come when she lost her daughter Leanne.

For mum and dad the loss of a child was unbearable, and the grieving process for them never ended. Three years later Dad passed away after a short illness, and mum was totally devastated and never fully recovered. She continued going to church and trusting God to lead her. Mums faith was so great that she knew that one day she would be reunited with her family and her God.

Mum continued doing cultural activities with her sisters Enice and Geraldine, and was always willing to give advice on any cultural matters. She was involved in the Anggumathanha Camp Law group, the Adnyamathanha language group, and ATLA to a lesser extent. Mum was a bush woman, she was an incredibly strong woman. She was proud of her Adnyamathanha culture, she loved talking yura ngarwala, her cultural knowledge was infinite. She loved sharing her traditional knowledge and personal experiences. Her last recording was done just this year by her grandson Clayton.

Mum loved her grandchildren, and it was a proud moment when her first granddaughter Lynsey was born. This was followed by Clayton, Joel, Trent, Jessica, Alex, Stephanie, Jane, Imani, Billy, McClay, Toshi and Alinta (deceased). This was followed by the next generation of great grandchildren, Alice, Joseph, Rosie, Maggie, Mikarra, Viohla, William, Jeffrey and Esther.

Mums love for her grandchildren was pure, unconditional and forever.

We celebrate the life of our 81 year old mother, nanna and old nanna.

Mum is survived by her children Sharon, Elizabeth, Maxine, Dennis, Brenda, Mark and John.

Mother in law to Phil, Michael, Dean, Pam and Kylie, special friend of Julian and Karina.

Nanna to Lynsey, Clayton, Joel, Trent, Jessica, Alex, Stephanie, Jane, Imani, Billy, McClay, Toshi and Alinta (deceased).

Old nanna to Alice, Joseph, Rosie, Maggie, Mikarra, Viohla, William, Jeffrey and Esther.

Her sisters Enice Marsh and Geraldine Anderson.

Mum remained a Christian all her life, it's very fitting that God gently took her home to glory on a Sunday, her day of worship.

*SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS*

*In loving memory of  
Mrs Vera Austin*



*Born 5 August 1935*

*Passed 11 December 2016*



This is a tribute to our mother Vera Austin who was a daughter, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great grandmother, a sister, a cousin, an aunty, a sister in law and a mother in law.

Mum was born on the 5 August 1935 at Nepabunna mission, the third child of Wally and Jessie (nee McKenzie) Coulthard. She was born at the Top Camp and was delivered by her grandmother Winnie. She had 3 sisters Molly (deceased) Enice and Geraldine

and 3 brothers Reg, Gilbert and Jeffrey (all deceased).

Mum attended the Nepabunna Mission school and was baptised at age 16. Between the age of 12 & 14 Mum along with some Adnyamathanha children was based within the Mission Dormitory for Christian girls & boys.

Mum was raised according to Camp Law, and followed her customs and culture very strongly. Mum walked all over the Nepabunna hills went swimming in every water hole and went on picnics led by Granny of the Top Camp, older sister Molly and her cousins.

Activities included searching for bush tucker and rabbit trapping. Mum very fondly often spoke of her 2 cousins Maud and Margaret ( Mrs Brown)

Mum helped care for her brothers and sisters and cousins at Nepabunna and out on the stations. Mum taught correspondence lessons to her nephews and sister Geraldine when she was living at John Well.

Mum's first job was at Wertaloon Station, she was the housemaid. And later became the Station cook, cooking for as many as 15 station hands on a weekly basis, this included baking bread and cakes every single day and often helped to milk the cows and look after the station kids – she was never afraid of hard work. It was here at Wertaloon that she met William Austin.

They were married on the 30 November 1957 at Quorn Methodist Church. They moved around a bit living in places like Carrierloo Station, and Mt Serle before returning to settle at Nepabunna.

They had 8 children, Sharon, Elizabeth, Maxine, Leanne (deceased), Dennis, Brenda, Mark and John. Dad mostly worked in stations while mum looked after the children at Nepabunna.

In 1970 the family moved first to Quorn and two years later to Port Augusta to allow their elder children to attend High School. At Port Augusta mum and dad got involved in the Brethren church.

They were lifelong members of this church. Mum in particular established long lasting friendships with Aunty Milly Tanner and Nola Pritchard and Sandra Mercer from New Zealand.

These four ladies travelled all over SA regularly witnessing to women. Mum was also especially close to our Adnyamathanha ladies who attended church, Aunty Sarah Coulthard, Aunty Elsie Jackson and Aunty Rene Mahomed, as well as Aunty Kay McKenzie and Aunty Daphne Lennon.

Although mum had 8 children of her own, she also cared for other children. Rosslyn Coulthard became a part of the family for 2 years until she completed her high school.

Then Rosslyn Jackson joined the family and stayed until adulthood.

The family remained in Port Augusta until 1981. It was then that they received God's calling to work in the Far North Flinders with United Aborigines Mission. So they returned to Copley with their younger children, Leanne, Dennis, Brenda, Mark and John.

Mum especially loved being back at Copley, she was returning home to her country. Along with John and Joyce Graham and Brian and Joy Magor, they commenced the revival of the little Copley church.

Mum loved the fellowship of the Copley church, and the fellowship and just catching up with Aunty Linda and Uncle Gill, Granny Dolly, Aunty Rita, Aunty Lorna, Aunty Doreen, Uncle Les, and Aunty Rosie at Copley. She also loved returning to Nepabunna, and with Uncle Monty and Aunty Martha, they set about strengthening the fellowship at Nepabunna.

She always had a special place in her heart for Nepabunna, it was home. Mum happy in her relationship with the ladies of Nepabunna, Aunties, Shirley, Clara, Gertie, Martha, Barbara, Mona, Gladys and Roma, who were strong women within the community. She had a special connection with Margaret and Roger and Judith and Kelvin, her and Margaret had a special song they used to sing, its an untold secret only they know. Mum taught Sunday School at Nepabunna and Copley. She loved the little children coming to Sunday school and seeing their faces light up with singing and storytelling.

After many years, and due to declining health, mum and dad returned to Port Augusta. Mum was once again involved in the women's fellowship at the church, and commenced Sunday school at home on Sunday afternoons. Mum and Dad continued doing Gods work, and travelling all over Australia.