

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

# Donald Kay Forrest



*goodbye... abbinin'ya*

04/05/1928 - 24/09/2023

*"I was a reluctant Jackeroo,  
but I gave it a go and survived."*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

at Minderoo Chapel



*Lizabee, David, Shirley, Donald*

*Welcome to the celebration  
of the life of Donald Kay Forrest,  
the youngest child of Mervyn and  
Babs Forrest, passing away peacefully at  
Minderoo Station last week surrounded by  
family on the 24th September 2023.*

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Donald Kay Forrest

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1 OCTOBER 2023

**Welcome**  
**Reverend David Bradbury**

Grace and peace from our God always be with you.



**Marshall Smith - Welcome Prayer**



**Prayer of thanks**

*God who brought us to birth,  
and in whose arms, we die,  
in our grief and shock contain and comfort us;  
forgive us our sins and failures,  
embrace us with your love,  
give us hope in our confusion,  
and grace to let go into new life.*

*Amen*



When a loved one dies, we are often confronted  
with our own mortality.

Don would ponder the joys and sadness, the fears and the  
mystery of life and he would draw comfort and hope from  
both the bible and poetry.

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Donald Kay Forrest

At Shirley's funeral we read some  
Hebrew words of wisdom from the third chapter  
of the Old Testament Book called Ecclesiastes.

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**  
**Read by Don's grandchildren**

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;  
a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.*

*Amen.*



**Eulogy**  
**Andrew Forrest**

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1 OCTOBER 2023

## Reflection

Reverend David Bradbury



### The Thanksgiving prayer

Read by Philip and Justin

Spirit of God, we give thanks for the life of Donald Kay Forrest.

We remember with joy his life, and we take strength from his perseverance and determination.

We remember his paternal love for his family. The laughter and the tears. The cuddles and the fears. The dreams that became reality and the ones left for another season and generation.

We give thanks for simple joys in life, the stars at night, the sounds of the bush.

The miracle of the cosmos held in a single seed and the beauty of wildflowers as they bloom and radiate their love.

We give thanks for a trusted horse and wind in our hair, the sun on our backs and food to share.

We give thanks for doctors and nurses and those who care for us and nurture us in life.

Loving and eternal God. We give thanks for family and friends for the ups and downs of life, for community and a place to call our own.

Amen.

Let us now pray and give thanks for Don's life: In the spaces and moments of stillness I invite you to say your prayers either aloud or in the quiet of your hearts.

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Donald Kay Forrest

## Quiet Reflection



### *How do I love thee?*

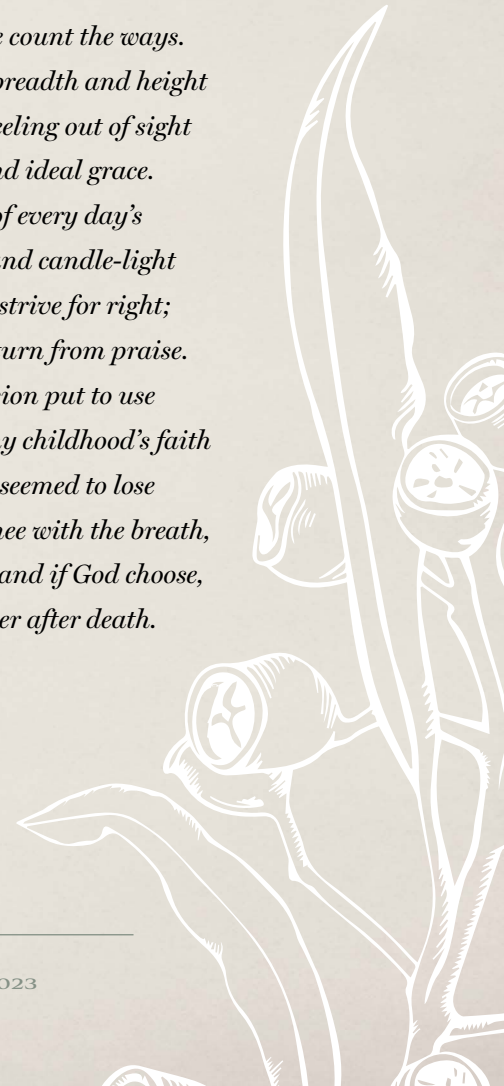
Poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Read by Grace and Sophia

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
For the ends of being and ideal grace.  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints. I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of all my life; and if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.*

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1 OCTOBER 2023



**Don's words**  
**Read by Janie and David**

*Dad said in his last weeks:*

"No period lasts forever.

You just have to decide what sort of period you want.

What you do with your period is up to you.

And I'm talking about you and me....And all the family.  
Probably others too.

We all chose to do what we do with our period.

It's solely up to us.

You can't blame anyone else.

You shouldn't credit anyone else.

There will be things you can do about it. You should do it.

It's up to you.

That's the way it is. That's pretty right.

Your friends are what's important too. And yes, I have great  
friends in my generation.

Though I like the generation more in front of me, more than  
even the generation I leave. I like the generations ahead of me  
even more.

There are problems in the world. You shouldn't worry about it.  
But if you can do something about it.

Do it.

Get on with it.

Don't spend your time worrying about it.

I know you love me, and you know its vice versa. I love you.

But that isn't the point.

The point I'm trying to make isn't that.

It's this.

It's important to pass on not just the love you have for me  
or the love I have for you and my family.

It's more important that you all pass on that love.

To others.

And yes, Minderoo is a staging post. Has been forever.  
People come and stay, yet other people come and pass through.

It's an old staging post, and that is what Minderoo is for me now.

A staging post.

When you go through the gates of Minderoo, you see her  
foundation dates, which is unusual. Reminds me it's a staging post.

*(Then he chuckled while we had a slow, late breakfast together and said...)*

Come and have a bit of lunch with me.

Don't know what I'll give you. Something.

A kick in the arse probably. But it would be great to see you."

*Farewell, Dad. Let's do as you say!*



### Don's ditties, recorded in 2020



#### Family moves to the cemetery.

Please gather around the cemetery  
and chapel area.



#### The Committal

Silence amongst Don's favourite sounds – his birds.



As our saviour Christ taught his disciples, we are confident to pray:

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation,*

*but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*

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Donald Kay Forrest

In 2016, when we gathered and consecrated this cemetery, Don prayed this prayer that is as relevant today as it was then and will be tomorrow.

*We pray for the people who live and work at Minderoo today.*

*Give them Your blessing in their home and in their labour.*

*Guide and protect them in their family life.*

*Let your peace rest on them,*

*And let your love surround them.*

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

*Amen.*



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1 OCTOBER 2023



See you for a cuppa cha on the front lawn  
amongst the gums with Marie, David, Janie,  
Andrew, Justin, Philip and families.



*Off for a kip*



*Cocoroo*