

Euology for Michelle Fish 9 Jan 2021**Delivered by her Husband, Shaun Fish.**

1/ Ladies and gentlemen thank you for being here today to help family and others celebrate the life of Michelle Fish.

Michelle's family really appreciates you being here today, and I would like to thank everyone for the support, myself, and family members, have received from so many people.

Michelle said "We all have choices in life" and so I have taken a leaf out of the book of Michelle. I choose to be thankful for the time we spent together, remember the happy times, and not to dwell on my loss or what might have been.

Michelle and I met at the Old Red Lion Tavern late one Sunday afternoon. We were introduced by her cousin Marie who was a friend of mine. I was a country boy out of my depth with sophisticated city girls, and then I met Michelle. We talked for what seemed hours, and when she told me her father was a garbo, and then burped over my shoulder, I knew then she had potential. We did the usual courtship thing, got engaged and we were finally married at All Saints Church in South Hobart, on 2nd Feb 1991. We purchased a house in Chigwell which we still live in today. We would have been married 30 years in February 2021.

I didn't know it then, but I was in for the ride of my life.

2/ What we did:

Michelle and I were lucky to have a life full of adventures. We've been so many places, seen so many things, and met so many people I can't name them all.

We have camped at Cockle Creek and walked to South Cape, slept the night at Granville Harbour, just to see the sunset in the western sky, stayed in posh hotels and eaten the finest foods. We've been to the football, basketball, rugby, froze at the speedway on Saturday nights sitting next to Kuc, been to boxing tournaments, to the tennis, rock concerts, the list go on.

We spent much of our early married life camping with friends along the east coast during our holidays. We met and made many friends in those days and I'm sure some of you are here today. She gathered more and more people over the years, and was involved with lots of different social groups like, Punters, GNO, Queensland Mafia, Hobart Cup girls, the Kingston gang just to name a few.

There are so many, that when you see me later on, please tell me your name and how YOU knew Michelle. Remember I was the Phantom husband.

Two of her friends who couldn't be here today have instead made her star forever shine. On the 6th Jan they have registered a star in her name, so look to the heavens tonight, for there is one up there named : **“Shine Bright Michelle”**

Once Michelle said I talked so much about my early days living in Oatlands and camping at Interlaken that she wanted to go see what it was like. I rang my sister **Lee** to see when the next camp was on and about 3 weeks later, we headed up.

We met everyone, had a few drinks, cooked some tea, told a few stories and went back to our tent and into our sleeping bags. Michelle froze all night, and the next morning there was, what I would describe as **a bit of a frost**. She got up early, packed up all the gear, said her goodbye's and we headed to the nearest bakery, which was Brighton, with the heater going flat out. After that Michelle not only refused to ever camp in a tent again, but she also flatly refused to return to Interlaken.

One year we spent Xmas on the boat in wineglass bay with her parents. Michelle disappeared below for a shower and came back with wet hair and a hair dryer, and asked her father where she could plug it in.

Ralph smiled and said “Coles Bay darling” the look on her face.

3/ The places we've been:

We were lucky enough to do a fair bit of traveling over the years and our holidays were filled with fun and excitement. Over the last 15 or 20 years we've been to,

- Adelaide V8's,
- Darwin V8's
- Townsville V8's
- Homebush V8's
- Phillip Island V8's and World Superbike Championship.
- Gold Coast for the V8's and Indy Car's.
- Melbourne for the Grand Prix on more than one occasion.
- I then suggested we go overseas for a change, so we went to New Zealand to see the inaugural V8 Supercar Race at Hamilton.
- I said how about overseas somewhere hot, thinking Bali!!!!, NEARLY, we went to Singapore to see the Formula 1 Grand Prix.
- OH, we went to Hawaii once.

Please don't get me wrong we went to lots of other events and places as well, Michelle approached life with an enthusiastic and positive attitude, and I encourage you all to do the same.

We both enjoyed live football and attended many of the mighty Richmond Tigers AFL games. You may not know this but Michelle is a gold class member of the Richmond Football Club having attained 20 plus years of continuous membership. Reminds me a bit of Michelle, persistence and a positive attitude will be rewarded. Go Tigers.

4/ Family times:

Michelle often reminisced about her early childhood and Paul has spoken beautifully about that previously. Her fondest memory was of strapping the bikes to the side of the pump truck and heading to Orford for the day with the family to pump out a couple of septics, then head to the beach for a picnic and a swim, with the truck parked two miles up the road.

She loved catching up with all the family on important occasions,

and the inside of your booklet has a photo of the entire Bottomley family except for one or two, at a gathering at Grandma's home on Bruny Island. Michelle especially loved to visit Grandma Jo. It broke her heart when Jo passed away, it really did.

5 / Charity work:

Michelle was active in many charity groups which have been covered on social media and in the press, so I won't repeat them today.

Michelle was assigned a McGrath Foundation Breast Care Nurse; her name is Paula. Michelle not only accepted her support but gave them her support in return, here are two examples.

During COVID-19 restrictions the executives of the McGrath Foundation couldn't fly to Hobart from Sydney to launch the Pink Stumps day, so they asked Michelle if she would help.

When the Pink Stumps day was launched here in Hobart a few months ago, Michelle got dressed up, put on makeup, and went to Lindisfarne to help them launch it. She didn't tell me what was really going on but when she returned home, I asked her how it went, and she said, "it all went well". To my amazement that night she appeared on 2 or 3 tv stations, in their nightly news, providing interviews about her journey with breast cancer. Along, with Peter Siddle, and Paula, she represented the McGrath foundation with dignity and distinction, I should have known she couldn't stay quietly in the background.

Another time:

Michelle purchased an Australian women's health diary through the McGrath foundation for one of their fundraising initiatives. When it turned up, she really liked it so she said, "I can sell a few of these and raise a bit of money for them". So, she got on her phone, created a spreadsheet and by the end of that day had sold over \$1,000 worth of diaries. That type of thing was typical of what she did because she got immense enjoyment out of helping others, and she was very good at it.

6/ LeMons Racing:

David spoke earlier about her racing career and the accolades she received however let me touch on leMons racing for a moment. We had never heard of it until, we first wintered in Qld. Racing leMons up there was some of the most fun I have seen her have in a long time. It was simply some of the best times we've had. Its already been mentioned how she thought about bringing the concept back to Tassie, and with a little bit of tweaking, and a lot of hard work, the Baskerville 1000 was born.

Inside the back cover of your booklet is a tribute written by our LeMons team owner Ash Kersey.

7/ Michelle and I had a close relationship and talked all of our issues and concerns through. She understood my personality and she got my weird sense of humour. We mentored each other on business and in life. She was at peace with the situation she found herself in, and through many tears and lots of laughter, we decided to be thankful for the time we had and to forget what might have been.

Michelle was not afraid to die, however she was disappointed that she wouldn't be able to continue doing what she did. In Her words, "Get out and live your life, don't dwell on what might have been".

Therefore, I ask you all to remember the good times you shared with her, follow her example in life, and imagine her saying "laugh at what's funny, cry when you're sad and never take no as an answer. "

Obviously there is a huge number of people to thank so I won't bore you all, with a long list of the people who helped put this event together or helped Michelle along her Journey. You know who you are and ill thank each of you personally when I shake your hand. For those who don't know what to say, Michelle would tell them to simply say "**I don't know what to say**" and I'll take it from there.

However I must give a special mention to the staff at the **Icon Cancer Centre** and the **staff at the Gibson Unit at St Johns Hospital** who looked after Michelle for 2 years,

8/ Conclusion:

So in conclusion you all know that Michelle was a fun but serious woman, however she also had a naughty and rebellious side, one of which was to go back it down a boat ramp, so we discuss this and agreed that we would jump the gun a little bit.

I apologise sincerely to the board of directors for stealing your thunder BUT,

Michelle received a letter 2 days before Xmas and well before she returned to hospital on 4th Jan. The letter was the best Xmas present she ever received, and she was completely overcome with emotions. I will now read you the first paragraph of that letter

Dear Michelle

*It is my pleasure to advise you that at a recent meeting, the board of directors have voted **to induct you as one of the 3 inductees into The Tasmanian Motorsport Hall of Fame for 2021.***

I'm so proud of you Michelle Fish, and I thank each and every one of you, for in some small way, you all contributed to who she was and who she became.

Typically, towards the end Michelle said to me

"Tell them if they want to do something, support The McGrath Foundation in her name."

I thank you for listening.

Shaun Fish.