

Thank You

We are deeply grateful to our family and friends for the love and support shown during this time of loss.

Your presence, kindness, and the memories shared at Joan's farewell have meant so much to us and were a beautiful tribute to her life.

Distinct Funerals

Creating Everlasting Memories

With Love Always



Joan Keith

20.12.1933 28.08.2026



Joan's Story

Born on the 20th of December 1933, the second daughter of Anna and Thomas Cowan.

She had an older sister, Dulcie. It was just the two girls growing up.



She was educated at Pahia School from 1939 and became Dux of this school. She went to Riverton District High School for 2 years and then had to return to work on the family farm due to her father's health.

At school, she enjoyed tennis and netball and often played other sports. Once a week, she would travel to Invercargill to attend a school of dressmaking.

Growing up on the family farm, she learnt to drive. One day, Joan and Dulcie, set the hay shed on fire by smoking and the whole thing burnt to the ground.

In 1952, the family farm was sold, and she moved to Invercargill with her parents, where she was employed in the retail trade. Her dressmaking potential was seen, and she was sent to Auckland for 2 weeks to learn corsetry. During this time, she also used to assist in making supper for the nurses' home at Southland Hospital.

She married Lex on 27th August 1956. They went straight to Lumsden to live, where Lex was a stock agent.







Their first child, Wayne, was born in 1958. They moved to Invercargill, and Lyn was born in 1959. They bought their first home for 3,150 pounds.

Roanna was born in 1965, Nicola was born in 1966, and Margaret in 1967. Brent was adopted in 1968.

They moved to Tisbury for a couple of years for the children to live on a farm. In 1971, they moved to Gore and then to Oamaru in 1985. In 1991, they moved back to Gore.

Joan looked after the children and the running of the home. Her children say they were extremely lucky growing up and enjoyed family holidays every year.





She put her dressmaking skills to use over the years, making the children matching outfits to wear.





Joan has been involved in many organisations over the years and enjoyed playing bridge and bowls.



She had 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.



