
A Letter From Heaven

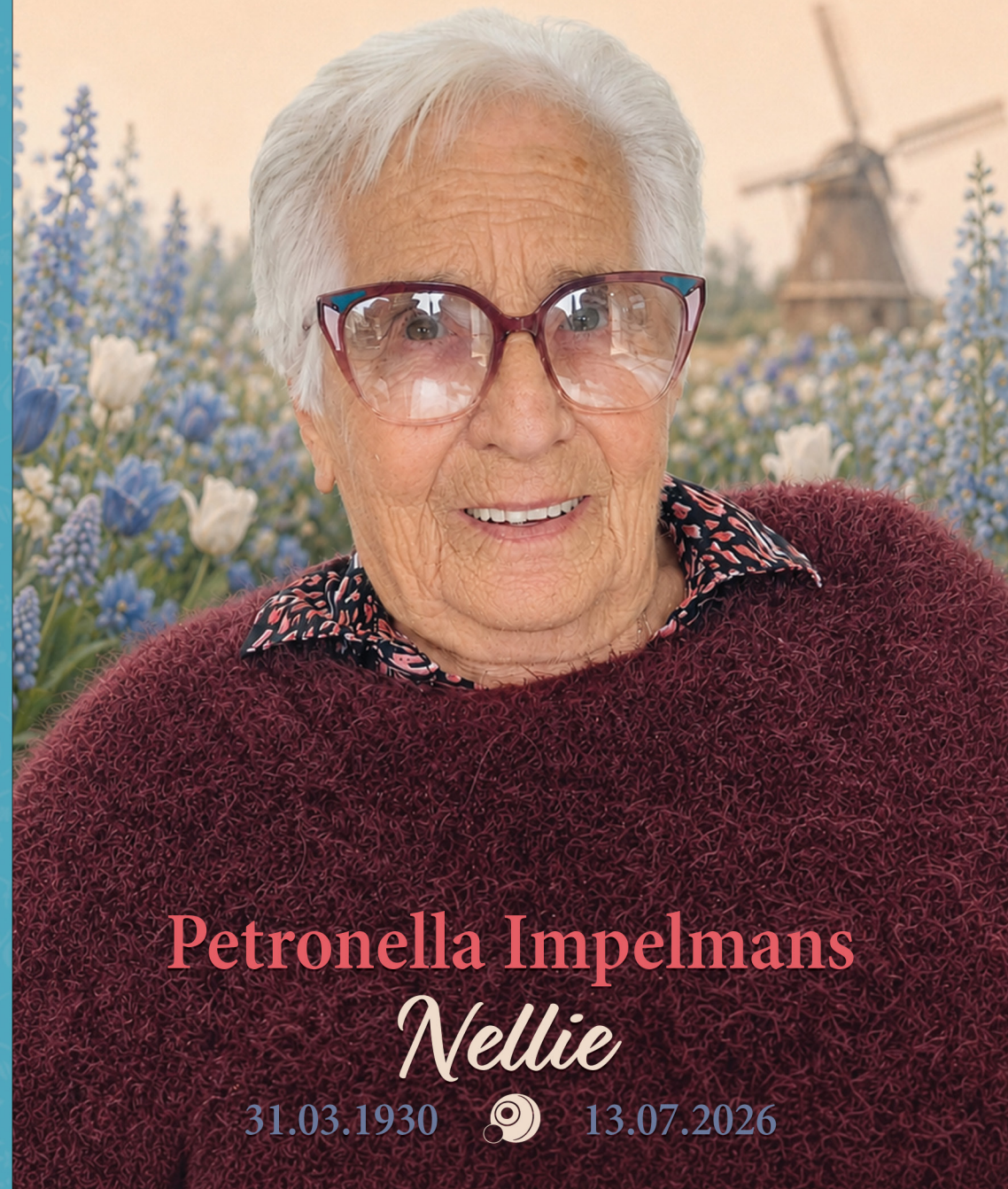
When tomorrow starts without me,
and I'm not here to see,
If the sun should rise and find your
eyes filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry,
the way you did today,
While thinking of the many things,
we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me,
as much as I love you,
And each time you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too.

When tomorrow starts without me,
don't think we're far apart,
for every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.

Forever in our Hearts



Petronella Impelmans
Nellie

31.03.1930



13.07.2026



Nellie's Story



Growing Up in Holland

Petronella "Nellie" Claassens was born in Grubbenvorst, Holland, on 31 March 1930. She lived with her grandparents before moving to Helden with her mother, Johanna, and stepfather, Johannes Brummans. She was the eldest of five children.

School Days

Nellie attended the local Catholic school, where talking often earned her time in the corner. One day, her teacher forgot she was there and locked the classroom. Another teacher discovered her and let her out several hours later.

A New Life

Nellie worked on the family farm, milking cows and ploughing fields. After Bill, the boy next door, immigrated to New Zealand, she followed aboard the Waterman. Her six-week voyage ended in Wellington, where Bill was waiting for her.



Marriage and Family

Nellie and Bill married at St Thomas's Church in Winton on 14 June 1955. They lived on the Dooley family's Lochiel property and welcomed two children, Peter and Francis. In later years, Francis became Nellie's closest friend.



A Talented Bowler

Nellie and Bill enjoyed indoor bowls, and Nellie later became an accomplished outdoor bowler, winning several Southland titles. After moving to Winton, she cleaned houses to keep busy. Knee replacements eventually brought her bowling years to an end.



Family Adventures

Nellie loved people and could begin a conversation with anyone. She and Francis travelled around Southland, visiting friends and sampling seafood chowder and blue cod. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought her enormous happiness and made her heart sing.



Food Made with Love

Food was Nellie's love language. Her tins were always full, and she never arrived empty-handed. Known for her cakes, pavlovas, cheesecakes and cinnamon oysters, she welcomed everyone for a cuppa and encouraged them to "Have another piece."



Love and Generosity

Nellie devotedly supported Bill in residential care and continued visiting other residents after his death. She loved medical dramas and was affectionately known as "Dr Impelmans." Her humour, strength, generosity and deep love for her family will always be remembered.

