



This is Ella's Story.

Ella Neal was born on 22nd January 1932 in Shanghai, China.

She was the only child of Klavdia and Peter Shelehoff. Peter was a Colonel in the White Russian Army under Tsar Nicholas. He was an amazing Kosack winning the St George Cross. He was a loving father to Ella. Klavdia was 20 years his junior and Peter fell in love with her at first sight.

Ella spent the first 17 years of her life in China, attending a French school in the Russian section. She excelled in all her studies and was very popular, but shy as a teenager. With the advance of the Japanese upon China, Ella and her parents were helped by the Americans to flee the country.

Ella arrived in Sydney by ship in 1949. Here she met Leo, who was delivering her a message on behalf of her boyfriend, and she would later marry Leo in 1951 in Centennial Park Sydney. They had two children Leo and Angela.

During her early married years, Ella worked to support the family at Vickers Textiles as a Laboratory Technician. Afterwards she applied for a Real Estate course and obtained her licence upon completion. This changed her life.... She was now the main bread winner, which allowed her to send Leo and Angela to private schools in their final years of education. Working in real estate gave her a strong sense of confidence which she revelled in and excelled in her business. Ella also gave piano lessons, was a ballroom dance teacher and loved to ice skate in her spare time. She became a qualified hypnotherapist practising occasionally on her family. She loved Reiki and became a qualified Tai Chi Instructor. Anything Ella put her mind to, she succeeded very well.

Ella spent her final years surrounded by her family. She loved her family above all else. Every one who met her commented on what a nice and lovely person she was and will always be remembered. She will be greatly missed.