



FLETCHER, Catherine Ann (nee Robinson)

Cathy FLETCHER | 24 August 1959

CATHERINE ANN² ROBINSON (PETER MCCALL¹) was born on 24 August 1959 in Ixopo, Natal, South Africa. She married CLIVE FLETCHER 1991 in St Michael's Anglican Church, Umhlanga Rocks, Natal, South Africa. He was born on 25 August 1961 in Gwelo, Rhodesia. Cathy is the granddaughter of GWYNNETH GRACE MAUD⁷ FLEMMER (JOHN DISTIN⁶, CHRISTIAN LUDVIG⁵) born on 28 September 1908 in Marquin, Bechuanaland, Botswana. She married CHARLES ROSS on 11 September 1929 in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was born 18 October 1894 in Ficksburg, Orange Free State, South Africa and died on 25 January 1965.

I was born in Ixopo in South Africa where my father was Rector of the Anglican Church and when I was 5 we moved to Margate on the South Coast, where my father was Rector of St Margaret's Anglican Church. I spent the next 7 happy years there and went to the local Margate Primary School until the family moved to England in late 1971. My father had been offered a living in Payhembury in Devonshire. I then had to travel 15 miles everyday to a public school in Exeter, called St Margaret's School, a very proper and strict, all girls, day school.

After 'O' levels, I decided to leave school as I wanted to become an air stewardess and travel the world. Before I could do that, I had to get some experience working with the public, so I enrolled at Exeter College and took a Hotel Receptionists course that lasted a year. I then started my first job at the Gypsy Hill Hotel, Pinhoe outside Exeter. I stayed there for a year and on my 18th birthday applied to British Airways; I didn't get a place as they said I was too young. Anyway, I was then offered a job by one of the guests at a smallish medical manufacturing company on Sowton Industrial Estate just outside Exeter.

After 2 years there, I decided to come out to South Africa for several months. I took a liner out from Falmouth called The Navarino, a Greek liner. Two weeks later, I arrived in Cape Town, Paddy and Mike Briant (Paddy is my mother's first cousin) met me at the docks and I spent my first weekend in South Africa with them, then I flew up to Durban where I stayed for a few months until returning to Cape Town for the next 6 months where I worked as a secretary to one of the Directors of I&J.

I returned to Durban as Mum and Dad had come out from England. I lived in Durban for the next 9 years where I met my husband Clive Fletcher when I was working at Deloitte as a secretary to one of the senior partners. Clive was doing his articles. Four years later, after I left, he asked me out!! By then I was working for a client as PA to the Chairman, I loved that job. Anyway, he managed to drag me away at the end of 1989 to live and work in Jersey in the Channel Islands. We lived there for 2 years and travelled a great deal, particularly to France which was only 10 miles away. You could even see the Normandy coastline on a good day from Jersey.

In 1991, we returned to South Africa and were married at St Michaels Anglican Church in Umhlanga Rocks, my father performed the ceremony. In 1993, we went back to England and lived in London for the next 4 years. We both worked at Ernst & Young and then I left when Mark was born on the 29th September 1994.

In November 1997 we immigrated to Australia where we settled in Sydney and our second son, Michael was born on 30th December 1998. We're still in Sydney today.