

Frances Paterson - Funeral and Wake:

11am Thursday November 29th 2018.

Kumbaya Girl Guide Hall (off Mt Keira Rd next to Byarong Park)

in one of her favourite rain forests.

Join us to celebrate Frances' life in pictures, song, music, poetry and provide Middle Eastern finger foods and some light refreshments.

RIP Frances Paterson 15 Nov 1945 - 14 Nov 2018

Frances was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour on 31 March this year after she collapsed at the Canberra Folk Festival. She died one day before her birthday on 14th November 2018.

Carol and I were her only sisters and cared for her in her home at Lake Heights on a roster basis with her close friends for that time. She was a great friend to many people and had a string of talents and enthusiasms.

I remember her in her early teens singing folk songs, creating harmonies going on to study classical guitar, a singer-songwriter, lead singer in the Okapi Guitar Band, an eight piece African influenced group. She loved all kinds of World Music. Frances also taught singing and inspired many people to join Choirs and Acapella Groups.

Her linguistic skills were highly regarded and put to good use in her songs which she sang in Spanish and African. She spoke fluent Spanish and some Italian.

She was an accomplished artist and poet and built a business as a Book Indexer, indexing many interesting books, culminating in winning the ANZI Medal in 2009 for indexing an 800 page book titled A Handbook of Aboriginal Languages of NSW and ACT. Her BA major was in Aboriginal Studies and Linguistics.

Frances was an advocate for the coastal environment through her involvement in saving Sandon Point from encroaching housing developers by joining the community picket and later for Lake Illawarra. She was deeply involved in politics and became an active member of the Illawarra Greens for a period and stood as the Ward 2 councillor in 2005.

She loved her house with a huge deck overlooking Lake Illawarra where she could be in the tree tops with the visiting birds and watch the development of her garden of Illawarra native trees, ponds and shrubs. Her creative artworks, paintings and lithographs have been hung in many exhibitions including solo shows and one study features on the cover of her Anthology of Poems – some of her poems she entered and won places in competitions.

We have self published an Anthology of 31 of her Poems and the book will be available on the day.

Frances was such a talent who had a powerful intellect. She will be hugely missed by all of her friends and family.

Gilly Paterson and Carol Horner