



## Community turns out to farewell loving pair

ROSE BRENNAN

"IF you ever feel sad, just go and do something nice for someone else" – that was Jill Guard's approach to her life before it was mercilessly taken by the murderers who shot down Flight MH17.

A memorial for Jill, 62, and her husband, Roger, 67, was held in Toowoomba yesterday, when their daughter Amanda (pictured below) recalled how her mother had shared that key to happiness.

"It was a lovely way to live life," she said.

Jill's sister, Liz Garrett, spoke of her sibling's "loving, caring and generous" nature.

With her husband Malcolm, Liz had shared the final weeks of her sister's life as the couples holidayed together in Europe.

They were booked on different flights home and Mrs Garrett farewelled her sister as she boarded the Malaysia Airlines flight last month.

"At the end of our recent holiday they were both in a very happy place," she told the crowd at the Empire Theatre.

"Jill had had a wonderful time but could not wait to return to her children and grandchildren, whom she loved dearly."

Mr Guard, who was in his 30th year as head of pathology at Toowoomba Base Hospital, was remembered as a humble and considerate man with a "legendary" enthusiasm for knowledge.

The Guard children Paul, 36, Amanda, 34, and David, 31, said their parents had achieved great things together and thanked them for the opportunities they had provided.

Paul said he had grown closer to his father during the past year as Mr Guard planned his retirement.

"We are glad you were together on your final adventure," Paul said.



## Heartbroken parents weep for three lost children

EMILY MOULTON

"THE only thing worse than the hell beyond hell we are going through is the horrific thought that our family may have never existed."

These were the heart-breaking words from Anthony Maslin who, along with his wife Rin Norris and their families, said goodbye to their three "perfect souls" and the children's guiding-light grandfather Nick Norris yesterday.

Mr Norris and his grandchildren Mo, Evie and Otis Maslin – 12, 10 and eight respectively – were on board flight MH17 when it was shot down over Ukraine more than two weeks ago.

Hundreds of guests gathered at Scotch College, Perth, to celebrate the lives of the three children and Mr Norris yesterday.

Mr Maslin, or "Mas" as he is known to his friends, told



**UNBEARABLE GRIEF:** Anthony Maslin and wife Rin Norris (top) at the memorial service for their children Mo, Evie and Otis (above left); and Rin's dad Nick Norris (above right).

those at the private memorial service that despite his unbearable loss, he would choose the "short time" he had with them "over any normal long-lasting life".

"Our three children are unblemished, innocent and perfect souls. They are our whole world," he said.

For nearly two hours, guests heard cherished anecdotes of "Mo-man", "Otie" and "Evie" and wise old Nick, whose "neglectful" parenting style instilled a sense of independence among his four children.

Ms Norris spoke of how her children taught her more



could not touch them again. "When their innocent bodies were shot out of the sky I stretched my arms as high as I could and screamed for them," she said.

"Now I see them only in my head. I can't touch them, I can't feel their warmth, I can't imagine the memories of their bodies close to mine and the love in my heart will always be open for them."

"My arms will always be reaching for them."

Mr Maslin said Evie was "the glue that held us together".

"She was the first one to give me a hug in the morning," he said. "Evie was the first one to give anyone a hug."

Mr Maslin also spoke of his eldest son Mo's obsession for researching their family tree and how his heart was broken at the thought that the Maslin line would now end with him.

## Nurturing a love of nature in the young

IT was a case of all creatures great and tall when Edward, 7, got the lick of approval from a couple of friendly giraffes yesterday.

A Newpoll survey for The Courier-Mail has revealed the best way to learn about nature and animals was visiting a zoo, as Edward was in Melbourne yesterday.

And 42 per cent of those surveyed said they had been to one in the past three months.

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But more people had read books (77 per cent) or watched a documentary (70 per cent) about nature by themselves or with their children during the same period.

From this weekend, The Courier-Mail and Sunday Mail

readers have the chance to collect the 14-part David Attenborough Essential Collection – a DVD series as chosen by Sir David.

The first DVD in series, The Ends of the Earth, and collector's case are free with The Sunday Mail.

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