



### Mark Sullivan Eulogy

When Gerard asked me to speak at his funeral I felt very honoured. Then when he said to keep it a bit lighthearted I thought 'great!'. So here goes.

Ged, Gezza, Gedda, Sully, Bro, Roster, Mr. Sullivan are but a few of the many names that Gerard was known to us all by.

There was never a dull moment growing up with Gerard. **Injuries** always seemed to happen to him or those around him. Our youngest brother Paul can attest to that as he was regularly the recipient of Gerard-created injuries. We had a saying when we were growing up "If it's going to happen, it'll happen to Gerard!". I particularly recall a few days before his wedding, Gerard was bitten by a redback! Of course, he was hospitalized!

Gerard was **competitive** by nature too. All those who have ever played a game with him would be able to relate to this side of his nature. As one of his younger brothers, I often got to see this side of him during my childhood.

Gerard always had an exceptional ability to **express himself** in words and had a love of reading. The Lord of the Rings was a favourite. It was no surprise that he followed a career in teaching with a major in English. However, he was not the most gifted in making and fixing things in his younger years. I remember the time we came home to find that he had pulled apart the heater to see how it worked. Only problem was the bits he had left over after rebuilding it! The heater made a unique clicking sound forever more. We were very relieved when he met Suzie as she helped improve his skills in this area. Wasn't he the lucky one? Not only a beautiful, talented wife but a handywoman as well! What more could a man ask for?

In the late 80s he went off to Sydney to study Education at the Australian Catholic University. While at Uni he had a few different living quarters on campus and then shared a unit with some mates where he made some lifelong friends. In fact, they were such good friends they converted the lounge room of their rental unit into a bedroom.

Gerard also had a unique ability to get people to help with his transport needs because he had no driver's license until he was 28. He had managed to get a lift to all his football games while playing for the Bush Pigs in Wagga. Not to mention the 5 times I had to help him move to a new house - once from Wagga to Sydney!

**Sport** was also one of his loves and gifts which he has passed on to his girls. When I recently said to Gerard, I suppose you would like me to talk about your sporting skills he quickly replied, "You mean My Sporting **Prowess**?". Let's just say he might've been sick, but he had not lost his sense of **humour**. Gerard's love of AFL started when he played for St Pat's Albury football team at High school, and later when working in Wagga playing for the CSU Bush Pigs. His choice of AFL team Carlton has always been questionable but he remained loyal even though they had not won a premiership since 1995. I guess it says something about his **loyal nature**.

Gerard's sense of **humour** was quite unique, as I am sure Suzie and his girls Lucy and Ella would confirm. The many quick-witted jokes we have all had with Gerard over his journey would have brought many a smile to our faces. I will miss the banter we would have when all four Sullivan boys got together. I am sure we will continue in his spirit and include our memories of Ged.

While these past seventeen months have been extremely tough for Gerard, I can't remember ever having a conversation with him when he complained. He accepted this as his story.

What I did observe was that with his ever-loving Suzie by his side and his amazing girls Lucy and Ella, he drew additional strength. He was not alone. Furthermore, he gave strength to everyone around him.

Suzie, Ella and Lucy - may you always know that Gerard is with you and supporting you always. I am sure Gerard has now joined forces with our mother, Marie, in heaven to keep us under their watchful eyes.

My Father, brothers and I have been so lucky to have had such a strong, caring, wonderful brother in Gerard. May he rest in peace.