

Sincerely Yours

A Tribute to a Great Dame

In February of 1979, I had the honour of accompanying Dame Vera Lynn to a Banquet held at the Sebel Town House in Sydney's Kings Cross, to celebrate the inauguration of The Australian Ladies Variety Association which, along with a handful of keen female entertainers, I had founded to raise funds to help many of our colleagues through difficult times. During this tour, one of her many over the years to Australia, Dame Vera had graciously agreed to become our first Patron and attended our birthday banquets for a number of years. Although, for many later years, being unable to travel, she had stayed with us in spirit until the end.

A lady in every way and one that I was ultimately able to call a dear friend, who welcomed me into her home every time I visited the UK and, even at the ripe old age of 103, still remembered her days in Australia and with the ladies of ALVA.



1979



1982



1999



2012



2015



Virginia & Tom



2017



Singalong with Vera

Over many years, right up to her 100th, I was able to visit the family and her daughter, Virginia, would pick me up at the station. Gorgeous son in law Tom (Jones!!!) would see that Vera was doing the right things. We were having dinner one night at their home and it got to nine o'clock and Tom said "come on mother in law, time for bed" so Vera stood up and as she left she sang me her first ever hit song "Up The Wooden Hill to Bedfordshire", which she recorded in 1936. I just can't express how highly honoured and privileged I feel to have known such a wonderful lady, with no airs and graces, just a down to earth amazing woman who has touched the hearts and lives of so many people around the world in her remarkable lifetime. We will always remember her and someday we will meet again.