

R.I.P. Er Le Nah Lara, Elara Teo (60-61): 19-5-2019

Yesterday (Sunday 19-5-2019) Mimi Foo (59-60) from Sydney conveyed the sad news of the demise of Er Le Nah Lara (60-61) in Sydney on 19-5-2019. This message was received sometime in the evening.

I immediately tried calling Goh Moi (60-61) who was Le Nah Lara's close friend in college. She had apparently discontinued with the previous telephone number and therefore could not reach her for some background information.

I called Susan Lim in Kulai, Johor for Goh Moi's contact. She did not have it but called Mui Siew Lian, Lye Yuen Chew's wife in Singapore, Mui Lian did not have Goh Moi's contact but tried to call Goh Moi's relatives in Malacca. I also called Amrit Kaur (60-61) who was also close to Le Nah Lara but she was not available.

In the meantime I called Mary Seow (60-61) in PJ. But there was no answer. I called her hp and spoke to her. She was in JB. She gave me Goh Moi's new number. I called Goh Moi but there was no response.

Today at 10.25 in the morning Goh Moi called me. She was not aware that her good friend had passed on.

According to Goh Moi – mentioned earlier by Susan - Le Nah Lara had been suffering from Alzheimers for many years. Goh Moi and Le Nah Lara were school mates in Muar and went to Kirkby together.

Le Nah Lara's Option was the same as Goh Moi's: History & Geography. Both of them were in Block 7.

Le Nah Lara's first posting was to Cameron Highlands where she met her husband, Teo Khiok Ming, a Brinsfordian and got married. Teo was promoted and served in the Inspectorate and she was obliged to travel before finally settling down in Muar.

As Mimi's message did not include the funeral arrangements, I WhatApped Chong Lay for further information regarding the funeral, how many children and grandchildren she had etc. Later I also called Chong Lay who mentioned that he was in touch with Le Nah Lara's close friend and was waiting for this information.

Later Chong Lay emailed these details:

“These are the details I managed to get about Er Le Nah Lara (Mrs Erlara Teo). She was in 1960- 1961 batch, the last batch. She was from Muar, Johore and her first posting was in Cameron Highlands. Her good friend in Kirkby was Goh Moy. She married a Brinsfordian Teo Khiok Ming and they migrated to Sydney in the early 90's. She had 4 children and 2 grandchildren. She suffered from Alzheimers for about 10 years. Her college-mate Poon Marn Ching used to visit her at her Eastwood home.

Her funeral is on Wed 22nd May at the Macquarie Park Cemetery (Lotus Pavilion) @ noon.”

I used to remember Le Nah Lara as a friendly girl with a ready smile. She formed a threesome with Goh Moi and Sau San (60-61). She joined my group for the tour of Europe in 1960.

The only time I met her after college was sometime in the 70s. I was on the Board of the NUT Co-operative Society which built houses for members and teachers in Muar. Le Nah Lara and her husband bought a unit. The Co-Op officials went to Muar for a dialogue session with the house buyers. That's when I met her.

When I visited my daughter in Perth in 2017, I telephoned Le Nah Lara. Her husband answered the phone. He told me that his wife was not able to carry on a conversation and that she was suffering from Alzheimers. I asked for his email address and told him that I would keep in touch with him. Sadly I did not keep that undertaking and I will regret for it. I have too many things on my plate and sometimes I'm not able to keep certain promises.

According to Goh Moi, her husband was totally devoted to Le Nah Lara all these years. She was full of praise for him.

Le Nah Lara passed away on Wesak Day. Perhaps it is good omen. May her soul rest in peace.

Those wishing to convey their condolences may find this useful:

Address: 49 B Vimiera Road, Eastwood, NSW 2122, (Sydney). Australia.

Telephone: +61 9869 6645 (Hse)

Email: khiokthl@tpg.cpm.au

Yours in sorrow,

RAMA

20-5-2019