

R I P GLADYS CHUA Swee Choo 59-60: JULY 2017

Gladys Chua passed away exactly a year ago. It is a matter of regret that we did not know of this sad news for so long. It was during the 2018 Kirkby Reunion that Chua Soon Neo (60-61) showed me a sms text she had received from Gladys' brother informing her that his sister passed away in July 2017 in Perth.

Gladys was from my batch in Kirkby.

She was from Melaka. According to Vimala, who very kindly filled me with the background information – with input from Diana Tan and Soon Neo - Gladys had cancer and her younger sister took her to Perth to care for her. Sometime later, she was in a coma for a month. Following her death, she was cremated and her ashes were strewn into the swan river as requested by Gladys.

Vimala relates: “After returning from Kirkby, she taught for a few years and then went to STTI to specialise in art. She then went back to her Alma Mata CHIJ (Catholic Holy Infant Jesus) and taught there for a few years. After this she went to the Chelsea School of Art, Paris and Italy.

“In Florence she studied Art for many years.”

I understand that she sold all her art pieces before returning to Malaysia after a number of years.

Vimala continues: “Being fluent in the Italian language and later in Mandarin as well, she joined the Reliance Travel and Tours. She did many tours. She rose to a fairly senior position in this company.

“In Melaka she lived in the famous Jonker Street. Her nearest neighbour and classmate was Diana Tan who was also her college-mate in Kirkby.

“Some of her other IJ (Infant Jesus) mates who also went to Kirkby were Normah Ahmad, Esah Ali, Zawiyah, Vimala and the late Chong

Mee Loon. Her cousin Jessie Chua Soo Neo came to Kirkby a year later. ”

May her soul rest in peace.

Yours in sorrow,
RAMA