

## MEET ROBYN HAUGHEY:

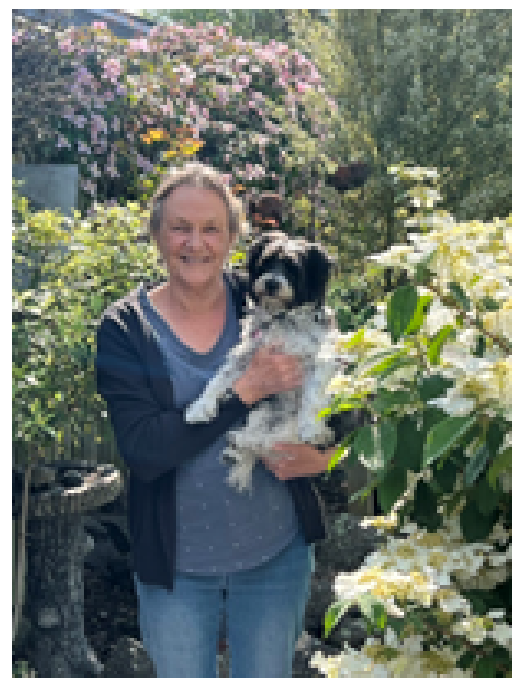
*Robyn is an associate member of the Society and partner of our President, Mark.*

Robyn Haughey, nee Cogle, was born in Christchurch in 1960 and was a twin sister to Cheryl who has a different birth date with Robyn being born at 11.50pm and Cheryl 13 minutes later at 12.03am the following morning. They have an older brother by 2 years and all live in the Christchurch region. Robyn's Dad started at Lane Walker Rudkins straight from school at 15 and retired there 45 years later. He rose to become the Technical Manager of the knitting division and perfected the art of knitting stretch fabric. It was at LWR that Maurice met a beautiful young girl, Louise, working there and romance blossomed. They were married for over 57 years until Maurice sadly passed away while in care at Cashmere View Rest Home in 2010. Louise also passed away at Cashmere View in February, 2023. Her parents moved into a new build in Cedars St, Hoon Hay and lived there for around 45 years. With a young family, Louise took on the challenge of opening and operating a drapery shop in the Rowley Ave shops for around 10 years and with her Dad's skills on the knitting machine, he would spend all his spare time out in the garage knitting garments that Louise would stock and sell in her shop. Robyn recalls her childhood being a happy time with lots of new houses in the area meaning there was always other children to play with. Her parents built a swimming pool at Cedars St which was like a magnet drawing children there and she remembers her school also using the pool as there was no pool available at the school.

Robyn attended Spreydon Primary on Lincoln Rd before moving on to Manning Intermediate then Hillmorton High School. High school proved a "challenge" for her so on her 15th birthday in 1975, she left school to take up her first job working at Hazeldean Footwear spraying shoes for \$35 per week. She stayed there for about a year before going to LWR to work in the men's department as a checker where she stayed for over 2 years. Her mother's shop was doing well so Robyn left LWR to work in the shop before embarking upon her OE to live and work in Maroubra, Sydney with her husband to be. Around a year later, she returned home and worked briefly with her Mum again before marrying in 1981. They purchased the home they were renting in Fisher Ave, Beckenham and Robyn worked in local tomato glasshouses until their first born, a son, Brendon was born in 1985. Robyn had found work cleaning houses and at one stage was cleaning 7 houses a week for the princely sum of \$5 per hour. She remembers taking Brendon to work with her in seat attached to her bicycle as owning a car was out of their reach. The family increased in size in 1989 when her daughter, Ellie was born. Brendon started school at Beckenham and Robyn continued the cleaning jobs taking Ellie with her but by this stage, in her beloved Morris Minor. Both of her children still live locally and maintain a very close relationship with their mother. Her marriage ended in 2005 but in 2009, she met her partner Mark and they live happily in Somerfield along with their dear pooch, Jess. Since 2010, Robyn has worked at the old Glenelg Childrens Health Camp in Hillsborough but on September 1st just gone, she decided to "call it a day" and retired 13 months early before being eligible for National Super. As she stated, "My body needs a proper rest". In October, 2022, what was just to be a routine 2 yearly mammogram, turned out to be a life changing event when she was called in to

## ROBYN HAUGHEY CONT:

Canterbury Breast Care due to an abnormality. A double positive breast cancer diagnosis was delivered to a shocked and stunned Robyn and 15 months of cancer treatment and tests kicked off almost immediately. A double mastectomy was carried out in June, 2023 and she had her last infusion at the end of January this year. Robyn describes the treatment as being both intense & horrid causing her to suffer long periods of being extremely sick but she is very grateful for how well the system looked after her in her time of need. She said that it was all worth it as she was recently discharged from the Oncology Dept with a positive prognosis that the cancer had been beaten.



**FAVOURITE FOOD.** Beef casserole with tons of veges. Anything I don't have to cook myself.

**FAVOURITE PLACE.** Home.

**FAVOURITE HOBBIES.** Dogs, Gardening & restoring old furniture.

**FAVOURITE MUSIC...** Love love love Freddie Mercury and Queen.

**FAVOURITE MOVIE.** Anything in the drama genre. Watch lots on Netflix.

Robyn recalls happy times as a child staying with her maternal grandparents in Mathesons Rd, Linwood and enjoying their company. She also said that her



children, Mark and extended family were an incredible support throughout the cancer treatment and is adamant that their love & support were a huge factor in overcoming the many obstacles she faced. Another huge factor in all of this was the loyalty, friendship and support received from her dog, Lou and after he had to be sent to "doggie heaven" in the middle of treatment, then little Jess who Robyn adopted from the CCC Pound just 3 weeks after Lou departed. Robyn has visited Australia numerous times, Fiji (never again), the USA in 2016 to visit with family & friends and again in 2018 when she her took 2 of their grandies to Disneyland and San Diego SeaWorld but her

absolute "GO TO" holiday destination is without a doubt, Rarotonga where the word HOLIDAY was invented. She "shouted" her close family a Rarotongan holiday one week after she had her last infusion in January this year to thank them for their support and she said that incredible memories were created. Robyn said one thing she finds hard to do is to spel corectly and is constintly asking Mark to spel words out four her as she is typing....haha.

