

MEET LISA GRAY:

Lisa was the first-born baby to her single mother in Howick, Auckland in 1970. Her mother had moved to Auckland where she had gained employment working as a caregiver & child minder but moved back to Christchurch to be reunited with Lisa's father when Lisa was only 6 weeks old. Her parents married and a sister was born in 1972 but the marriage ended a couple of years later after stints living in Kaikoura & Twizel. Lisa's Mum re-married when Lisa was around 11 years old and she has half siblings, Jared who lives in Hornby, along with Carma who resides on the West Coast. Lisa grew up in Linwood and her schooling was at Woolston Primary before she moved on to Linwood High School when she met Darryn when they were around 15 years



old. A friendship was formed and they are still together some 40 years later. She left school when she was 18 and worked in Darryn's mother's florist shop in Sumner for around 2 years before the shop was forced to close down. Their first child, Mathew, was born in 1991 and Lisa was a stay-at-home Mum during the resulting pregnancies of Jordan in 1993, Taylor 1995 and Courtney 1999. Lisa had started work on the night shift at Foodstuffs while she was carrying Ashlea in 2004 but had to give up that role due to complications with her pregnancy. During the arrival of their five children, the family grew up in the suburb of Shirley while Darryn was involved in the building trade making wooden trusses. In 2005, Darryn decided to change his occupation and obtained a job working on a dairy farm in Takaka, Golden Bay where the family lived for the next two years. In 2007, the family were heading to Christchurch for a 10-day holiday when tragedy struck. Darryn had just had some repairs completed on the steering of his van and in his vehicle were Lisa, all the children as well as Darryn's father with her best friend, Sharon and her family in a separate vehicle following a few minutes behind. When they were around 5 kms west of the Boyle River, Darryn said that as he slowed for a bend, he turned the wheel and heard a loud "clunk". The van failed to respond and went straight across the road colliding head on with a 4-wheel drive vehicle from the opposite direction. It was a huge impact resulting in Darryn being trapped along with Lisa and injuries to most of the children. Luckily for the family, the first 2 people on scene were an off-duty paramedic and a theatre nurse who both took control of the accident scene and injured people. After about 30 minutes, the emergency services were able to cut the roof off the van and extricate the trapped people whereupon a helicopter airlifted Lisa straight to ChCh Public Hospital. Two other helicopters were used to also airlift the other injured people to hospital and a fourth helicopter from Nelson was on standby

if needed.

En route to the hospital, Lisa "passed away" several times but was able to be revived by the paramedics although when the helicopter landed in ChCh, they could not even register a blood pressure for Lisa. She was immediately attended to and admitted to ICU where she stayed for the next 42 days but after 2 weeks in ICU, a blood clot formed in her bowel then travelled down her left leg resulting in the circulation being cut off. A decision was quickly made to amputate her leg below the knee and Lisa did not even know what had transpired until she emerged from ICU another 4 weeks later and had to be told.

In 2009, the family had moved to Waikuku and Lisa was on the board of Wainoni Primary school where she obtained a teacher's aide position until the school was closed down due to a merger of some local schools nearly 2 years later. Since then, Lisa has had numerous roles with Woolworths in the last 10 years and is currently a supervisor in the deli at Woolworths, Waimakariri Junction while Darryn and her currently live in Rangiora township.

Since this fateful day in 2007, Lisa and the family have endured a long and hard recovery but they are all very thankful that they survived this terrible ordeal. Lisa & Darryn enjoy spending time with their children and 6 grandchildren and Lisa tries to put her disability out of the picture, meet challenges head-on and enjoy family life.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Anything aniseed based...and liquorice.

FAVOURITE PLACE: Toowoomba, Australia.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Old style country & western music.

FAVOURITE MOVIE: Armageddon.

HOBBIES/ACTIVITIES: Reading murder mystery books.

Lisa & Darryn have travelled to Australia numerous times and are excitedly looking forward to a 14-day cruise out of Brisbane in 2027.

*Lisa & Darryn in their front yard.
Lisa said the wording on Darryn's t-shirt is correct!!!*

*"My wife says I only have two faults...I
DON'T LISTEN AND.. SOMETHING ELSE"*

