

Obituary for Raie Levy nee Gubbay.

Newcastle Girls' High School - 1938-1942. Dux NGHS 1942.

(Rachel Leah Levy). Born 15th October 1925 – died 13th May 2022.

The Admissions Register for Newcastle Girls' High School, February 1938, records that Raie GUBBAY entered 1st year at NGHS on 2nd Feb. 1938.

Her entry in the register names her, "Rachel Leah GUBBAY".

Her Father is recorded as Abraham GUBBAY. His occupation is "Confectioner". Their home address, 14 Lindsay St Hamilton NSW.

Raie's Primary school was Hamilton Public School. Her religion, Jewish.

The register also declares, Raie left the NGHS, on 17th December 1942, having completed the Leaving Certificate Examination. The record also shows she was to study Arts at the University.

This is briefly the story of one of the most well known of our NGHS Ex-Students.

To compose this obituary for Raie, I consulted her cousin David Gubbay (NBHS Old Boy) and Raie's daughter Naomi Arber nee Levy.

Hence, some of the details of Raie's life known to her family, have added to what officially was her "record" at NGHS and of the ex-student we knew, as a loyal member of the NGHS Ex-Students' Union.

As the Register states, Raie's father was a "Confectioner". The family said he had not a shop but a truck from which he sold his sweets.

Raie had a younger sister, Ruth Duffield nee Gubbay

Raie did indeed commence in the Faculty of Arts at Sydney University, but circumstances caused her to abandon these studies.

Her family moved, in the 1940's, from Newcastle to Melbourne to join a wider Jewish community there and Raie, too, relocated, to be with her family.

She pursued a life in Secretarial and superior accountancy within the Legal fraternity in Melbourne.

She married Manfred Levy, in 1949, after she moved to Melbourne. The family Levy had 5 children; daughter Naomi, son Julian, who sadly & tragically drowned in his teens, another son, Daniel and daughters, Pninah and Tamara.

She was also a great worker for charities in Melbourne – establishing, running, and administrating many, to whom she gave of her ample & capable expertise.

One of Raie's good friends from schooldays was the late Margaret Young, nee Mildred and these two "girls" remained friends throughout their lives. They were better than good scholars and most diligent students, competing for top places throughout all their years at NGHS. Raie was Dux of the school in 1942 (Dux was awarded from Pre-Leaving Examination) and Margaret is recorded that year as "Highest Pass in the Leaving Cte."

We enjoyed Raie's company for many, many years, at our Ex- Student reunions. She travelled from Melbourne for decades, without fail, for the September Ex-Students' celebration to be with her friends.

We are proud to have had such a sterling person as a Member of our Ex- Student Union.

To her daughters & her son, and her extended family, we offer our most sincere condolences & sympathy.

Vale Raie.

Written by Robin Gordon OAM. NGHS Ex- Students' Union. Belmont August 1st 2022



