AUSTRALIA LOSES A GREAT LADY

FUNERAL SERVICE Wednesday, 8 November 2006, 10:00 a.m. Old St Paul's Chapel 221 Old Northern Road (corner Francis St) Castle Hill



Lia LOOVEER (née Saarepere) BEM JP (1920-2006)

LIA LOOVEER ~ PRINCIPAL AWARDS

22 March 1961 Gold Badge, Estonian Society of Sydney
21 February 1969 Life Member, Estonian Society of Sydney
31 December, 1975 Justice of Peace, Certificate of Appreciation

31 December 1978 British Empire Medal, Australian New Years Honours

24 October, 1987 Good Citizen award, Festival of Light

1991-2 Woman of the Year, International Biographic Centre,

Birmingham, England

3 June 1995 Republic of Estonia. Freedom Fighters Centre, Canada,

Freedom Medal, 2nd class

15 June 1998 Medal, Defence Department, Estonian Republic

24 February, 1998 Estonian Republic White Star, 5th class; awarded by Estonian

President Lennart Meri on visit to Sydney on 5 July 1998

22 June 2002 Heritage Award, Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division;

member over 40 years.

LIA LOOVEER ~ MILESTONES

Born 5 October 1920, Narva, Estonia

April 1928 – father Aleksander Saarepera died Autumn (August) 1928 – Spring (May)

1938 – attended E. Lender Private School for Girls (Estonia)

1933-8 Organised a youth club for the YWCA in Tallinn, Estonia

1937, March 27 - confirmed in Lutheran church

August 1938 - 1943 Law School, University of Tartu, Estonia

August 1938 – joined the Ladies sorority *Filiae Patriae*, Tartu - a member of the Sydney branch till 2006

1940, December 31 - engaged to Mr Robert Tasso. Mr Tasso was arrested by the

NKVD and deported; spent 15 years in Siberia

1941-44 - announcer/broadcaster State Broadcasting company, Tallinn

1944 (September 19) – escaped from Estonia to Germany

1944, September 30 - married Leonid Looveer in Danzig

1944 –1945 – Baltic Radio, Reichskunfunkt, Germany, Thorn, Poland

1945, July 3 – daughter Hille Reet born Braunau-Am-Inn, Austria

1949, June 6 - arrived in Sydney. Spent 6 weeks in Bathurst; then to Greta Migrant

Camp; worked as interpreter & clerk in the main office; spoke 8 languages at that time;

On 24 February 1950 Lia organised an exhibition of Estonian culture and Folk Festival

March 1952 - moved to Sydney

1952, April 28 – son Juho Mart born

1952 - 2002 member and Secretary - Joint Baltic Committee of Sydney

1953 – 1967 – Member of the Board, Estonian Society of Sydney

1953 – 1957 – worked at the Dunlop Shoe factory, Bankstown as a clerk

1953 – appointed to NSW Parliament Migrant Advisory Committee by the Hon Eileen Furley MLC, Founder of Liberal Party in NSW

1953 - joined Liberal Party of Australia, NSW Division

1953-2003 – organised annual concert for the commemoration of Mass Deportation from the Baltic States, traditional conducted at the Latvian Hall in Strathfield.

1954 January 1-3 – first Estonian Days of Australia (Festival) in Sydney; main announcer; translated the programs into English

1955, February 24 – organised and Opened the commemoration of the 37th Estonian Day of Independence

1955-1960 – member, Club of the World, YWCA Sydney

1955 – 2003 – member, Liberal Party of Australia, NSW division – various branches, various positions

1956-66 - Office Manageress, "Meie Kodu" Estonian weekly Newspaper in Australia

1956, May 11 – organiser a concert ball for the United Council of Migrants from Communist Dominated Europe

1956, December – assisted organising the YWCA Xmas exhibition; joined the World Fellowship Committee, organising a monthly meeting with a talk about a different country, a sampling of its food and culture.

1958-1969 – member of the Board, Sydney Estonian Society

1957 – December 1985 – Royal Alexandria Hospital for Children city office; Public Relations section – Manageress, Assistant PRO.

1960, November 6 - husband Leonid Looveer died

1959, November – announced as the Migrant of the Month, delivering a speech to the Women's Group of the NSW Liberal Party.

1960 – with Douglas Darby MLA, founded the Captive Nations Council of NSW and served as Honorary Secretary for the entire life of that body, which continued its work until after the liberation of Eastern Europe. Organised many successful events including numerous large demonstrations against Soviet imperialism.

1961, December 27-31 – Chief Secretary, IV Estonian Cultural Festival in Australia

1963, October 6 – festival and gymnastics display by the famous Ernst Idla Gymnastics

1961, December 27-31 – Chief Secretary, IV Estonian Cultural Festival in Australia

1963, October 6 – festival and gymnastics display by the famous Ernst Idla Gymnastics

1965, October 30 – "Folksongs of the Baltics" at Sydney Town Hall 1967, February 24 – organised and opened the commemoration of the 43rd Estonian Day of Independence

.

1967, October – produced English edition of "Meie Kodu" (weekly Estonian newspaper in Australia)

1967, October – 2nd "Folksongs of the Baltics" at Sydney Town Hall

1968, July 14-19 – Arts and Crafts exhibition, Captive Nations Week, Curzons

1969, April – organised first folk-dancing to Sydney Easter Show (Royal

Agricultural Show); also exhibition of handcrafts for Joint Baltic Committee; these continued for many years

1974-1986 - Secretary Narwee branch, Liberal Party of Australia

1975, July 27 – foundation member of the Ethnic Affairs Council of NSW (this followed three years of planning and preparation for this)

1976 – 1981 – member, State Council, Liberal Party of Australia, NSW division and office bearer of the Liberal Ethnic Council.

1976-1981 – member, Advisory Committee on Ethnic Affairs to Hon Steven Maugher, Minister for Youth and Ethnic Affairs (NSW) and Premier Neville Wran Q.C. M.P.

1976-1978 – member, Advisory Committee on Ethnic Affairs to the Hon Michael McKellar, M.P., Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs (Australia)

1976 – 1981 - member, Womens' Welfare Issues Consultative Committee, to the Federal Minister for Social Security

1979 – With Liberal Ethnic Council president, Lyenko Urbanchich, organised highly successful Liberal Ethnic Concert in Sydney Town Hall in July in support of then Leader of the Opposition John Mason MLA.

From the time of her arrival in Australia, Lia cared for her mother-in-law and her daughter, until their deaths in 1993? and 2000? Respectively

For the greater part of her adult life, Lia was burdened by poor eyesight requiring her to wear thick glasses. Laser eye surgery in 1990? allowed her to discard her spectacles, even for driving, and enhanced her enjoyment of her later years. Lia is survived by her son Dr Juho Looveer and daughter in law Denise, and their children Krister, Katherine and Cassandra.

(Material kindly collated by Dr Juho Looveer PhD)







FUNERAL SERVICE Wednesday, 8 November 2006, 10:00 a.m. Old St Paul's Chapel 221 Old Northern Road (corner Francis St) Castle Hill