

Hey Nanny

It's me – Leah.

I miss you. I miss you so much. My heart is breaking Nanny.

I'm trying to stay strong, but I'm a mess Nanny.

I went to pick Tyla up yesterday and I mistakenly stopped at a green light - lucky no one was behind me. It gave me a fright but I took off again.

One of the Mum's saw me in the car park and was going to come over, but must have realised something was wrong and turned away – I'm a mess Nanny.

Then I went to pick up some dinner through the drive thru, and randomly started crying and had to dry my eyes before I got to the window.

The days are long Nanny – I look at my phone and want to call you for our daily chat; I cry knowing that you won't answer.

The mornings are hard too Nanny - I wake up with the expectation that you're still here and then it hurts all over again - The skies aren't as blue Nanny.

But the nights, they're the worst. I'm so tired after the day that I fall asleep but I wake up. Today was around 4.00am. It was light out, and I looked out and cried and cried – I cried me a river.

Remember this quote I read to you Nanny, the one by Rose Kennedy....

It has been said, 'time heals all wounds.' I do not agree. The wounds remain. In time, the mind, protecting its sanity, covers them with scar tissue and the pain lessens. But it is never gone.

Rose Kennedy

This is how I feel Nanny, the pain will lessen but I'll pine for you forever.

We shared so much, our hopes our fears.... everything.

Our phone conversations went from the weather to family issues, to Nelson Mandela, corruption, greed, love and then back to what we were going to have for lunch.

Then we'd laugh and say we'll talk more tomorrow.

And we'd start all over again the next day.

We relived the early days in Mangawhai and talked about our family presence...

....how we were spread around the roads like the Italian Mafia family, the Corleone's from the Godfather movie. But without the guns, we had guitars and ukuleles instead.

We talked about how strong our family unit was before we all broke off and went our own ways.

We realised we were stronger when we were together; there's always a strength in numbers.

We talked about 'Ocean.' How we'd get to the top and look down for the beach umbrellas; Nan's and aunty Marg's were the same pattern just different colours.

We'd all be there with our flecked polystyrene surf boards – some covered in the muslin hangi cloth to protect us from getting a rash.

We'd walk around to Patch-eye's for a milkshake, a pie or 'one hamburger.'

We talked about card nights and the parties in the garage.

You remember Nanny, I used to lay on you while you were singing, and I told you I could still hear your voice and feel your vocal chords vibrating when you used to trill.... I miss you....

We also talked about Prince of Wales feathers, tumble weeds and the pine trees.

We talked about the animals that had passed, Griffin – Duch – Nikky nu – Bennie and Pads.

And of course we talked endlessly about our loved ones, our family - who had passed and the impact it had on our lives.

Nan had a huge heart and she loved us all unconditionally. I know that she and Grandy too, were happiest when we were all together. Nan would say "They were the good old days..."

But she accepted that times changed and she watched us all sail off like ships in different directions.

And Nanny was left there waiting....

When the seas turned rough and the days grew dark she was always there for us, our beacon of light....

....Our beacon of light, waiting to guide us home.

And now Nanny that you've been taken from us so suddenly we're lost, we're floating...

But we're all together, and we're lighting the way for each other, and somehow we'll find a way to carry on.

We talked about the afterlife Nanny, and you asked me what I thought, and I said that I wasn't sure but that I'd like to think there was more. And now, I hope more than ever that there is, because I want to be with you again.

And I hope that when it is our time Nanny, that you will be there for us again, our beacon of light to guide us back to you, back where we belong.

So go my Nanny and rest – and know that we will be fine, we will look out for each other, until we meet again.

I love you with all my heart – my Nanny

Leah