

# Let's Talk About Death

STILL GOING STRONG - OUR HISTORY AND THE HISTORY OF SHAKESPEARE FUNERALS



Laura Carter

Setting the standards of funeral care since 1894, Dubbo's longest serving funeral home, Shakespeare Funerals, was established 125 years ago. The Shakespeare family was raised in this historic building where the funeral parlour still operates today, continuing the tradition of compassionate care and understanding.

The building itself holds its own history. The 1955 floods that swept through Dubbo filled the inside of the building, washing away many of the old records. On the front of the building is a marble panel that reads, "25th February 1955 Flood Level. Water entered shop 3.10am Friday 25th Feb. Reached record height 3pm Friday. Drained 6.30pm Saturday 26th Feb." Alas, the building still stands and proudly continues its operation 64 more years later.

So, who am I? My name is Laura Carter and I am a 24-year-old manager and funeral director of Shakespeare Funerals in Dubbo. I grew up in the funeral industry after my parents, Paul and Barbara Carter, moved from Wollongong with 3 young kids into the relatively unknown world of the funeral industry when they bought Gilgandra Funerals & Monuments in 1995. My grandfather was a Scientific Policeman and heard there was a funeral business for sale, so approached my parents who were looking to start a business venture together. Like most people would, they shrugged off the idea of the funeral industry. But after much deliberation, they thought they'd give it a go, and after years of hard work and self-teaching, they have never looked back.

I was only 1 year old at the time and from there was raised in cemeteries all around NSW learning to concrete and install monuments before I went to school. From such a young age, I was taught the values of hard work and compassion, qualities that I carry with me and thrive on every day.

In November 2003, my parents had the opportunity to further expand their business and purchased Shakespeare Funerals and W Larcombe and Son Funerals in Dubbo, H Logue and Sons Funerals in Wellington and Russell Everingham Funerals in Narromine. In 2008, they purchased St Andrew's Chapel in Wingewarra Street, Dubbo.

Let's skip forward a few years to 2018. This year was a big year for me. I moved back home to Dubbo after spending time in Newcastle at university and bought a house in April. In June, I took on management of Shakespeare Funerals and in August, my dad and I started our embalming courses to further educate and better ourselves and the work we do. We are always learning and looking for ways to better ourselves and the way we do business.

This year, my parents, my partner and I attended the National Funeral Expo in England. I met the man who built my Rolls Royce hearse, which, funnily enough, was his own personal car before it was converted. We met so many great people from around the world and came back with plenty of ideas that I am excited to implement in the coming future.

So, I'd like to share with you my journey in this industry as well as information on different funeral topics each month, such as prepaid funerals, what to expect at a funeral arrangement, and our monumental services. If you have any questions or would like to see information on a particular topic, please call me on **6882 2434** or send me an email - [laura@shakespearefunerals.com.au](mailto:laura@shakespearefunerals.com.au).

Laura Carter  
Manager

## SHAKESPEARE FUNERALS Dubbo

*"With Understanding & Compassion We Serve"*

A Family Owned & Operated Business  
Available 24 Hours

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