

### 8.3. MM03: Vale Valerie Swift

Valerie Swift, known affectionately as 'Val', was a highly valued, long-time member of the Stanton Library staff.

Val was initially employed in 1979 in the role of secretary to the Library Director. Over the following decades, Val worked in various roles at the Stanton, always demonstrating a passion for the library and the North Sydney community.

Val felt strongly about the library collection and particularly enjoyed working directly with borrowers at the library customer service desk. She is described by her former colleagues as an outstanding and loyal employee, a great influence on staff, and someone to whom others would often go to for advice and counsel.

Val retired from the Stanton Library in 1994 and, sadly, passed away in 2023.

Val's son, Adrian, has generously offered to make a financial donation to the Library, on behalf of the family, in honour of his mother who described her time at the Stanton as some of the happiest days of her life.

It is proposed that the donation be used for the purchase of books and audiovisual items and be acknowledged with a small plaque:

"In memory of Valerie Swift who worked at Stanton Library from 1979 to 1994 and who loved the library, its books, borrowers and staff and whose happiest days were spent on the lending desk."

**I therefore recommend:**

**1. THAT** Council agree to accept the donation and write to the Swift family expressing Council's condolences, acknowledgement, and gratitude for Val Swift's service and contribution to the North Sydney community.

**THAT** Council consult with the Swift family to prepare and install a small plaque within the Stanton Library to acknowledge the donation, to be located in an appropriate place as determined by the Library management team.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER  
MAYOR**