

# How to prepare a eulogy

There are probably many ways to present a eulogy this is perhaps the simplest. Your object is to create something of a picture of the persons life, not tell their life story. Its purpose is to give some public acknowledgement of the persons life and provide a base for people to build their memories from and say their farewell.

It is helpful to see the Eulogy in two parts:

## **Part one: Something of the life story -**

Where they were born, where they came in the family  
What their father/mother did  
Schooling, first job and subsequent employment (not necessary to detail or include everything)  
Were applicable: when and where they met their spouse, married (date and place)  
First family home and subsequent ones (not necessary to detail or include everything)  
Children - perhaps were they were born  
retirement  
Sometimes something about their health and the circumstances of their death.

## **Part two: What sort of person were they?**

Character,  
Ask for one or two word definitions of the family members to describe their parent/sibling/child.  
Interests: recreational interests, organisations, sports

Add appropriate stories and incidents - these can be humorous.

A eulogy does not require a large amount of detail. Suggest the average eulogy would be about one to two A4 pages typed at the most.

Keeping it honest: One can often get the idea that the deceased was a saint. At other times you can wonder if there was any good in them at all. On other occasions you wonder if they knew the person, some families find it very difficult to give any information about the deceased.

**How do we handle the difficult situations?** What about the first spouse or the last and the family do not want them mentioned. There can be many potential mine fields in these situations. It is important to grasp that what is left out can be as important as what is said.

First spouse: Mention that they were married in ..... to.  
or ..... family of three were born in Whakatu. .... and then make more of the meeting of the second spouse etc

Difficult person to live with:

Simply say so, or ..... had a mind of their own; or ..... was not always the most comfortable person to have around, however....

Write it out in full, check it with the principle family members especially any detail you are unsure of.

*It can be useful to type it up and hand it to the family after the funeral to be kept in their family records*

