

## **Fiona's Patchwork Eulogy**



### **Sam Ridgeway (USA San Diego)**

I hear that Fiona is going out to sea from which our distant ancestors came! This entirely fitting since Fiona has made some many contributions to marine mammal health. Her giant dissertation on ultrasound is a case in point. Now she lives through her body of work and through our many memories of her kindness and beautiful spirit.

### **Alfonso Lopez (Poncho) (Singapore)**

I am very proud of being a close friend of such a brave and great woman...! I admire her and respect her a lot.

### **Pietro Saviano (Italy)**

She was a very important person for me. When I started my researches in dolphin ultrasound I think I bothered her sometimes too much...but she was a treasure of information and I was honoured to talk with her. She could be sharp as a blade but always honest and I will always miss her amazing smile.

**Reimi Kinoshita. (Hong Kong)**

Such a loving, beautiful, maddening, Intelligent, emotive wife and mother

**Derek Spielman (Sydney)**

I worked at Ocean Park as the chief veterinarian from 2002 - 2005. During that time I had the good fortune of meeting and working with Fiona and greatly appreciated her expertise, wit and humour

**Daniel Garcia (Spain Valencia)**

So inspiring not only with her work but with her attitude towards science and life. So generous, so smart, so brilliant, so alive!!!

Such a lovely and charismatic person, beloved and admired by a great community with all the joy and inspiration she has offered and shared with them. It has been one of the great privileges in my life to have known Fiona, she was a great teacher, and above all a great friend.



**Nathalie Mauroo (HK)**

Fiona was such a strong and inspirational person, someone I truly admire.



### Bob Braun (USA Montana)

Fiona's life, as I knew her, had all the elements of a great story....emotion, mystery, travel, adventure, intrigue, conflicts, contradiction, and paradox. Those themes were abundant, entertaining and fun during time with Fiona. She was a good friend and Fiona, you are missed.



### Queeny Yuen (Hong Kong)

Fiona was a great and wonderful woman; very very intelligent and caring. I know how privileged I was to have been a student of hers. She has given me a life-changing experience, doing my PhD under supervision and this experience has gone greatly to shaping who I am and what I do today, her influence on me as person is felt to this day and will continue to do so. I will always remember her, and I miss her.



### **Roberto Okrucky (Mexico Cancun)**

Fiona was a very special person . A great teacher for many of us and great company outside of the meetings rooms where we use to smoke and become a good friends. I will always remember how nice she was and how black was her sense of humour. I always loved that in her.



she will be always in my heart as someone I admired: a great woman, great teacher, and great friend.

### **Iain Stewart (Australia)**

I always enjoyed Fiona's smile and the easy banter . Even after a few years of not seeing her I got the feeling it had been only a few days since we met. She made me feel at ease and I enjoyed her company.

### **Andrew Routh (Jersey)**

here was the Fiona at work, (having met at Ocean Park), dedicated and professional - always willing to share and to push her colleagues to stretch their abilities. What was her ground-breaking, pioneering, work is now not only accepted as routine for marine mammals but has also been built upon. Its evolution and development is testimony to her and is her legacy to all of us working with these marvellous animals. And she was not one to suffer fools gladly, (a positive attribute in my eyes). And out of work - there was the Fiona who was caring, loving and fun, an irrepressibly wicked wit. But it doesn't stop there. We were lucky enough to have been invited to the wedding - truly a day to remember, being there to see the family grow. Our paths crossed irregularly and, regrettably, far too infrequently since but when we did catch up you were both overwhelmingly welcoming and generous. Times to treasure and, for us, those will be our most lasting memories

**Natalie Rourke ( Australia Melbourne)**

How can one capture her extraordinary/massive contribution to research and education in the marine mammal diagnostics field? So many beneficiaries, animal and human. More importantly her unrivalled capacity for friendship. She is loved all over the world. We feel her loss keenly but feel oh so grateful she was our friend. Funny. Brilliant. Opinionated. At times difficult. Supportive. Visionary. I love her beyond words.



### Todd Robeck (Florida)

Our paths crossed at important periods in our professional lives and the effect of which has rippled across the small pond in which we pursued our similar goals Meeting you and spending time with you was always a memorable experience, your cutting wit, keen eye and ability to spot the ridiculous was always in prime form. While our combined efforts were relatively and disappointedly short, one aspect of your life which I admired the most was you love for your son, Tim. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet him so long ago and know that you dedication to him was unshakeable. Similarly, you story of your relationship and love for Con was more complex, but a testimony toward your singlemindedness and determination that he was and still is the only person for you. I believe that you three, and many of the kind friends in your life, especially Geraldine, are tied together in the continual line of lives that we must pass through during our spiritual evolution and I know you will be (and are) looking after them and will join them again in the future. Much love to you and comfort to your family that has not yet followed your path.



**Dema Metreweli (London)**



We will always remember our happy times at Fordhay - Fiona always made us feel so comfortable, with her roaring fires and lovely food. And how much she did for Finn and Sasha when they stayed with you - going to Cheddar Gorge, the wildlife park, walks with the dogs - and washing them afterwards - Finn and Sasha remember very fondly when Fiona made Halloween cards with them, spreading a sheet out on the floor and getting out all the creative things. We all cherish in particular memories of glass making, and playing games with you - especially the 'paper' game, which the children loved. The pointed and impatient question "who are we waiting for?" when someone was dawdling over taking their turn (especially with Quirkle) is something that we continue to ask whenever we play a game as a family. I think you've helped other people to work, but you helped us to relax and play xxx



### Harriet Chiu (Hong Kong)

Fiona and I became friends since the 80's. The results of her dedication and efforts in Ocean Park made us all proud. She not only gave me professional advice at work but also for my personal life. she will always be in my heart.



### Barbara Bianconi (Italy)

The first time I met Fiona was march 2005....I remember she was wearing a green sweater, talking to Geraldine and her sparkling eyes were so passionate!

I consider myself very fortunate because from the very first moment she was super nice to me and since then she has always helped me, supported me, followed my progress as a vet, and showed me her love.

Always willing to help and give me feedback.

I was very fortunate to learn from her!

I remember lying down on the beach with her.....we were the two lizards of the group....drinking margaritas chatting and



laughing. I feel I've been honoured to have the opportunity to get to know her closer as a friend!



**Viv and Ted Tierney (England Somerset)**

Our granddaughter, Amy, summed up Fiona perfectly in one word: **Amazing!** which she was in the truest sense of the word, tricky: yes, feisty: yes, out-spoken: frequently.

Kind, funny, generous, artistic, and caring.

Certainly a force to be reckoned with.



**Don Stremme (USA Philadelphia)**



Fiona: faithful friend, wonderful teacher, expert in cetacean US and reproduction, warm and caring, loving, energetic, almost frenetic, dependable, funny, sarcastic, demanding, intelligent, sun-loving, perfectionist, chic, artistic.

I feel so lucky to have had her in my life, for her teaching me, and to have so many wonderful memories. As soon as I think of her I see her smiling and radiant face and a smile comes to mine. I loved her clever sarcasm and her joie de vivre. My memories of her, and the perfect margaritas she so loved will be some of my most cherished as long



as my mind works!

**Leonardo Ibarra Vargas (Mexico Cancun)**

I consider her to be one of my best friends ever, and second that we (all the Mexican veterinarians and companies at least) owe her a big part of the success in diagnostics and reproductive programs. She needs to know and realize how important her contribution has been in our professional development. I am really glad that we all had the chance to be taught with her “Fiona’s way”.



### **Arlete Sogorb (Portugal Lisbon)**

Fiona influenced all marine mammal vet community with her knowledge and enthusiasm. Her beautiful skin, red hair and flashing eyes, that expressed everything that was in her soul, were her trade mark.



### **Ana Albany(Dubai)**

Fiona was the start of a work passion for me: reproductive ultrasound. She brought us something that she studied and loved - Dolphins - and because of her and the tools she gave to the community, many lives have been born and are now with us. But she reached much further than just giving technical help, it was personal support, and that encouraged my professional development. I am not sure what made her connect and remember me. What I do know is that I understand how special that was. **Her strong personality, sense of right, and special humour were captivating and connected people together from the most unlikely sides and that was quite beautiful to see.**

### **Bill Van Bonn (USA Chicago)**

I had the pleasure of both knowing and working with Fiona over the years. She and I co-authored three CRC handbook chapters and several papers. I used to fancy myself a pretty darned good ultrasonographer... .. **and then I met Fiona.** In spite of my figuring I was good at dolphin sonography I used to think one could not find their ovaries... **and then I met Fiona.** She truly advanced sonographic imaging of marine mammals more than anyone I know. And she was an absolute delight to be around and work with.

Geraldine Lacave (Belgium)



Thank you for having been there and been such a friend to me. I love you very much



### **Cara Field (USA)**

Fiona was one of the first people who I really talked to at the first Aquatic Animal Medicine conference I went to, in Portugal in 2002. I only knew 2 or 3 other people there, and I was a vet student, so very nervous to present my research to all these famous people, and Fiona was incredibly kind and supportive to me and the other students there- her humor and support made me feel at ease and helped me relax and feel like I was a part of this amazing group. Even though I usually only saw her once a year or so, she always remembered me and the laughs and fun and science we shared. Fiona, and you, welcomed me into your house years ago when I was travelling around England, and made me feel right at home and thoroughly welcomed once again. There are some truly rare and wonderful gems in the human race, and Fiona is one of the best of them. Her passion, dedication and spirit will live in all of those whose lives she touched, and we are better for it.

### **Pedro Lavia (Portugal)**

All of us at Zoomarine, who had the honour of meeting, working and learning with Fiona, have a tremendous loss. A special, beloved and very esteemed friend, a knowledgeable scientist, a respected colleague and above all, an example of dedication, rigour, technical expertise, respect and ethics.



### **Raul Torres (Mexico Cancun)**

I only have beautiful memories of a person as wonderful as my beloved Fiona, she was my teacher, introducer to the world of marine mammals dear friend and counselor.



Brian Kot (Hong Kong



It was you that gave me the reason not to leave my undergraduate program, and eventually work with Ocean Park to image these magnificent animals that I dreamed to be with since I was young. It was you who reaffirmed my status as your PhD student in a 10-minute smoking break during IAAAM 2007.

Thank you for your perceptivity, advice, trust, selfless dedication, concern and care, tolerance, support and encouragement for me to navigate through the most difficult of times.

Most recently you said, “You listened, you have stuck with it and you have become very good at what you do and made a place for yourself, like I did. I am proud of you!”

I feel extremely proud and privileged to be your student and friend.

Thanks for everything you have done for me. I will strive to continue your spirit, passion and love for education and aquatic animal imaging worldwide.



**Frances Gulland (USA Sausalito California)**



You were so professional yet approachable; detailed and rigorous in your work, yet flexible and fun; precedent-setting and inspirational, yet humble and modest; serious yet funny.

The day you died, we marine mammal veterinary colleagues of yours tried to save oocytes from a critically endangered species of porpoise, the vaquita, - a technique only remotely feasible for us because of your work on dolphin reproduction.

I will always think of this vaquita in my heart as "Fiona".

You will always be in our hearts.

**You did not simply visit this world. You made it a better place.**

