

# Song for Ruth



Wednesday 27 May 2020 marks the one year anniversary of the death of Sydney mountaineer, sailor, Executive Confidante, Coach and Facilitator, Ruth McCance. A song in memory of Ruth, *Song for Ruth*, written and performed by Sydney composer, Brooke Shelley is being used to raise funds and awareness for St Laurence House, a charity which has provided accommodation, support and care to homeless children and young people for the past 40 years. Ruth was Chairperson of St Laurence House (2010-2016) and committee member (2007-2016).

## ABOUT THE SONG

Sydney composer, Brooke Shelley, wrote *Song for Ruth* in response to the news that Ruth McCance was missing on a trek in the Himalayas in May 2019. Brooke got to know Ruth through their mutual involvement at St James' Church, King Street, Sydney.

For more information about Brooke, visit [brookeshelley.com.au](http://brookeshelley.com.au)

## ABOUT ST LAURENCE HOUSE

St Laurence House (SLH) is one of only very few organisations that provides medium to long-term accommodation for disadvantaged, homeless and at-risk youth. It provides a home for up to ten 13-18-year-olds at any one time, and helps to get them back on track and reach their full potential. SLH is recognised as setting the bench mark in Trauma-informed Care for young people. It has been operating for more than 40 years and has helped thousands of kids re-establish their lives over that period.

So much of the recent success of SLH has been due to Ruth's active involvement.

## SONG FOR RUTH

**Enquiries: Brooke Shelley 0400 355 950**

**Available to download on iTunes and Amazon Music on 27 May 2020.**

**Donate directly to St Laurence House on [stlaurencehouse.org.au/supporters/donate/#donate](http://stlaurencehouse.org.au/supporters/donate/#donate)**

**Unlisted YouTube link (listed on 27 May 2020): <https://youtu.be/NIsqCQpSigA>**

*Further information...*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### ABOUT ST LAURENCE HOUSE

Programs at St Laurence House (SLH) run in accordance with the Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) Program, regulated by the NSW Department of Families and Community Services (FACS).

It evolved from originally being a drop-in centre/crisis refuge to a long-term residential service staffed 24 hours a day, a second semi-supported unit, and an outreach program to assist young people to maintain their tenancies.

The staff at SLH are experts in working with young people who have experienced trauma, grief and loss. They teach the children to be independent and self-sufficient so that they can open the door to productive lives free of welfare assistance.

The Vice Regal Patron is Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of New South Wales.

### ABOUT RUTH AND ST LAURENCE HOUSE

As Chairperson, Ruth worked exceptionally hard and long for St Laurence House. Her time as Chairperson encompassed a period of major reform in the social welfare policy space in NSW. Ruth's work with our Executive Officer and other similar organisations helped re-direct and inform the developing policy to recognise our 24/7 model of trauma informed supported care for homeless youth.

Chairing the organisation at this time, Ruth's inspiring leadership has left a lasting legacy and it is a credit to her hard work that St Laurence House remains in the strong position it is in today.

Ruth always gave freely and positively of her time and expertise, did not judge people's position or circumstance, was naturally empathetic and possessed great dynamism and cheerfulness. She was the consummate professional at all times, much admired and respected by all Committee members, parishioners of supporting parishes and our youth residents.

A woman of many talents, and in addition to being a keen mountaineer, Ruth was an avid sailor and jazz singer. Even after her time as a St Laurence House committee member, Ruth continued to offer support to St Laurence House, frequently performing at fundraisers with 'The Fabulous Jazz Babies'.