

# A TRIBUTE TO FATHERS

by Kerry Cue

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Fatherhood is a complex job. These days a father is meant to be a psychologist, a literacy and numeracy expert, the birth support team leader, the weekend fun guy, the custodian of sports team allegiances, DIY almost-everything handy man, the kid-money accountant, the Human Google Service, the local CSI unit (Who ate the last chocolate?), the Lost Computer File Recovery Unit, the Home Theatre hardware expert, the back of the toy box instruction reader, the All-Sports Sports coach, the driving instructor, the First Aide Expert, the mum calmer, the resident surf life saver, the 24/7 On-Call Homework tutor, the BBQ King, the referee, the Stop Whinging Enforcer, the gopher (especially of medicine in the middle of the night), the Piggyback Guy, the camp guru, the resident furniture mover/removalist, the all round navigator/driver, the Cheer Up Squad after the Grand Final/Audition/Competition loss/failure, the (swear word free-ish) IKEA flat pack assembler, the cycle team transport/manager, the local faction of WWF, the second hand car expert and/or financier and much, much more.

Here to help fathers through the coming year with a maximum of composure and a minimum of hair loss are a few pertinent thoughts.

\*When it comes to having children I offer this advice. It is a good idea, if you can manage to be at the conception.

\* Appreciate the wonder of all Mother Earth's Creatures before you yell at them.

\*Babies communicate with smiles, burps at one end and loud explosions at the other.

\*Follow the yellow brick road and you will find the kid playing with the Lego.

\*Never offer your children advice you never took yourself.

\*A man can sometimes feel guilty about the suffering experienced by the woman who bore his children. Don't worry. You will bore them too!

\*If you tell your children they can only do something 'over my dead body', remember this. They can wait.

\*If Cole Porter was to write a song about Fatherhood it would begin ' Let's do it. Let's fall in debt.'

\*Be warned: There are only 24 hours in the day and when your children are young you will most likely be late for every one of them.

\*Time will tell. But the youngest child will tell sooner.

\*Anger let loose at night is a fool in the morning.

\*I would like to remind any middle-aged father playing sport with an adolescent son that ' A stitch is a warning. It is saying 'It's not whether you win or lose but whether you survive that counts '.

\*A child is a joy forever, which for a 3 year old feels like 21/2 minutes on a good day.

\*When it comes to those big decisions of fatherhood remember 'To err is human and to 'um' is pretty human too.'

\*Toddlers do not like sharing anything with you except their half-eaten crusts and their germs but they are very generous in that regard.

\*Giving us a sense of humour was god's way of allowing us to be endlessly entertained by the parenting theories of others.

\*Every little helps. This saying was obviously written by someone who did not have children of any size.

\*A word of advice for parents of teenagers. 'Smile'. It will confuse them.

\*Like father. Like Son. Hell! I like them all.

\*A loving father will do anything for his children including shut up.

\* Sons often grow taller than their fathers. It is God's way of highlighting your bald spot.

\*If you want to know how to be happy, watch a young child. They can do it standing on their head.

\*Never lend you car to anyone who has called you an idiot. What are you trying to do? Give them proof.

\*Never cry over spilt milk. Hell!!! There will be more spilt milk tomorrow.

\*Adult children often express a belief in the counter-culture concept of free love so they don't have to pay board.

\*If you are up to your neck in hot water, the adolescent hasn't had a shower yet.

\*If you want your adult children to leave home, don't nag. Just walk around the house in your underpants singing.

\*When you look back on all those years of fathering and laugh, you will probably wonder why you didn't do both sooner.

\*If I could give a special Father's Day present to every father, it would be - wrapped in silver paper with golden thread - that warm feeling of peaking through the bedroom door when your children are youngsters to simply watch them as they sleep. This is pure father-love which is only felt briefly at the still centre of the whirling cyclone of noise and action that otherwise defines family life but it is enough.