

## **A Divine Meal: Beatrice Yell**

This year, on Mothers' Day, I was treated to just the best meal ever. It even beat the 'Jambon à la Crème' with asparagus in Dijon, France and the exquisite 'petit fours' in the Parisian patisseries.

My son Brendan flew home on the same day, determined to make it a memorable day for my daughter-in-law, her mother and me as well. His wife Sonya works and manages their household of three very different boys, a rescue dog and a hen during his absences for the American I.T. company who employ him.

He'd tried to book a table for brunch, without success. The owner/manageress then suggested an 8pm meal but he'd said he'd be too jet-lagged and sleepy by that time. So she said, 'Come about 5 then and we'll find a table for you somehow.'

In his second-hand but very comfortable Mercedes he drove us to *Eight*, the restaurant at Trinity Point on Lake Macquarie. As the owner greeted us, she guided us to our table and beckoned the head waiter. They both made sure we were comfortable before the special rosé arrived with the menus. The view over the marina, full of watercraft afloat on the glistening lake as the sun set was magical.

We ordered three platters to share: local seafood, vegetarian and meat. All superb - fresh and tasty. Then I chose the gnocchi; as with everything on offer, made from scratch on the premises and beyond delicious.

It was a far cry from the days when I'd buy buckets of fruit and any foodstuffs on special to take up when the family was 'on struggle street.' I love them all and I'm so proud of them.

We were sated and wanted nothing more. But our ever-attentive waiter suggested the individual tasting plates for dessert, each with four dainty chocolate-based portions – utterly decadent and moreish. Then the owner Stephanie appeared with a large jug of afogato, more than enough for us all. 'On the house', she said.

What a memorable meal we had received, all because Brendan was her 'favourite customer.' I suppose bringing friends from overseas and everywhere, and his boys, for afternoon tea to have their favourite cheesecake quite often, would make a difference!