

# **Katrina Humphries- Mayor of Moree Plains Shire Council**

## **The Ode**

### **“Because She’s the Girlfriend.”**

She comes in all different shapes, from all different places,  
she’s the school friend, the team mate, the sister, the  
brother’s girlfriend, she’s the daughter or daughter-in-law,  
she’s the girl at the next desk, she’s the personal assistant,  
the Mum, the Mum’s best friend– because she is “The Girlfriend.”

She shows us to be who we are, she encourages us to grow  
and develop, she shares our deepest secrets, she never tells,  
she builds bridges but never crosses them– because she’s  
“The Girlfriend.”

She’s our greatest critic and we love her for it, she can tell  
us that our bum looks big in that outfit and we will never  
wear it again, she can suggest a tone when our hair is too  
stark, she can make us wear stockings when the need arises,  
she can tell us to grow up when we have to– because  
she’s “The Girlfriend.”

She shares her lipstick, her deodorant and her hair brush is  
as good as “ours”, she cries with you in times of distress and  
laughs with you in times of joy, her time is unconditional,  
she picks the kids up from sport when we’re tied up at meetings,

she takes over your business when the plane is delayed,  
she requires no payment– because she’s “The Girlfriend.”

She is invisible. She seeks no limelight, she doesn’t appear  
on the front page of a newspaper when you’re at a protest,  
but she has made the banner. While you’re on your soapbox,  
she’s washing up. When you’re going out for a quiet dinner  
and the phone rings, it’s a needy constituent, she irons your  
outfit- because she’s “The Girlfriend.”

She understands. She still talks to you after you had to cut  
her dead on the phone with a flippant “I’ll call you straight  
back” but it actually takes two days to get back to her. She  
makes excuses for you when you forget it’s her birthday and  
she still loves you for all your shortcomings– because she’s  
“The Girlfriend.”

She’s quality; she selects the biggest block of chocolate and  
then scoffs it with you and even offers you the last piece!  
She shops without tiring, she knows your PIN number, she’s  
like glue, she’s part “B” to your part “A” and mixed together  
you harden up and face the world– because she’s “The Girlfriend.”

She knows her boundaries and never extends them; she  
knows your limitations and pushes you to excel, to strive  
harder and smarter. She collapses with you in defeat but  
never accepts gratitude in victory– because she’s “The Girlfriend”-  
and without her we could not function.