

A Life Without Regret

The Legacy Project



MR YAP LEONG CHUAN

A BIOGRAPHY



Bed 215, Dover Park Hospice.
This is Mr Yap's final stop in life.

“我已经做好心里准备了，
这里最后了。”

He has taken on various roles
throughout his life: a son, a logistics
driver, a chauffeur...

At this stage, he wears these badges
with pride: Husband to Ying Mei.
Father to See Seng and Jasmine.
Grandfather of Enzo, Kyra and
Kayleigh.



Meal times remind him the most about his wife's cooking.

“我老婆很厉害煮东西。她煮的，什么都好吃。”

He remembers the fish and the eggs she used to cook.

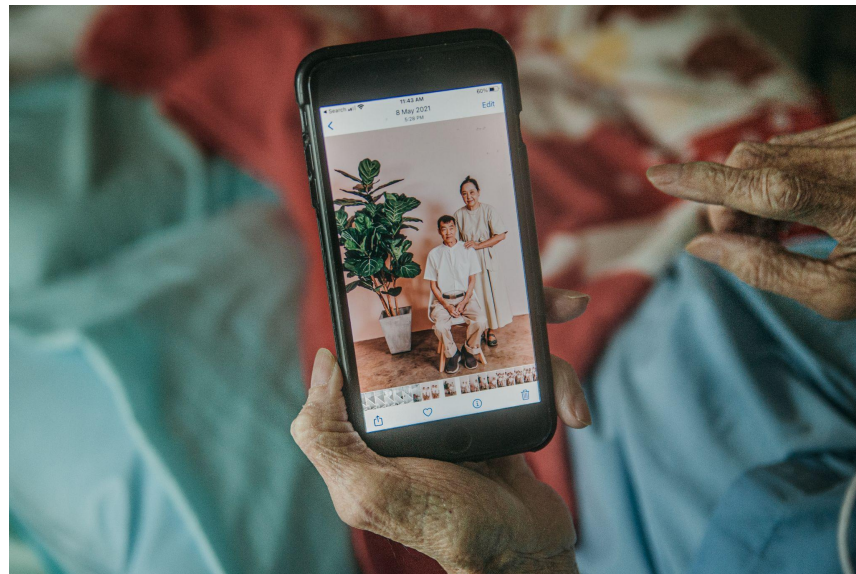
And how she learned to cook from scratch, from his mother.



These days, his main diet is porridge from the hospice's kitchen.

He attempts to replicate the taste of home with a few drops of “爱心酱油” that Ying Mei prepared for him.

“这样的老婆很难找的。我真的很lucky。”



They are each other's first love, with him falling in love at first sight.

“她很靜。可是我一看到她，我就知道。”







He looks forward to his wife's visits twice a day. She'd be here more often, if not for the current COVID visiting policy in place.

She doesn't waste time going about the familiar routine – clean up the area, massage his feet, and then settling down by his bedside.

At home, they spend most of their time together watching dramas. They continue their habit here, with his phone standing in for their TV.

A Mandarin-dubbed Korean drama plays on. The current plot point: Man reassures his terminally ill lover that he'd take care of her.

“我要交代的事都交代完了。
我最放心不下的是我老婆。她一个人。
我跟孩子讲，每天要打一通电话给她。
问她吃了没有，看她有没有事。。”





Drama. Work. Children. Colleagues. Food.
They don't run out of things to talk about.

They haven't travelled beyond Malaysia.
But they went almost everywhere together.

She brushes off his public declaration of
"I love you" with a shy smile. And lets go of
his hand after awhile.

Yet she overstays her time limit and panics
at the thought of being asked to leave.



“我没有什么遗憾。。
只后悔没有带老婆出国。
本来女儿要带我们去台湾，
但是没力走了。”

“人生成功是-- 抚养孩子长大，
他们成家。。这样就成功了。”



Mr Yap did not know how to say "I love you". But Jasmine felt his love otherwise, through his presence.

To her, he is her cheeky dad who teased her when he gets the chance. He watched her from the corridor outside their flat everyday, until she boarded the bus to school.

She pampers him with his favourite sweet treats - durian puff, "Mr Coconut" drink, brownie... despite his diet restrictions.

Just like how he gave in to her whims and demands for extra pocket money to buy things she likes.

She's bracing herself for the worst. Yet she knows she'll never be prepared enough, as she tears up at the thought of his absence.



He is less shy about expressing his love explicitly to his granddaughter Kayleigh.

He replies when she says *"Love you"*, whenever she visits.

And watches over her through the baby monitor camera on his phone.



He scrolls through his photos and shows off his son with pride.

“我的儿子很有本事的，跟外国人合伙开脚踏车店。很厉害的。”

“跟太太的爱情长跑很多年了，跑到现在，不容易。”

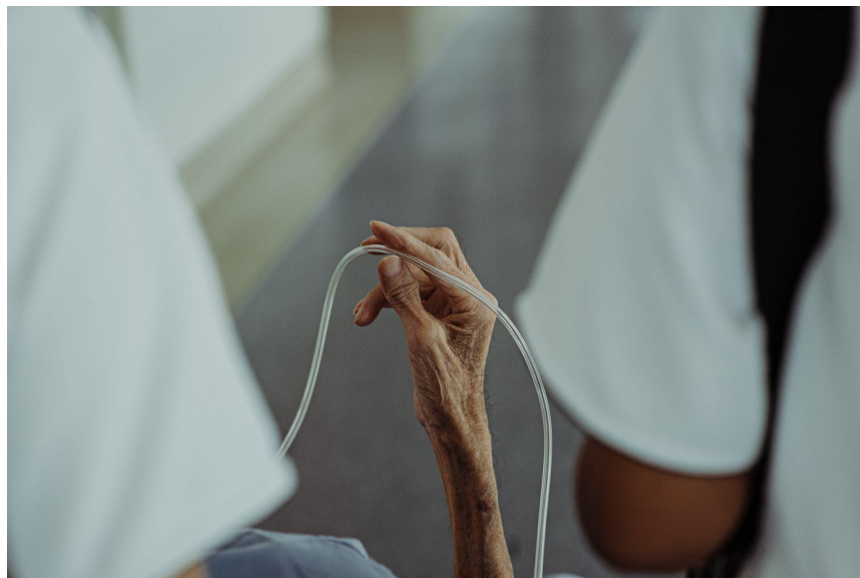
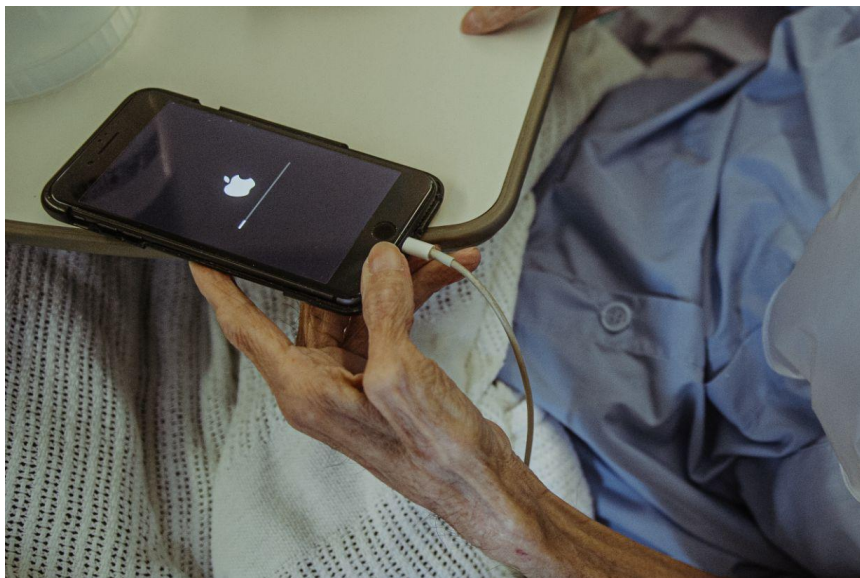
“他的孩子也很聪明。。。”



Being around people energises him, which he's quick to reciprocate.
His warmth is something the oxygen mask can't contain.

He welcomes everyone with his toothless, boyish smile.
Always game to show off his good looks by cheekily removing
his oxygen mask, to the horror of the nurses.

His booming voice ricochets off the walls of the room, the hospice.
Silenced only by the occasional pauses he takes to catch his breath.



are to patients with advanced disease
support the grieving families.

DOVER PARK HOSPICE

Every Moment Matters

The DPH logo features two forms - the Circle of Life and the Dove. The Circle represents the passage of life - The Trials and experience from a life well lived; a wisdom and certainty that comes with age; a personification that death is but the next completion of life's cycle.

Significantly enclosed, allowing the Dove to soar free, take flight towards another realm, to carry on. A subtle shadow in the background, a care and compassion that has guided this journey.

A series of strokes blend three key colours - Teal, and grey to form images depicting the Circle and the Dove, a graceful transition into timeless serenity.







He came into the hospice on 1 Nov 2022.
After 60-odd days in an acute hospital.

“当护士把他的管全部拔掉，
他问：“你们是不是盼我死刑？”
医生静静。。。送他来这里。”

Most living here leave in a few days or weeks.
Mr Yap's been here for a month (and counting).

No one knows why his condition is stable.
Even though he's off heavy medications and life
support that he once depended on.

With every breath, he draws comfort knowing
that his life companion remains by his side.

She's always been there - in good times and in
bad, in sickness and in health.

“我的老婆最好的。”