Teddy Bear

This small plush toy, also known as a “Teddy-bear” was the property of the Swan family of Bowral in the early 2010s. Having been given the name “Tishi” or “Tish”, this toy was much loved by the eldest of three girls, Kate and was first given to her in a bunch of flowers that had arrived from Dux hot water to congratulate the birth of the child to the Swan family in the year 1999. Teddy bears back then were special to children, on some occasions, they did everything with them. Tish was loved and cherished as a treasure through the years.

Kate sometimes noticed the pattern of small holes along Tish’s arm and simply patched it up herself.

At the rear of the toy, there are some remains of blue fabric, though it may look like it, the tag was not blue. It started off like any other toy tag, but the owner of the toy, Kate, always used to flick little Tish back and forth to get her to sleep. Without being able to do this, Kate would not go to sleep at all, and just cry until somebody did something about it. Jadwiga, Kate’s carer noticed the tag was worn out, and so cut it off. Unfortunately this didn’t allow Kate to go to sleep that evening as she couldn’t flick him without the tag, so at 3am, after much crying, her mother sewed on another piece of fabric to replace it and peace returned to the house. When Kate outgrew this habit, she simply had the tag cut off.

Kate kept this plush bear for a long time; she still had it on her 12th birthday. Even now, this bear reminds members of the Swan family about their big girl’s little past.

NOTE FROM CURATOR

“This little treasure of the Swan family has lasted many years in the loving arms of Kate Swan. Kate and Tish used to do almost anything together, Kate would take Tish shopping, to the movies and whenever she could. Patched up holes and messy stitching proves that Tish was loved for who she was, a special little gem to this little girl.”

Kate Swan (Museum Curator)