

SUNDAY READ

Next generation says 'thanks'

FROM PAGE 17



Annette Sym and her mum Fay Griffiths.
PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

To my darling Mum,

I just wanted to write to you today to say how grateful I am for you being my mum.

For all that you sacrificed and struggled with, I say "thank you". Being a single mum was a challenge but you did your best and worked really hard to provide for us three girls.

I probably haven't said it enough but I really appreciated all that you did for us growing up and all the sacrifices you made.

You taught me to work hard but to have fun at the same time.

You have always been my biggest cheer squad and I will treasure that you were with me as I received my Honorary Senior Fellow Award in April this year. I know that I didn't make life easy for you when growing up, but what a turnaround from a kid who was almost kicked out of school to be where I am today.

I love that you are so proud of me and I am sorry that we don't get to see each other enough.

Living in different states makes it hard but when we do get together, I treasure our time together.

I love you mum. Annette xx

To my dearest Mumzie,

Eighteen years have passed since you brought me into your special world and your love for me has been eternal.

You deserve an essay but I could only write a few words.

These last five years I know has been tough for you, having to bring up a teenage daughter who swims and comes home tired and grumpy. But do you know why you are the most amazing, special mother in the whole entire world?

Because no matter what I go through, you support me 110%



Tessa Wallace.
PHOTO: JOHN MCCUTCHEON

No matter what I go through, you support me 110% and I know you will never stop loving me.

and I know you will never stop loving me. So today is all about you, and hopefully this one day of me expressing my upmost respect, gratefulness and never dying love for you suffices for the multiple days you were still there for me through my bad and (I know) annoyingly frustrating times. Thank you so much and I love you a trillion-gazillion times. Happy Mother's Day.

You deserve every second of it.

Lots of love Tessa
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dear Mum,

Another Mother's Day is here again and I am now blessed to be a mother myself.

This experience has truly made me appreciate your unconditional love, your sacrifices and your amazing support of me in all facets of my life.

I value you not only as a mother, but as a friend, a confidante, a business associate and a grandmother.

Love Amber



Amber Werchon and her baby boy, Max.
PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



French Paradis in Los Angeles

By MATT MUELLER

IT SEEMS peculiar to find Vanessa Paradis in LA. She's so quintessentially French in appearance and mannerisms, it would be far more appropriate if we were downing espressos under a Gauloise haze in Paris's Cafe de Flore, the 6th arrondissement coffee house once frequented by Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre.

Even more so because the Cafe de Flore happens to be the name of her new French-language film.

But LA's where it's been at for Paradis thus far in 2012.

She and Johnny Depp have decamped to one of the couple's many homes (they also have residences in France, New York and the Bahamas) with their children, 12-year-old Lily-Rose and 10-year-old Jack, while he shoots his role as Native American scout Tonto in Disney's \$215million tentpole, *The Lone Ranger*.

While he's on location in New

Mexico, she's spending her days writing songs for her new album, which she plans to record in the autumn, release in early 2013 and support with a tour.

"It's my favourite thing, touring," she said in a surprisingly husky voice. "I love it so much."

Paradis's passion has always been music before acting, which she has only done sporadically and possibly half-heartedly at times. She's made several albums in a music career that began before she'd broached adolescence, even if for a vast majority outside France it still begins and ends with her 1987 helium-toned single, *Joe Le Taxi*.

And she'd love nothing more than to discuss music now (she's currently beguiled by a pair of Canadian artists, singer-songwriter Feist and the folk collective Timber Timbre), even though our reason for meeting is director Jean-Marc Vallee's *Cafe de Flore*. It was Vallee who brought Timber Timbre to her attention, and his own musical fervour made him

Paradis' ideal collaborator.

The French-Canadian filmmaker fought to score his previous film, *The Young Victoria*, entirely to the music of Sigur Ros. The producers wouldn't allow it, but he gets to indulge his whims in *Cafe de Flore*, in which the Icelandic group's ethereal sounds play a haunting role.

"He is so much about music, playing music on the set, writing the script around certain songs, editing the film to a musical rhythm," Paradis buzzed.

"He somehow is a musician and that was a big, big plus for me."

Initially, Vallee didn't want Paradis for *Jacqueline*. He was considering several other French actresses, but her impassioned plea was enough to sway him.

Cafe de Flore tells two intertwined stories: the first, set in present-day Montreal, shows the devastating emotional turmoil when a music producer (Kevin Parent) leaves his wife (Helene Florent) for another woman, despite the wife's belief that their

union was carved in destiny; the other is set in 1969 Paris, where single mother Jacqueline (Paradis) is raising a young son with Down syndrome but feels their inseparable bond coming under threat when he develops an attachment to another child with the condition.

Paradis was thrilled Vallee offered her *Jacqueline* because the character is unlike anyone she had played before, and so unlike herself: unglamorous, self-sacrificing, with hard edges and one goal in life to devote her being to ensuring her vulnerable son grows up strong and elongates his limited life expectancy. Paradis was heartbreaking in the role and was duly rewarded with the Best Actress award at Canada's 2012 Genies.

— THE INDEPENDENT

SO VERY FRENCH: Actress Vanessa Paradis arrives for the premiere of *Cafe de Flore* in Montreal.
PHOTO: AAP

