

GIBNEY: REBECCA CATHERINE

Born: 14 Dec 1964, Levin, New Zealand.

**Married: 1st: 5 Jul 1992, Melbourne, Australia
To: Irwin Thomas (stage name: Jack Jones) (divorced 1995)**

**Married: 2nd: 4 Nov 2001, Queensland, Australia
To: Richard Bell (**



Honours

**1990: Australian Film Institute Award for best Actress for her role
in "Come in Spinner"**

1991: Most Outstanding Actress Logie Award

2009: Gold Logie for her role in "Packed to the Rafters"

2009: Most Popular Actress Award for her role in the same show

**She has also been nominated for numerous awards over many
years**

Rebecca's parents were:

Austin (1930 – 1982) & Shirley Clare (nee Way) (1935 -)

Rebecca & Richard have one son:

Zachary Edison Bell (2004 -)

Rebecca's siblings are:

Michael Austin (1954 -)

Teresa Maureen Marion (1956 -)

Patrick Shaun (1957 -)

Dianna Frances (1958 -)

Stella Margaret (1960 -)

Rebecca and her siblings were all born in Levin, New Zealand. At some stage she moved to Wellington for secondary schooling.

She left school at 16 to stay at home to look after her father who had lost a leg as a result of a blood-clotting disorder, and to allow her mother to keep working.

She worked as a model & then appeared in a NZ kidult TV series "*Sea Urchins*" from 1980 to 1984.



At the age of 19 she moved to Australia and broke into the TV series as the role of 'Julie Davis' in the children's series "*Zoo Family*" in 1985.

Then came the role of mechanic 'Emma Plimpton' in the popular drama series "*The Flying Doctors*". Then in 1990 came the mini series "*Come In Spinner*". Then 1991 to 1993 the sitcom "*All Together Now*", then "*Snowy*".

In 1994 she starred in the role specially made for her, 'Dr Jane Halifax' in "*Halifax f.p*" which continued till 2002. The series was an immense success and cemented Rebecca's status as a household name within Australia & NZ.

One of the more popular series she was involved in was "*Packed to the Rafters*" where she played the part of mother 'Julie Rafter' from 2008 till 2013.

Among other special programmes she has been involved in are:

"*Sensing Murder*" a documentary series produced by TVNZ;

"*The Killing Field*" a crime drama released in 2014;

"*Winter*" a follow up series to "The Killing Field"; and

"*Wanted*" a series which started in 2016.

She was also the subject of genealogy series "*Who Do You Think You Are*"

Rebecca has been quite open about the men in her life, starting with her father. Just before he died (at the age of 52) he turned to her, hugged her and said he loved her. It was the first time she had heard him say that.

She described her two older brothers as sensitive men who always showed her kindness. She describes her brother Patrick as one of the most optimistic men she knows.

She was late bloomer when it came to boys. Her mother was worried about it because she was a tomboy. Her father wanted another son after three girls and he had even picked out the name 'Thomas'. She lived in flannelette shirts, jeans & sneakers. Her mother sent her to a deportment class when she was 13.

She loved running & camping & didn't discover boys until she was 15 & at Wellington Girl's College where everyone became boy mad. She became a rebellious teenager. Her mother did the best for her but in reality she needed male attention which she didn't get from her father.

In her early 30's she developed agoraphobia & had a mental collapse. Her career was going amazingly but her personal life was a mess after the collapse of her 1st marriage.

One of her mentor's, Roger Le Mesurier, at one stage gave her an introduction to a woman therapist.

At the age of 35 after she had dealt with her past, in walked a 'beautiful, tall' New Zealander called Richard Bell, who happened to have lived on the same street as her when she was five. They met in 1969, got together in 2000, married in 2001 and have been happy ever since. Their son Zachary was born in 2004. When he was born, she looked at him and saw her father in him. She promised to give him the life that her father never had.