



Vale

Aileen Mavoura Kelly

29th December 1929 - 3rd March 2017

It was Nicola Reeves who had the honour of reading the Eulogy at the funeral of her grandmother Aileen Mavoura Kelly.

It was a stunning Norfolk Island Autumn day for the funeral of this well-loved resident who had lived with us for the last 54 years of her life.

The service was conducted by Rev. David Fell and after his welcome and words of comfort, one of

Norfolk's favourite hymns "The Ship of Fame" was sung. Music for the service was provided by Trent Christian on the guitar.

The Eulogy was then read by grand daughter Nicola Reeves;- "Aileen Mavoura Kelly was born in Nightcaps, Otago New Zealand in 1929. She was very premature and fitted into a shoe box, so the story goes, and placed on the side of the stove to keep her warm. Her father Jack was a race horse trainer and market gardener, growing strawberries and tomatoes commercially. Aileen was brought up in Invercargill and when she was quite young, was sent as a boarder to St. Columba's College in Dunedin. As a young girl she was very close to her cousins Noeline and Joy and spent many happy holidays with them on their farm in Southern Otago. She was a talented student winning awards in Music and English. Aileen had an obsession with the English language all her life. She loved classical English poetry, could recite many of the famous poems, was a wiz at The Times cryptic crossword, had an awesome vocabulary, was a walking Thesaurus and almost knew every word in our much loved copy of the Oxford Dictionary. She was certainly never stuck for words!

Aileen married Bruce in 1950. After they got married, Bruce was posted to the Tairoa Head Albatross Sanctuary as the lighthouse keeper. Aileen loved that part of her life. It was a bit of an adventure living on rabbits and mutton birds and she often spoke about it with fondness.

(continued overleaf)

New Arrival

Learn All About Dinos!

\$12.95



Perfect for anyone who likes to test their puzzles skills.

The puzzleabilities Dinosaurs Jigsaw is a fun and educational way for children and adults to learn about dinosaurs and prehistoric reptiles.

You can complete the puzzle on your own or get together with family and friends for hours of enjoyment!

Available at Bounty Centre & Mini Golf Shop

Yes, Mini Golf Shop is open 7 days a week 2pm - 5pm

Aileen Mavoura Kelly - continued

After that they moved to Invercargill where Bruce got his first job as a meteorologist. They built a house at Otatara, just outside Invercargill. Barb was born in 1953 and John in 1957.

Not long after that, Bruce got posted to the Chatham Islands. It was very remote, cold and windy, with just a few other people. There was a flying boat service and a ship now and then. It was quite a lonely place and I think Aileen was quite brave to just pack up her kids, leave her dream home and follow Bruce. Barb remembers the big drama when Aileen got appendicitis and she went with her in the flying boat to Wellington. It turned out that she just had a stomach ache from eating too many green apples, but they took her appendix out anyway!

Following Bruce had even bigger surprises when in 1959, they moved to Melbourne, then to Cloncurry in NW Queensland where once again, Aileen was rewarded with a brand new house on stilts. Not quite the same as her beloved Otatara house, but it had an extra bedroom, needed this time for Pip, who was born in 1961. In 1963, Bruce had another big surprise for Aileen, with a transfer to Norfolk Island, where he had always dreamed of returning to, after spending time stationed there when he was seventeen, with the NZ Airforce.

It turned out after all of these moves, Aileen spent the last 54 or so years of her life on Norfolk and she loved bringing her children up here where they could run wild and free. She and Bruce gave their kids the best childhood, teaching them a strong work ethic, picnicking down at the family's favourite spot at the end of Slaughter, always laying an extra place at the table for any of their friends. Aileen filled the family home with beautiful music as she was a very talented pianist and could play everything from classical music to old war time songs. She loved gathering her family around the radio to listen to "The Goon Show" and other comedies. Aileen was always up for a good party and had a wicked wit.

She is remembered by many for being able to see humour in most situations and provided her family with an endless supply of hilarious situations with her antics. She was a terrible driver and wrote off 4 cars in a 10 year period, most of them before she even left the property. One day she managed to mow down 4 punga's and one of Dad's exotic hibiscus, the cattle stop and earned the nickname "Cyclone Aileen" within the family. She also loved the Melbourne Cup and could quite often tip the winner when she sold the Red Cross sweeps.

Besides the horses and "writing off" the odd car or four, some of Aileen's favourite time was spent with her grandchildren, Lynley, Ashe, Nicola and Tori. The kids each have their own memories of her taking them to the library, down to feed the ducks, playing word games and not so fond memories of making them eat all their dinner at the table even when it was one of Bruce's new not so edible food concoctions. He used to boast he had 54 ways to cook sausages.

Aileen had two great grand children, Lilly and Luke, who visited her many times on the island.

Aileen spent the past 3 years of her life in aged care at the N.I. Hospital where she became a favourite of all the wonderful Dr's, nurses, kitchen and cleaning staff with her cheeky wit. You never knew what would come out of her mouth next!! Pip's visits often resulted in lots of laughter from everybody in the aged care living room when her mother would tell her off as if she was 10 years old, from everything from being untidy, late, talking to other people instead of her, not being married or wearing the wrong clothes. However on a good day, she would give the biggest smile and her eyes would twinkle with love when she saw one of us.

Rest in peace Aileen with your beloved Bruce".

The placing of Floral Tributes on the coffin then followed and following The Lord's Prayer, that great favourite hymn "In the Sweet By and By" was sung before the Committal and the singing of "Come Ye Blessed - Pitcairn Anthem".

Thank You

Barb, John, Pip and family would like to thank The Norfolk Island Hospital staff for their beautiful care of Mum over the years, The wreath makers, The pallbearers, The grave diggers, Shane Quintal, Milton Bradley for the music, Photopress and Jodie Williams for designing and printing the service sheets at such short notice, Diddles for the donation of such beautiful flowers and to our extended family, close friends and last but not least, our Norfolk community who make this the best place on earth with their love and support.

Unfortunately, John, Lynley, Ashe, Tori, Lilly and Luke could not be present in person, but were here with us all in love and spirit.

Tom's Note

In the words of the Eulogy, Nicola said that "Aileen had an obsession with the English language all her life. She loved classical English poetry, could recite many of the famous poems, was a wiz at The Times cryptic crossword, had an awesome vocabulary, was a walking Thesaurus and almost knew every word in our much loved copy of the Oxford Dictionary. She was certainly not stuck for words!

I can, without any fear of contradiction, agree with this statement. In the early days of starting 'The Norfolk Island' when Tim went off to New Zealand to be with her pregnant daughter Valerie, Aileen would come and help me with the production of the paper.
