



Vale

Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey

9th March 1929 - 15th June 2020

Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey a man who often said and believed we were “PUT ON EARTH TO HELP OUR FRIENDS, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY”. A man who acted earnestly every day on this deep-seated belief.

Perhaps for the benefit of those who knew our dad well later in his life, I would like to share a slightly funny moment earlier this week as our family gathered around the lounge room at Devon to make the arrangement for today. Up for discussion was -What hymns? Who are the pallbearers etc & etc. The subject of what route to ask tardy to drive to bring Dads body

to this final resting place was raised. Someone piped up - Drive him around the old post office 3 times and pick up one bottle of red from the bond for dinner..... and apologise to anyone whos' car was swiped by the hearse on the way down! For those who didn't know Bernie well, he didn't protrude much higher than the top of the steering wheel, he loved his daily routine and he was a bit fraidy behind the wheel.

Bernie was born on the 9th March 1929 at Cosy Corner on Middlegate road. He was delivered into this world after a difficult labour by the current Dr John dukes Father – the late Dr John Duke.

He was the first child of his Mother, Dorothy May Christian and father George Allen Bailey (or Jamar as he was affectionately known). He was named BIRNIE after a Sir Norman Birnie. A prominent railways civil engineer who helped lay the foundation stone of the family home.

Soon after - his sister Norma, brother Charles (or Micky as he became Known) arrived and a little later on Lenny.

As was common with young island families at the time, Bernie spent much of his younger youth under in care of some of his congenial and gracious Aunties and other relatives. Names we still hear of today like Auntie Mum and Maria Heaps whos home was Hillcrest, Also His “Nan” – Clara Bailey whose home was Elouera –now the current restaurant of Governors lodge resort. Also spending much time with Pa Eddie and Edwina Christian.

Bernie always spoke with an avid adoration of the upbringing provided by these generous soft and gentle
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Raised Garden Beds for Seniors



The Men's Shed, Garden Club and Health and Wellbeing Coordinator are working together to provide raised garden beds for FREE to seniors in our community who would like to garden without having to get down to ground level. You will also receive a voucher for plants etc from the Garden Club

If you would like to participate please contact Karen Innes-Walker, Health and Wellbeing Coordinator on 22687 or 53969 or karen.walker@hospital.gov.nf



Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey - continued

souls, who no doubt had a leading influence in shaping the man and gentleman who he was to become.

The affection was obviously mutual and it is quite probable he became the golden boy to many of the relatives charged with his care. Under their gentle guidance the wonderful qualities of kindness, generosity, manners, self-respect, impeccable table etiquette, integrity a strong sense of duty and a love of God became the basis of him and remained with him until the end. Bernie also developed in his earlier year's fine horsemanship skills and a deep pride and respect for his Island home.

In 1943 and at the age of 14, during the middle of the war, Dorothy along with Bernie, Norma, Micky and young Lenard were evacuated to Sydney for safety along with many other islanders. Jamar was serving with the Australian Army in Darwin at the time. The family settled in Randwick then Moncur Street Woollahra then later on in Lane Cove.

When they first arrived, Bernie spent a bit of time attending the Crown street School in Surry Hills. He would never talk about his schooling in Sydney. We suspect he may never have had the opportunity to graduate, maybe harbouring some small feeling of regret.

He always maintained he was educated at the "university of life".

Throughout his life, outwardly Dad did not regard one's success to be a product of a good education rather a good upbringing. Dad often recited his favourite aphorism – "It's not WHAT you know, it's WHO you know that really matters". He did use his "WHO he knows" to provide wonderful school education opportunities for all of us five children -for which we are very grateful.

Bernie worked for a short while with a wool broker firm in Sydney where he helped a slightly younger Bill Blucher get a job. Bill actually ended up making quite a successful career from this job. Bernie moved on to a steady job with Qantas Airways in a sales and administration role. This included some 5 years posting in Qantas' Port Moresby and Lae offices in New Guinea before returning to their Sydney headquarters.

Bernie thoroughly enjoyed his time in Sydney socialising, with the strong Norfolk Island community who remained living there after the war ended. I believe some great nights were spent at the Polynesian club with the likes of Maeve Hitch, Archie and Beatie Bigg, Tom Lloyd, and other Norfolk Islanders.

We have learnt second hand of the many relatives and other Norfolk Islanders living or visiting Sydney who quietly benefitted from his trademark kindness. Whether it was providing some small financial assistance or calling on Norfolk Islanders who may have had to travel to Sydney for medical reasons.

On one occasion when Dad was out at the Sydney Airport, he spotted old Bobby Buffett, all alone, in tears in a corner of the terminal. Bobby had been referred to the RPA for medical treatment and had just arrived on the plane. Probably his first time away from Norfolk and stunned by the big city, he had no idea where to go or what to do. Dad comforted him and drove him to the hospital and visited him each day during his stay. The next time Dad returned to Norfolk for a Holiday, Bobby came to visit him at Devon and offered to sell him his property Simons Water. This beautiful property was often regarded and perhaps still is as one of the best parcels of land on the Island. Bernie not really being able to afford it, Bobby allowed him to lease it and pay it off.

Simons Water gave Dad a lot of pleasure over the years. He shared the property with many people to enjoy. Always welcoming and allowing free access to locals or visitors to walk over the land. Simons water became the regular setting for Pony clubs One Day and three day horse events, SDA Pathfinder camps, Rotary Christmas parties, Rodeo Fundraisers and was even the planned location for the Picnic Luncheon on the occasion of the Queens Visit in 1974 until it was unfortunately cancelled due to the weather. Simons water was used to provide milk for our family, support market gardens, raise stud cattle, play with thoroughbred horses, trial experimental industries like coffee.

Bernie's career in Sydney with Qantas ended up spanning 20 years, whenever possible he travelled home on the DC4 to Norfolk on ten pound staff tickets. Being closely connected with the leisure travel industry he realised Norfolk was behind the times in accommodation standards. At the time, Norfolk had several basic guest houses catering for the increasing number of tourists arriving on the Island. However, there was nothing much of reasonable quality catering to the modern traveller of the day.

Around 1963 a deal with struck with his brother Micky to use some land Micky had purchased from Aunty Mum and the Fletcher Christian Apartments was developed. Bernie had an architect provide a

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all yorlye for your love & support. *Megan x*

Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey - continued

design for modern and fresh self-contained units of a nicer standard than was currently available on the Island.

The original buildings were constructed by Bernie's father, shingles split by Murray Anderson, the hibiscus hedge still surviving today was planted by Dad's Aunty Edie Randall. On Valentine's day 1965 Fletcher Christian opened for its first guests. Paulette Eastwood would do the Laundry and Shilo the grounds. Gladys Jackson did the cleaning and Marie McCoy managed the apartments while Dad was wrapping up his life in Sydney ready to return home.

Fletcher Christian has put up many thousands of Norfolk Island tourists over the years and brought up all us 5 kids. It has weathered the tough times and is still in the family today. Over 55 years on it remains the oldest continuously owned business on Norfolk Island by a country mile. Dad still treated it like his baby right up until near the end. An amazing achievement we think!

Bernie returned to Norfolk around 1967 and sunk his energies into his thriving business. After a few years Bernie's Father sat him down - reminded him that he was almost 41 years old - and, it was about time to find himself a good Christian wife and start a family. He took the advice seriously as there was a young school teacher who soon took his eye. He asked her out to dinner at Dick Cavi's Garrison restaurant where he proposed on their first date. It was the 8th January 1970 and happened to be Mum's last day on the Island before she was to return back to Sydney to take up another teaching position. A brief long distance courtship followed before Bernie and Mary were married in Sydney in the November of that same year.

Thirteen months later Miriam arrived, then 13 months after that I arrived, 14 months after that John arrived, then 16 months later Peter (Puk) was born.

I've enjoyed listening to various people recount a story of Berns father Jamar in true Norfolk Island humour use to stutter -, I usssa hatttta dddooo everything ffff' Bernie....I hatta larrnna Bernie whataway for start. Now I hattta a larrnna hem what'way f' DONE!

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Anglicare Weekly Update



**In A' Stik
Nature Playgroup**
Meet at the Lone Pine
end of Emily Bay for
low tide
Tues 9:30-11:30

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By Appointment in the
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your own home



Next Toy Library day:

Wednesday 1st July
1 - 2pm

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something new!

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Friday
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Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey - continued

Obviously Bernie nor se ready fe done. - Edward was born in 1981, thus making our family complete for the current generation.

Dad and Mum created a safe loving caring environment for our family to grow up. We rarely heard a harsh word spoken between them. He was a loving and caring father and grandad as well as a loving and faithful husband. We watched him care tenderly for his parents and other relatives as they grew old. We watched him work incredibly hard to be the best provider he could. He loved all of his children, his sons and daughters in law, his grandchildren and step grandchildren.

One of our fond childhood memories was of Dad relaxing in his chair, having his hair brushed by his young children, nieces or nephews. He would pay ten cents per every one hundred soothing strokes of the hair brush. We would start counting ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR and there was nothing surer that within 50 strokes of the brush he would be snoring loud as a chainsaw. All we had to do was sit there until he stirred then continue counting 931, 932, 933.

He shared with us his loved his animals. We grew up around a lot of horses and cattle, dogs and cats, chooks and ducks, doves and peacocks. We saw him faithfully serve his church, his Island and his community. He developed long associations in numerous committees, clubs and organisations. He was a founding Member of the Norfolk Island Rotary Club and the Norfolk Island Chamber of commerce. Life member of the Royal A&H Society . Active member of the Pitcairn Descendants society. President of the Historical society – This afforded him one of his life’s greatest honours to escort the Queen around Kingston on the Royal visit in 1974. He was a founding member of the friends of St Barnabas and devoted Chapel Warden. He was Trustee for the Church of England property trust for many years and a Member of Flora and Fauna. He Served on the former Advisory council and was a member of the second legislative assembly.

Bernie loved his horses, both event and show riding and racing. Bernie was taught by his beloved Nan f stop orna a horse as a very young boy. His Nan (Settie) would call out over the paddock to little Bernie ...“Hold ON TIGHT Nan’s Goodness”. Many years later, on the occasion of Bernie and Mary’s wedding. Brother Micky sent them his congratulation via telegram to Sydney, The telegram simply saying – “HOLD ON TIGHT NAN’S GOODNESS”.....

He became a fine horseman throughout his life.

Bernie and Henry Menzies developed a wonderful friendship originally based of their shared love of horses. Dad’s favourite horse was “Showgirl”, and a lot of good times were had training for the New Year’s Day and Easter Races.

Bernie loved his Island. He was quick to support new ventures and industries where he believed there could be economic or cultural benefit to Norfolk. Not always successfully, He invested enthusiastically into new ventures such as Vanilla, coffee and pedigree beef cattle. Over the years he imported several outstanding

Bulls and on one occasion chartered a full Ansett 737 to bring a new herd of Poll Hereford stud cattle to the Island. These efforts no doubt have helped to vastly improve the livestock genetics and quality of local beef available on the island today.

Bernie was tremendously proud of his Pitcairn and Bounty heritage. He was the first Descendant of Fletcher Christian to be welcomed back to Christian’s birthplace in Cumbria where he arranged for a commemorative plaque to be installed.

He was a STAUNCH defender of Norfolk’s rights for self-government and that Norfolk Island should remain first and foremost the home of the Pitcairn Island settlers.

Although always polite, hospitable and welcoming of those who have come more recently to live amongst us, no truer words were spoken when he used to say. “ES ONE THING WHEN WE KAR WHOS DEM – BUT EF DEM KAR WHO’S UCKLUN, DEN DARS A PROBLEM”.

The oldest Norfolk Island born resident; he rarely blotted his copy book. After a lifetime of service, Dad slipped away from this life last Monday morning with family holding his hand.

Dad trusted in god and took much pleasure in a lifetime of service to his church.

As my brother John said – He needs no golden edged ticket to heaven

I know when we sing the Pitcairn anthem - I will always think of Dad.

In as much – he embodied this always.

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Thank You

Bernie Christian-Bailey

A thank you from Mary on behalf of the family.

Bernie often spoke of how his Mum (Dorothy Bailey) often used to quote the Bible verse "Cast your bread upon the waters and after many days it will return to you." (Ecclesiastes 11:1) Ma believed possessions were not important, and you should always reach out to others in generosity and trust, and God would take care of you. For Bernie, this was best expressed as a desire to invest in family and community, making the world a better place for everyone, including ourselves.

This week we have felt enormous loss, but we have been so uplifted by the beautiful messages, phone calls, cards and visits from a wide range of people. So many spoke of Bernie being gentle and kind. That kindness has been well and truly returned to us, in many ways. There have been so many comforting thoughts and prayers, gifts of food, flowers, practical help especially in getting "Devon" ready for our farewell celebration of his life, and the presence of all those who came to say "goodbye" and support us on a lovely Winter Solstice afternoon.

We are hoping to be able to thank everyone individually in time. But we would especially like to say thank you to all those people who stepped in to keep things going to maintain normality when Bernie's health was failing, and to spend precious time with him. Grateful appreciation to the hospital staff who cared for Bernie with such love in that last week. We are also enormously grateful to those who dug the grave, and to those who prepared the amazing floral arrangements. It was so good to have so many young people taking part in both these traditional activities, and Bernie would have been delighted to see that Norfolk's heritage and culture remain in good hands in spite of recent challenges. He loved this island and taught me to love and value it too as I made it my adopted home.

Bernie was never one for lecturing or preaching, but these are some of the principles I believe he lived by:

Trust in the Lord. Do the right thing. If something is worth doing, give it your best. Be inclusive and welcoming to all. Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself. Do not nurse anger or hold grudges. Meet your commitments and pay your dues. Build trust and loyalty. Encourage effort and enterprise. Celebrate achievement. Be true to your heritage and "comefrom" but remain humble. Keep the peace. Always show courtesy and gratitude. Keep smiling and do not grumble. Serve your community. Show warm hospitality in your home. Cherish your family.

I want you all to know that we all want "Devon" to remain a friendly and welcoming home. Bernie loved visitors, and a spirit of hospitality was something he inherited from his parents. He especially loved having his grandchildren and their friends playing and riding their bikes on the front lawn. He also felt enormous pleasure joining with our Melanesian and Polynesian "cousins" up at the Nakamal.

Our door is always open and the kettle is always on the boil for any who would like to call in and chat and share memories.

Finally I just want to publicly thank my beautiful family, their partners, the grandchildren and the step-grandchildren, and extended family who have sustained me and supported me in such an amazing way. Dad and Grandad would have been so proud of you.

In Memoriam



In Memory of
Lorraine Pamela (Bianchi) Foster
28.061941 -1.07.2018

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day

Greatly loved and sadly missed.

Steve, Honi, Joanne, Malcomn, John

In Memoriam

Eileen 'Puswah' Quintal.
29/6/2013

Jesus said in John "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

In Memoriam

Beverly Harrison McCoy (Didda)

11 long years gone

Not a day goes by we don't think of you.

From your daughter