



*Vale*

## **William Robertson Lillico**

**29th March 1932 - 23rd January 2015**

Last Sunday afternoon, 25th January, relatives and friends of the late William (Bill) Robertson Lillico had the bitter sweet opportunity to say farewell to Bill who had left us on Friday, 23rd January 2015.

Passing through a Guard of Honour mounted by the members of the Norfolk Island and Arthur's Vale Lions Clubs, the funeral cortege moved to its final resting place accompanied by the music of Sir Edward Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1' (Land of Hope and Glory).

Tim Sheridan conducted the service and after his welcoming address he delivered the following 'thank you' - "We gather here today, in Kingston, an area which Bill so loved, to comfort each other, to say our farewells, and to celebrate his being part of our lives.

On behalf of the family, I thank you all for being here for this, the end of his earthly journey. We gather to comfort each other and to commit his body to its final resting place, alongside his son, Paul Robertson Lillico and his friend and mentor, Bryan Kingsley Nunn."

The Reading - "Do not stand at my grave and weep" was read by Liane Oldfield; as were other personal messages read on behalf of his son and grandchildren and then the following Eulogy, delivered by Jayne Buffett.

"Bill was born in a small mining town named Pegswood in Northumbria, England. He was the youngest of 6 children and talked of a happy childhood.

Bill left school when he was only 12 due to the Second World War, and during the war, Bill and his friends would hide at the end of an airstrip and watch the fully laden Lancaster bombers take off on their raids - a sight and sound he would never forget.

As a lad, Bill worked as a waiter in a silver service restaurant in an English pub called "The Queen's Head". Because of his young age and tenacity, he got

*(continued overleaf)*

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### ***William Robertson Lillico - continued***

lots of tips and combined with his wages he was soon earning more than the head waiter.

Bill's life changed forever when he attended a boy's camp weekend. Bill (the leader) and his mate detonated an explosive in a gully nearby. Gelignite was readily accessible to Bill as his father's job was to lay the charges used to open up coal seams in the mine and he always had gelignite in his working gear. Easy for a young lad to nick! Bryan Nunn was the camp leader and getting caught was Bill's introduction to the man who was to become his father figure, dear friend and mentor. Bryan saw beyond the naughtiness of the deed and at the end of the camp said to Bill "If you ever come to London, look me up and I will find you work in my family's company". Bryan probably never thought that in 2 weeks time that Bill would be on a train to London - a huge undertaking for a 14 year old who had never been outside his small village.

Bryan's family owned a chain of grocery stores called Williams' Brothers and Bill's first job was working on the company telephone exchange. With his broad Geordie accent, no one could understand a word he said, so he was "redeployed" to other areas of the business. Bill worked under Bryan's leadership and was accepted as part of the family. Over the years Bill eventually found his niche supervising the procurement of fresh fruit and vegetables and managing the fleet of delivery vehicles. It was during this period that he designed a hydraulic tailgate to assist with loading and unloading the lorries - a big step forward in transportation of goods at the time.

Bill voluntarily joined the Air Force Reservists and served with the armed forces in occupied Germany after the war. There he witnessed the terrible devastation from the war. In many areas the German people were starving - they were not permitted to have guns to hunt food - so the British Forces often did this for them.

In Germany, he found his two passions, motorbikes and gliding, and two lifelong friends, Peter Godfrey and John Newstead.

Bill's trait of taking risks continued into adulthood; building and racing cars at Brans Hatch and Silverstone raceways, with his good friends, Peter and John. Even after hours and hours of tinkering with the Austin 7's engine, it usually blew up before the finish line.

He also rode motorbikes. His first being a Panther Sloper and he recalled to David, an accident he had on it where he was thrown high enough to see the top of a double decker bus and broke both his arms and wrists.

He was a very keen fisherman, spending many hours on Bryan's 60 foot boat "La Gaviota", a

recommissioned vessel which had been used to rescue downed pilots in the war. When a force 8 gale would spring up, Bill loved it!

It was at this time that he met his future wife Joy, who was a nurse, and they had 3 children, David, Paul and Jayne. Summer holidays were spent in Majorca at the Nunn's family villa named "Casa Soleada" These holidays were well documented on super 8 film and shown many times to relive the memorable times spent there with Bryan and Lily. Sadly Paul was killed in a motorbike accident at the age of 20.

One night at home, Bill read an article in the newspaper written by Alan Whicker about Norfolk Island. This caught his interest and from then on he dreamed of retiring there. Time passed and the Nunn family business was sold and Bryan was going on an overseas trip. Bill suggested he go and "check out that Norfolk Island" which he did. The rest is history and eventually Bill's family, as well as Bryan and his long time friend and companion, Lily, sailed for Norfolk Island, with Bill flying ahead to buy houses and to meet them on their arrival in December 1971. As time went by, they each became part of this wonderful community, Norfolk became their home. David and Jayne each had children, giving Bill seven grandchildren, Paul, Dion, Talae, Kyara, Rebecca, Kahli and Ford. He is also great grandfather to Paul's children, Aiyana and Phoenix, and Talae's daughter, Ivy. Another one is due for Talae in June.

In 1983 Bill married Lesley, gained another Daughter in Liane, and became an integral part of Lesley's family.

Over the years on Norfolk, Bill's working life ranged from building, to working at the soft drink factory, to making a business fixing lawn mowers and chain saws. As a self taught mechanic, he earned the name "Mr Fix It" and he restored many machines destined for the scrap heap. Lesley would come home to find Bill at the dining room table carrying out "brain surgery" as he called it, on a chain saw or whipper snipper motor. He was very inventive and modified an old hospital bed to become a mobile workbench which he could raise or lower to suit whatever he was tinkering with in his shed. The shed was his second home. Paul, Dion and Talae would always find him there and the family catch cry became "Whatcha doin' Pa?" For some time he rented out Postie bikes until insurance restrictions and costs made this unviable. One evening he was called to retrieve a bike from the South Pac pool and he even managed to resurrect it after being submerged in water!

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## **"The PIED PIPER" a Musical**

**at The Ferny Lane Theatre on 13 and 14 February 2015**

**Tickets are on sale at World Traders**

***William Robertson Lillico - continued***

Bill was an active member of the Lion's Club and was involved in making the formwork for the concrete barbecues around the islands picnic areas, along with other community projects. He was also involved in the formative years of the Youth Centre as a committee member, thus facilitating Bryan's wish to support the youth of Norfolk Island.

Sadly, as his mental health deteriorated, he was unable to do the work he so loved and many of his "projects" were redistributed to friends or back to the Waste Management Centre. His favourite place on the island was Kingston, with the ocean and the green rolling hills. He always said "I love this Island and I'm so glad I came here".

He is now at peace and today we leave his body in the area that he so loved. Rest in Peace Pa Bill."

A time for Personal messages, the placing of Floral tributes and the Committal then followed and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the singing of the "Pitcairn Anthem" led by Terence Grube, brought the service to a close.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Lesley and all members of Bill's family in their sad loss and thought that the following lines of verse, printed on the back of the Service sheet were most appropriate -

*"Just for today, do not worry  
Just for today, do not anger  
Honour your parents, teachers and elders  
Earn your living honestly  
Show gratitude for every living thing."*

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**In Memoriam**

*In loving memory*  
**Letty 'Joy' Evans**

**5th October 1932 – 4th February 2013**

*You left us two ago  
A place no one can fill  
Your life was full of loving deeds  
Forever thoughtful of our needs  
Today and tomorrow  
Our whole lives through  
We will always love and cherish you  
All our love  
Morgan, De-Anne, Clinton, Jamie, Matthew and  
Montana*

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**Thank You**

To the person who mowed my lawn the other day, thank you for the wonderful surprise. I could not believe myse eyes! D' wii lorse uwwus waes unae?? Dem might be ell tekk plenty thing wae from ucklun, but uwwus luw, keah en compashun nawa ell bii replaeed!

En also, BIG thanks to everyone else who have been so wonderful to me over the past days and months. You know who you are! Real genuine buddies!!

Thanks f' me XOX Love and Hugs from Darls

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**For Those Affected by Suicide**

There will be a meeting for those who have been effected by suicide whether family, friends, colleagues and anyone in the community with any concerns. On Tuesday 4th February at the Ferny Lane theatre commencing at 7.00 pm until 9.00. Sue the relieving counsellor will be there.

If you would like any further information please contact Melinda Hassen on 55679

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**BUTCHERS,  
SHOPKEEPERS,  
PHARMACIES AND  
OTHER BUSINESSES  
ON THE ISLAND WHO  
OPERATE WEIGHING  
SCALES**

The Administration Has Arranged For A  
Servicing Licencee, Craig Holman  
From Australasia Scales  
To Visit The Island From  
**Tuesday 10 February 2015**  
To  
**Saturday 14 February 2015**

**All operators of scales are encouraged  
to have their scales serviced,  
calibrated and verified.**

**Please ring 22006 Ext 4  
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to organise an appointment.**

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