



*Vale*  
**Bonnie Anne Quintal**

**6th May 1928 - 7th October 2015**

The funeral for the late Bonnie Quintal, who passed away on Wednesday, 7th October, was held last Sunday at 3.00 pm at All Saints Church, Kingston, with a procession on to the graveyard burial afterward. The funeral was led by Church of England rector, Rev. David Fell (who, with his family, Bonnie was so happy to welcome to Norfolk Island earlier this year). Bonnie's service was orchestrated by her, with grandson Billy Quintal reading the letter from Bonnie which was marked "To be read after I am dead"! According to her wishes the reading was to be Psalm 121 and was read by Bonnie's youngest sister, Mrs. Sue Hanson; the hymns "Take My Life and Let it Be" and "Gethsemane". The eulogy was presented by grandson, Geoff Gatehouse.

The family was honoured to have past Commissioner (Queensland), St. John Ambulance, Dr Fred Leditschke, come to Norfolk Island for Bonnie's funeral. Fred gave a tribute to Bonnie, recognising her invaluable work to the St. John service and also the great friendship he and his wife Margaret had forged over the years with Bonnie and her late husband "Kik".

Entry to the graveyard was to a beautiful rendition of "In the Garden" recorded by Kik a few years ago. The hymn "Day is Dying in the West" was sung and thank yous extended to Bonnie's family, friends and associates. During the presenting of floral tributes and lowering of her coffin, Schubert's Symphony No. 5 in B-flat major played in the background, floated melodiously across the beautiful afternoon in the beautiful setting. Bonnie's service concluded with her grandson, Wesley James Quintal, leading the Pitcairn Anthem for the large gathering to follow.

A shortened version of Bonnie's eulogy follows.

Bonnie Anne Quintal MBE CStJ, born in Sydney, Australia, on the 9th of May 1928. She was the  
*(continued overleaf)*

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**Bonnie Anne Quintal - continued**

oldest of the four children of Vera Elizabeth (nee Hamer) and Roland Humphrey Kelly. Her brother David died of leukaemia as a very young child in 1936. Her sister Wendy sadly pre-deceased her three years ago. Bonnie's youngest sister Sue of Erina, NSW has been back on-island since last Monday spending time with Bonnie.

Bonnie finished her schooling at Ravenswood School for Girls, Sydney, then went on to become a triple-certificated, Registered Nursing Sister. During breaks from nursing, Bonnie would visit her family at their guest-house "Headland" at Austinmer just south of Sydney. Their house-keeper was a Mrs. Marie Adams, who encouraged Bonnie to spend time nursing at a place called Norfolk Island. Bonnie and Sue are not sure if she was related to our Norfolk Adams'.

Bonnie arrived at Norfolk Island in January 1951 to nurse at the Norfolk Island Public Hospital. She met her husband soon after and on 21 October 1953, she became Mrs. George Roslyn "Kik-kik" Quintal. They had three children - David (deceased), Karenne and Marylin.

Bonnie loved classical music and growing up went to many fine concerts, most times with a conductor's baton tucked up her sleeve so that if the conductor took ill, she was ready to take his place. Similarly with ballet - the classics, she learned them all. Her mother Vera Kelly was an able actress whose role-play was so believable that for a time when Vera home-schooled Bonnie and her brother, Vera would wave them off to school at the front door with them calling "Goodbye Mummy". Little Bonnie and her brother then walked down the side of the house to the back door where they then said "Good morning Mrs. Kelly". In the afternoon they left school, walked up the side of the house to greet their mother and tell her all about their day at school. For those of you who remember, or were her students, you will now know where Bonnie got her penchant for staging shows, talent quests, her ballet school and photo shoots of the great classical ballets.

For the other parts of Bonnie's life, as she directed in her post-life letter, "page 467 in the Women of the World" volume, we found her life in point form.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** General Nursing Certificate; Katoomba Hospital 1944-48; Obstetrics Certificate, Crown Street Hospital for Women 1949; Anaesthetic Assistant; through Sydney Hospital 1960; X-Ray Technician; through Sydney Hospital 1961; Restricted Private Pilots Licence; Royal Newcastle Aero Club 1967; Paramedic Certificate and Advanced Cardiac Work, Wichita, Kansas USA 1984; Ultra-sound studies, Brisbane and Canberra 1990 (and just to depart from the Women of the World entry, and I'm sure they don't want me telling you this, but I will - in 1989 mum and dad purchased the first ultra-sound machine for the Norfolk Island Hospital with Bonnie having some basic training on this at the time.)

**APPOINTMENTS:** Nursing sister, Katoomba Hospital; a short stint as school nurse at Sydney Church of England Girls Grammar School Moss Vale (where her young sisters were boarding students); Norfolk Island Public Hospital; Superintendent St. John Ambulance Norfolk Island Division; Treasurer Norfolk Island Clay Target Association.

**AWARDS:** Air Woman of the Year 1969; Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire 1979; Churchill Fellowship 1985; Serving Sister of the Order of St. John 1988; Commander of the Order of St. John.

**HOBBIES:** Classical Music, Drama, Opera, Ballet, Clay Target Shooting, Teaching and training First Aid and Emergency procedures; Painting, Reading.

And that's it according to the published list in Women of the World. But there's more! For many, many years during all those years above, Bonnie was a very dedicated Sunday School teacher; assistant Girl Guide leader; Girl Rangers Leader; ballet school operator and teacher. She started the Emily Channer District Nursing service, funded by the late Charlie Herman and the Norfolk Island Lions Club. She started the St. John Ambulance Service over thirty years ago, running it, training the volunteers ambulance officers and teaching First Aid to almost all the Island - Bonnie attended her final St. John Skill Drill only 4 months ago; she wrote the weekly St. John column for the local papers for many years until recently. She taught herself to sew and made our clothes - always a new dress for the girls for Thanksgiving Day service.

*(continued overleaf)*

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### ***Bonnie Anne Quintal - continued***

A few years after she finished Sunday School teaching and until only a few weeks ago, every Sunday Bonnie left home at 7:00 am with all the paraphernalia and fresh bread to set up for Holy Communion at Saint Barnabas Chapel where Ralph Holloway would be waiting to help. Saturdays were Gun Club days – Bonnie could really do nothing but enjoy herself at the Gun Club with her best of friends where in her 50's she learned to drink. Brandy and dry was the brew the Gun Club introduced her to.

Bonnie flew a single engine Cessna around Australia a number of times. First time was with Dad as passenger – he made it as far as Perth, via northern

Australia. At Perth he insisted they hire a car and drive. He let out most of his terror on the highway and at his mate's farm near Bunbury he got rid of the rest of his terror with a wonderful gallop on a beautiful horse. After the drive back to Perth, Dad decided commercial was the best way to get back to Sydney. Bonnie continued on alone. She did a number of FLY-A-THONS where she would seek sponsors. She would ask for assistance with fuel costs but first and foremost she got pledges of a dollar amount per mile flown. She raised tens of thousands of dollars for the hospital and health services in Norfolk. Bonnie did two similar, but shorter flights in the USA, where she took the opportunity as a member of a flying health-workers' association, to participate in paramedic courses, learn about new and emerging equipment and as many new skills as she could.

Bonnie's health has not been good for a little while now. She kept valiantly going, continued to enjoy being with people and despite a weakened body, still coming forth was the Bonnie wit of old.

Bonnie and Kik raised their children to know that at the end of their school days here (which was Year 10

in those days), it was mandatory to travel to Australia for further education – there was to be no opposing this either. With Kik she has attended every Anniversary Day celebration since their marriage in 1954 and until the last few years, also every Anniversary Ball. And with Kik she has ensured her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren also attend every year. Sunday School, Bounty and further education were the only strict things Bonnie enforced in the family. She was too busy for any other disciplining. The kids ran wild having a wonderful time – not a problem back then with the tiny and close knit population of the day. And with Bonnie being so busy, it meant she had no time to cook. That was wonderful. Because she was the world's worst cook!! But now, tiny little Mother with the big huge life – you can fly freely through heaven with Dad's magnificent voice singing you on and with Dave there to check and keep your aircraft going. We miss yorlye three.

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### **Thank You**

Karenne, Mary, Billy, Chris, Wes, and all of Bonnie's family would like to thank everyone, too numerous to name, for being part of Mum's life. Especially her nearest friends, her visitors, Gun Club and Church friends, those who made her funeral plans come to fruition and the wonderful nurses, doctors and Hospital staff for making her last days more bearable (for us all). Special thanks to Aunty Sue, cousins Tracey Whitehouse and David Brazil, friend and Mum's St. John colleague Fred and our family's beautiful young friends Benny, Toni and Millie Wieczorek for travelling over to help us all and to be here to celebrate the life of our Mum, grandmother and great-grandmother.

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