



Vale

Brian Noel Vercoe

9th April 1943 - 11th March 2018

Brian Noel Vercoe, better known to us all on Norfolk as Basil, was born in Te Puke New Zealand on 9th April 1943. He was 74 and only weeks away from his 75th birthday.

Basil was the only son of Donald and Iris Vercoe, his only sister Lynette predeceased him in 1987.

The Vercoe Name is well known in Te Puke due to his ancestors early settlement in the area and their integration and acceptance by the Maori people. His relatives and friends, in particular his mate "Carcass" (they loved their nicknames) in Te Puke sent through an emotional but amusing memoir of Basil's early adult years and how they occupied their time - a favourite meeting spot they christened "Tickle belly Alley". They expressed their great sadness at his passing and how he will be missed.

A wake in memory of Basil was being held at the Te Puke Citizens Club at 4pm on the same afternoon as his funeral service here on Norfolk Island.

Basil enjoyed life on their family farm and he used to related how he had to milk cows before catching his horse to ride to school. He said he clearly remembered his horse spooked at a large dust cloud on the road which eventually turned into a large stock transporter vehicle – the first he had seen and certainly the first his horse had – he hated horses ever since.

Basil was later to go to one of NZ best boarding schools at Mt Albert Grammar in Auckland where he spent five years. He travelled extensively for work and sport gaining experience in both his trade as a carpenter/joiner and in particular as an accomplished clay target shooter.

Basil also had the dubious honour of being the only golfer on record to hit a ball out of bounds on every hole at the golf course – if you play golf you will understand this must have been extraordinary, but he

(continued overleaf)

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Brian Noel Vercoe - continued

also played good golf, on one occasion winning the Lord Howe Island Open. His nickname at golf was "Bent Arm" due to his unusual swing.

He was also a keen Rugby Union player and was a member of a number of clubs in NZ. He had a good eye for detail both at work and sports, was good at maths and was blessed with a photographic memory.

Together with his good mate Ken Salt he organised numerous inter-club and hotel competitions in darts and pool.

Basil had a kind heart and would assist charities and members of the community whenever he could and it was not uncommon for his right hand man of 7years, Brentt Jones to learn that the job they were doing was 'no pay' especially common on weekends so long as it did not interrupt his sports, this apparently stems from his early years in NZ where generally you helped out on weekends free of charge, if I recall correctly it was also practised here. However he always kept a close eye on his pennies – was never one to waste his money.

Basil came to this island nearly fifty years ago and met up with many friends from NZ - Nobby and Gumboot, Boc and many others – he felt at home here. He made friends easily, he connected with us and shared our islander values – he became godfather to many of our children - he helped build many of Norfolk's main infrastructures.

Basil was a man of habit and did not vary much his weekly routine – he had nicknames for special people and his tools also had names so Brentt knew exactly what to fetch and carry for him, a task he performed frequently as Basil's health deteriorated

He loved gossip but would not spread any – his views on politics were brief however his favourite saying was "They knew the government was going backwards so they turned the clocks back!".

He was described as a closed book, not sharing his inner feelings – he loved his family and was especially proud of his daughter Susie. He was deeply saddened when he lost his beloved wife Eunice several years ago.

From The Gun Club

Basil was the heart and soul of the Norfolk Island gun club. His role as president and club champion ran for an unequalled 30 years.

Basil was an excellent ambassador for NI Clay Target Association and the sport in general. He has competed in Japan, Scotland, Samoa, Canada, Fiji, New Zealand, New Caledonia and Australia. He was far and away the most successful clay target shooter that Norfolk has ever had.

If we were going to list all of his achievements it would take hours and hours, you would need a semi trailer to hold all of his medals and awards.

We think that the story that most reflects Basil's skills, happened at the world Champs at Christchurch New Zealand, when he shot 462 targets in a row and finished 5th in the World.

Before he walked out to shoot, Baz was told that he

was driving the team home, so that the other members could drink while they watched the shoot off. When the shooting finished Basil promptly disappeared, he was finally located hidden in the corner of the bar drinking like a 3 phase pump.

Basil was instrumental in the development of shooting in the Pacific region. His idea to donate traps to Fiji and Nuie allowed Clay Target shooting to be included in the South Pacific Games for the first time. He regularly competed with the Pacific's best and held his own every time. He was one of Oceana's top shooters.

He loved the culture of the South Pacific Games and he loved his own version of the Parkia Haka. Which was always supported by his proud and ever-present sponsor VB.

There is not a single member of our club on Norfolk Island that doesn't owe him for training and support. He was always happy to help others learn and enjoy his sport.

Baz was dearly loved by every one at the club, and you are going to be missed so very much.

See ya Baz.

Pull..... Bang..... Arh Shit.

Thank You

The family of Basil Vercoe would like to thank all involved in the unfortunate event that took place on Sunday the 11th March. We know each and every one of you gave your all to keep Basil with us, for this we thank you immensely.

We recognise how hard this must have been for all involved, once again thankyou deeply and sincerely for every effort that you made. Your efforts are cherished and will never be forgotten.

To the ambulance officers, the police, the doctors and nurses of Norfolk island hospital- your efforts and support is greatly appreciated.

An extended thankyou to everyone who participated with the funeral arrangements, including; the Wreath makers and donations of flowers, the grave diggers, the sexton, Pall Bearers, NI golf & gun club for the guard of honour, the visitors from NZ and AUS, David Buffett for a beautiful service, Wayne for the cars, Lisle, Clinton and Andrew for reading the eulogy and letters of loved ones who were unable to attend, Tardy, the beautiful boys for handing out the service sheets, to Trent and Shorty for organising the music, Nerissa for the photos, Photopress for the service sheets and photo's, The Lions Club for the sound system, the RSL for holding the wake and to everyone who supplied the beautiful food at the wake (The amount was like bounty day). To the friends and family overseas, your letters of condolences and expressions of sadness that you could not be here with us provided comfort during this time of grief.

To anyone and everybody who has been there for family and friends in anyway, you are all truly beautiful people, and you can't be thanked enough. Arohanui Suzy.
