



*Vale*

## **Christine Mary Sheridan**

**25 December 1933 - 30th July 2024**

Christine Mary Sheridan nee Christian was born on 25 December 1933 at Norfolk Island – to parents Frank Bell Christian and Jesse Wentworth Christian. Christine has one sister Ruth McCoy, who is with us today, and one brother Ian who died as a toddler and is buried nearby. Christine and Ruth were always together - for the past 60 years they've lived next door to each other at Allendale Drive.

Christine grew up at 'Allendale' and went to school at Norfolk Island Central School until, at about the age of 10, the family travelled by ship to Sydney where they lived at Roseville. Christine completed school at Hornsby Girls High School and after that trained to become a Home Economics teacher at East Sydney TAFE where she taught about nutrition, cooking and cake decorating for well over 10 years.

Christine married Warren Sheridan on 23 March 1956 at Sydney. They lived at Balgowlah, then Dural. Four children were born in Sydney: Deborah, Timothy, Martyn and Robert (Sam). In 1964 Christine and Warren relocated to Norfolk Island where Lynette was born in 1965. Not long after, Christine and Warren welcomed Dale Hall (same age as Deb) to live with the family for a couple of years.

Christine has a total of 20 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren, several of whom lived with her for extended periods. The grandchildren called Christine 'Nana' and over time she became affectionately known as Nana by many others.

Warren built a home on family land at Allendale Drive, Ball Bay: there was no power, no phone or TV, an outdoor toilet, bathroom and laundry. Saturday mornings are fondly remembered boiling up the family laundry in an outdoor copper, rinsing clothes in concrete tubs and wringing them through the hand wringer!

Nana worked at Aunt Em's guest house for her cousin Jeanne Mitchell helping to prepare amazing spreads of delicious island food for the guests.

During the late 60s Nana and Ruth were pioneers in Norfolk's tourism industry – serving up morning teas to visitors on Ruth's front verandah while they viewed the plaques off the Bounty, as well as picnics on top of the cliff overlooking Ball Bay. Warren built a shed

there to store supplies. Food was often carried by hand over the valley to the cliff top.

For several years, Nana thrived working as an overseas telephone operator at OTC with colleagues Jessie Buffett, Boyd Adams, Margaret Christian and Cecily Bigg, all of whom became good friends.

At the end of 1971, Warren returned to Sydney, he and Nana agreeing to go their separate ways. Nana proceeded to raise her family of 5 on her own. In 1978 Nana made the decision to return to Sydney where she was able to resume her job at East Sydney TAFE working as a Home Economics teacher.

In the early 70s Deb attended boarding school at Moss Vale. Tim joined the Navy in 1975. In 1977 Sam spent a year with Warren attending Davidson High School, then he and Lynette attended high schools at Randwick when Nana moved to Sydney. Martyn was backwards and forwards between Norfolk and Sydney at this time.

Nana lived at Coogee and Randwick, then settled for several years at Balfour Rd, Kensington where Dizzy and Vivian McCoy met, and many from Norfolk would visit and enjoy her home cooking and warm hospitality.

*(continued overleaf)*



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**In The Village - Open 6 day per week  
Thursday to Tuesday  
CLOSED WEDNESDAY**

Coffee Machine is ready at 6.30am with  
**Old Quarter Coffee Merchants Coffee**  
So is the kitchen with Bacon & Eggs, Rolls,  
Breaky Burgers & lots more breakfast items.

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**BREAKFAST 6.30-11AM**

Muffins and sandwiches and more in the  
Cake Cabinet every day for smoko!

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**LUNCH FROM 10AM – 2PM.**

Chicken, Beef Burgers, Chicken Sushi Salad  
with the special board to look on as well.

**PHONE 24406 TO PRE ORDER**

Coffee, Breakfast or Lunch  
for dine in or takeaway.



### ***Christine Mary Sheridan - continued***

As a TAFE teacher, Nana made weekly visits to Roselle to teach people with disabilities how to cook. After several years, she accepted a promotion as Head teacher at Cooma TAFE on the NSW south coast so she relocated down there, often driving up to Kensington to spend weekends with the family.

In 1988, at the age of 55, Nana retired from TAFE and returned to her beloved Norfolk where she promptly bulldozed the old house and rebuilt. She took on work at the NI Museums and as a cook at Government House where she formed lifelong friendships with the Administrators of the day, and other staff including Liz Randall and Moochie.

For years Nana made banana fritters with golden syrup and other island favourites for bus loads of Pine Trees tourists who she talked to about culture while they sat on her verandah taking in the view of Ball Bay.

In the early 90s Nana took over Pine Trees catering from Dot Nobbs, which she did until 2010 when she handed it over to Sam and his wife Tracey. Prepared in the commercial kitchen built at the end of her shed, Nana became well known for her delicious cakes and scones served to guests on Pine Trees tours, and the salads, pies, coconut bread and other island specialties meticulously prepared twice weekly for the island fish fry (for up to 300!)

Nana's kitchen saw numerous workers/helpers come and go, including Kaye Nobbs who worked with her for several years, and grandchildren and others who were paid generously to wash up when fish fry was done.

On retiring from Pine Trees, Nana kept herself busy delivering Meals on Wheels to a regular group of residents, as well as being involved with Community Arts, visiting Samoa with them for the Pacific Arts Festival.

Nana enjoyed several trips away to Darwin, Perth, Cairns and Broken Hill with family, as well as a trip to New Zealand with Ruth. Her favourite 'holiday' though was a trip out to Phillip Island with Martyn and Owen and Beryl Evans.

Nana was a talented cake maker and over the years produced numerous, beautifully decorated cakes for special event birthdays and weddings, for which she never accepted any compensation. She loved to sew and knit and spent hours in the garden, her roses being her pride and joy. Nana was a member of the NI Garden Club for many years and really enjoyed the monthly get togethers visiting Norfolk's most beautiful gardens.

Nana was also a much-loved member of the Church of England church. The highlight of the week for Nana was usually going to church on Sunday morning with Ruth, especially if it was the first Sunday of the month and the service was at All Saints. Her kitchen was a hive of activity the day before the annual church fete as she cooked up cakes and biscuits in volume.

Nana was the rock, the anchor that held the family together all these years. She took the early deaths of Martyn and Lynette very hard but it was the deaths

of her grandson Samuel and granddaughter Jenna that really shook her up, and she never really fully recovered from this. Albeit she showed a brave face and embraced all of her grandchildren who she loved unconditionally. Nana never forgot their birthdays and was always on the phone to one or the other.

As her birthday fell on Christmas day Nana was usually in the kitchen busy cooking for everyone else, but it made for some wonderful family get togethers celebrating her birthday/Christmas either on her verandah or under the palm trees. All her grandchildren were on island to help Nana celebrate her 90th birthday last December.

Being the kind, generous, friendly person she was, everyone was always welcome at Nana's. Christine genuinely loved to share her home and hospitality with all: her family, friends and anyone else who dropped in – there's nothing she loved more than to have a chat over a cuppa with a biscuit or, perhaps, if you were lucky, a cake she'd made that day.

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## **Thank You**

Thank you, Thank You, Thank you.

The Sheridan family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to everybody who have extended their sympathy to them on the passing of Christine.

They would like to especially thank persons who had flown in from Australia, the Doctors and Nurses from the hospital both on Island and in Australia. James and Louie from St. John Ambulance for their attention, the lovely Care Norfolk ladies who spent time with Christine over the past few months.

Also to everybody who was involved with the funeral, Minister Laurie Carlton, organ player Peter, Sexton Shane, Kieran & Michelle for the live-streaming, Milton & Sim for the beautiful music.

The lovely wreath makers who provided over 80 beautiful wreaths on the day to decorate the church and grave-site. The grave-diggers who always do a perfect job, hearse driver Leonard and K.M. Funerals for getting Christine home. And to all who have provided food esp. Kaye & Hen, thank you, and to all who have sent cards etc. we will get back to you all soon.

Thank you.

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