Vale

Daryl James Buffett

28 October 1950 – 23 December 2025

Daryl James Buffett was born in Sydney, being the second son born to Jess and Cliff Buffett. Paul being his older brother and Julie being his younger sister. Paul is here today but unfortunately a late mishap prevented Julie from being here to say farewell to her brother.

Daryl attended Pymble Public Primary School and then went to high school at Asquith Boys High School. He didn't finish high school but gained an apprenticeship in floor sanding and then went on to do carpet laying.

In July 1968 Daryl joined the regular service from Sydney. His application priority was 1. Cavalry, 2. Cavalry, and 3. Cavalry. He joined and became an Assault Trooper. He served in B Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Royal Australian Armoured Corp Regiment from 21 May 1970 & then A Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Royal Australian Armoured Corp until 19 May 1971. Daryl had on many occasions talked about the many confrontations where his Cavalry had to camouflage themselves in the midst of jungle warfare during attempted ambush by the enemy. He was always serious when talking about the fear and the anxiety when trying to hide a 10 tonne M113 Armoured Personnel Carrier – it was not an easy task including the use of vegetation to mask the sight and smell of a large vehicle. In total, Daryl served 364 days in active service which was certainly a remarkable war contribution in any war or conflict as a comparison. Daryl was discharged in Sydney in July 1971, serving his country exactly three years. You might be wondering why he joined in July 1968, and it was almost two years before going to Vietnam? It has been reported that he had

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a small DUI matter to deal with and employed in stores for a while before his superiors waivered the charge and sent him on his way.

Daryl served in the same Troop as Normie Rowe. We or many of us here today grew up knowing Normie as an entertainer, not as a Vietnam Veteran. Some of us might know about the live TV telecast where Normie and Ron (Won) Casey, a TV panelist, had a toe to toe for the live TV audience. Well there is a story about Daryl and Normie that Bruce McCowan might like to share from the 75th anniversary of the RAAF air show organized and planned by the NI RSL Sub Branch in 1996.

PawPaw address the funeral service.

Daryl had asked the RSL Sub Branch for some 30 plus years to mention at his graveside about a proud military historical fact. Daryl said that his father Cliff Buffett, serving in the Merchant Navy, was the first Norfolk Islander to serve in a declared war zone in WWII. Daryl said that his father was transiting the Atlantic Ocean and their ship was instructed to begin zig zagging maneuvers to avoid German submarines.

Apparently, Daryl enquired in the army mess hall if they had a vegetarian option, in 1968 can you imagine the response, but was forced to quickly changed his ideas about that.

In 1973 Daryl met Yvonne who had come to Norfolk Island for a holiday and they eventually married on the 13th August 1975. They then had two children Tania born in 1978 and Shaun in 1982. Both Tania and Shaun are here today to say farewell to their Dad. Daryl and family owned their home in Glen Eden Auckland New Zealand in about 1986 where he took up work again as a carpet layer and floor sander. He was an avid member and President of the Titirangi RSA. Daryl was revered as a vinyl layer and had a contract to reshape Auckland airport. Shaun can remember being his little Lackie. Shaun can still smell the polyurethane glue to this day. Tania and Shaun both remember Daryl trying to get them interested in league, Mum wanted them interested in Tennis ... guess who won that argument? As children, Daryl agreed to give up smoking whilst they were growing up, and they both remember their Dad reverting to reading. He had a passion for reading anything military, especially anything bound with military secrets.

Daryl has a grandson Kaelan and granddaughter Mia.

Daryl played football for the mighty Reds and he was noted for making quick dashes from the back of the scrum to the sideline and back again during the game. Daryl loved league, Paul loved union and a bit of rivalry lasted a long time. Daryl was an avid North Sydney Bears supporter and he reveled in the rivalry between Gollo and Hussa and their beloved Rabbitohs. The same for the State of Origin – Daryl defended NSW to the hilt.

As life happens Daryl moved back to Norfolk in the late 1990's by himself and eventually building a home at Steeles Point where he was proud of almost "living off the grid" with his solar powered energy and hydroponics garden setup to his homemade. Daryl used discarded oil from the local fish and chip shop as fuel to run his tractor. He was quite a vegetarian, an alternative energy minded and resourcefully natured individual that not many had picked up on.

Daryl then went back to Vietnam in 2013 and spent three years living in Vung Tau and travelling around with a few of his veteran buddies. It was there that he met Von and together they moved back to Norfolk and were married at the Salt House at beautiful Emily Bay.

He loved to garden and grow vegies at the front of the block when he decided a fire engine was required to water his plants! What a genius idea!!!! Unfortunately, I'm sure everyone might remember, Daryl's final claim to fame—managing to set the fire engine on fire!!!! Something to ponder later today when celebrating his life.

Daryl was a wonderful cook with cooking everything from scratch, but still had to have tomato sauce on everything, which is probably a spin off from Army life.

Von and Daryl thoroughly enjoyed their peace and tranquility living their particular lifestyle out at Steels Point for the good years. Von has some amazing skills including any apparatus with petrol. 17 Buffett's Lane is perfectly manicured and a testament to her articulate prowess. Well done Von – you have done well and Daryl will be so proud. Von has been a pillar of strength throughout, and particularly during Daryl's last few years, where she was able to be at his side and bedside for his duration at the Norfolk Island Hospital.

Daryl loved his home on Norfolk Island. It's where he belonged and where he will finally rest. He loved his family and his friends very much.

He was always up for a beer or two, a good argument and a good laugh!

He was a kind and generous man to the people that he cared about and will not be forgotten.

REST IN PEACE DARYL LEST WE FORGET

Thank You

Von, Tania, and Shaun would like to personally thank the amazing community of Norfolk Island, the Doctors, Nurses, and staff at NIHRACS, so many persons including; Rod and Tige Buffett, Ian (Hussa) Harris, Toni Wilson, Tim Sheridan, Leonard Schmitz, NIRC, those with flowers and the wreath makers, the Pall Bearers, Shane and the grave diggers, Wayne and Sarah Bedford, the RSL Sub Branch and RSL Club, the individuals who travelled to be back and be with the aggrieved, Milt and the Lions for the PA and Simone for the music, the NI Police, and no doubt many more.

Thank you so much for your incredible assistance.