



*Vale*

## **Edna Tenney Grube**

**1st January 1930 – 7th October 2015**

Edna Tenney Grube was born in Sahout Village in South East Ambrym in Vanuatu on the first of January 1930. Edna had eleven other siblings and their parents were George and Emily Tenney.

Edna spent most of her life in Ambrym and she enjoyed the innocence of tradition and culture with her family and village friends. Edna from all accounts was a very good provider of produce and she had a very green thumb and could grow anything.

Edna met and married Ernest Pascoe Grube in Ambrym in 1975. They have one daughter Chrissie and she and her husband George Mansen have two daughters Julie and Enia.

Ernie and Edna moved back to Ernie's homeland on Norfolk Island in 1996 and this has been her permanent home since then. Ernie Grube pre-deceased Edna in 2006.

Ernie and Edna missed Chrissie and the granddaughters so much that they arranged to have them move from Vanuatu to Norfolk Island in 2002 and 2003. Chrissie, George, Julie, and Enia have made Norfolk Island their home ever since.

In 2006 Chrissie took Edna, Julie, and Enia back to Vanuatu to visit family and friends for Christmas and to have a well deserved holiday. Chrissie recalls her Mum's excitement of the journey coupled with trepidation about the travelling on the aircraft and going to big city airports and buildings. Apparently Edna didn't say a word but Chrissie certainly knew that Mum was totally in control of the journey by what she didn't do or didn't say. The old story where you can take a horse to water - well you know the rest. The highlight of this particular trip was catching up with her two sisters in Meleamat. Edna did throw out the hint during this trip to go back north to Ambrym but Chrissie knew that had she gone back up there the prospect of finding her let alone getting her back would have been a problem.

I mentioned that Edna didn't say much during her travelling experience. In actual fact Edna never did get to speak any English apart from the meet and greet and even this was sparse. Edna just couldn't comprehend

*(continued overleaf)*



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**Edna Tenney Grube - continued**

the need to speak any other language and I am sure that the grandchildren kept their language tongue because of Grandma and her reluctance to communicate in any other way apart from her local village tongue.

Edna had a traditional mischievous nature about her and those that knew her loved her smile and her high pitched giggle. During the last 12 months Edna grew very fond of little James Christian-Bailey who use to spend baby-sitting time at her Grassy Road home. I can recall in June when Edna had had a minor stroke and she would go home during the day for respite with family which was really nice, but, when young James was there she would smile and reach out for him. This was poetry and something special to see.

Getting back to travelling; some years ago Raymond can remember when he and Kim and other Grube family members did a pilgrimage back to Vanuatu 1998. They had Auntie Edna with them and Raymond can recall an incident when they were using escalators in the BIG smoke. He reckon that Auntie Edna reminded him of Mick (Crocodile) Dundee because when he looked back Auntie Edna just refused to get on that moving platform. The same happen when they stayed in the hotel with all of the flashing neon lights outside and she se faas boet in wun corner of the room. How innocent then and I think she was exactly the same just two days ago.

Edna and Ernie first lived in Ma Anna's down in Mill Road. Ernie loved his little dabbles on the horse whereas Auntie Edna loved her garden and her fire. There wasn't a day that the fire wasn't burning. They always had a log on the fire no matter what season and even on Christmas Day whether a hot day or a very hot day. Edna would be at peace now knowing that her daughter Chrissie and son-in-law George had so beautifully cared and looked after her over all of these years on Norfolk Island. Chrissie and George we all want to say that your caring to Mum has been nothing but pure love and understanding.

I would like to finish off this dedication by writing about the special relationship between Grandma and granddaughters Julie and Enia, as well as, many other Vanuatu children on Norfolk Island. Auntie Edna just loved her granddaughters and they loved her back. They did so much for one another it was incredible. They were so much in synch with one another it was just beautiful to watch. I personally believe it was so inspirational to watch Julie and Enia look after their grandmother and they did everything for her. I must say that Enia being the youngest would have to agree with me when I say that Grandma had such a huge influence on her in the pre-school years. Right now I would like to acknowledge that beautiful bond between grandmother and grandchildren. Julie and Enia grandma has not missed out on her expectations as a grandmother and you both should be so proud

of yourselves.

Edna, Mum, Grandma, Auntie Edna kept her faith and she always enjoyed the singing in church when she could make it despite the songs and the service being in English.

Rest in Peace Auntie Edna.

**Thankyou Message**

Chrissie, George, Julie, and Enia would like to sincerely thank many individuals and services during the last 3 months in particular. The NI Hospital staff and their perfect care and attention and understanding, the families near and afar, the ladies at the usual place and those that donated flowers, the Sexton and the grave diggers, the pall bearers, the Administration, the NI Police, Pastor Bob Green, Milton and the Lions Club, Chris Pauling for the dress making, those who provided and those who sent cards, everyone here today or would have been here today to pay respects, and anyone else who have offered or provided overwhelming support over the last two days and for the last four months or so – thankyou once again.



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