



Vale

Eileen Annette Richards

Eileen Annette Richards nee Nobbs “Mum” was born on Monday 15 November 1937 in her grandmother (Ma Nobby’s) home at Steeles Point. Mum had a couple of nicknames when she was young, namely, Lumpy and Bubba but mainly she was known as Ei, Eils or Aunt to most of the family and Nanna, Nanny or Nanny Darling to her grandchildren.

She was the first born of Herbert Nobbs and Delores Buffett and sisters June Richards and Cynthia Deadman, were also born from this marriage. She adored her grandmother (Nan) Harriet Sybelle Nobbs (mother of Brancker Nobbs) and was the great, great granddaughter of Phillip Gidley Metcalfe King, the first Commandant of Norfolk Island from 1788.

Mum spent the first years of her life living with her Nan at Brancker House and spoke of this time as the happiest of her youth. She retold many stories of being with “myse Nan”, spoke lovingly of her and said she felt truly loved by her.

Mum completed her schooling on Norfolk Island and whilst at school it sowed the seed of a life long love of books, becoming an avid reader of whodunits, British crime and political thrillers. Swimming at

crystal pool and Bumbie with her sisters and friends was another passion of Mum’s. She loved to go to the dances up the old Rawson Hall and she’d reminisce about all the fun times she had and how dem mein usa stig a teeth orn her!!!

In her teen years, Mum and Aunty June were sent from their home to New Zealand, given the circumstances of her parents’ marriage breaking down and became self-reliant at an incredibly early age. Mum’s first job was in office duties in Auckland. As a young woman in a city where she knew nobody Mum spoke of feeling alone, apart from being with her sister, but in her true spirit she found the love of dancing. Mum would cut up the dance floor at Muriwai Surf Club and Point Chevalier Yacht Club amongst others. Mum had a great love of dancing and wanted to go dance every night but Aunty June usa tul she sa tired and nor wunt to go out again but most times Mum would convince her to go dancing with her. I recall Mum dancing at Dianne’s 50th birthday party to the song “Come on Eileen” where she was always in rhythm and with her own style.

During one of these nights dancing her heart away in Auckland she met a young man, Gary Richards, who came from a big catholic family who also enjoyed the night life. Soon after meeting they married in December 1956 and settled in Auckland and became very busy with children, Wayne born in 1957 followed by Debra in 1959 and Rochelle in 1961 and the best was left to last, (oh sorry that was in an early draft and meant to be removed) Faye Maree in 1968 born on Norfolk Island when the family moved here in 1966.

Life in New Zealand with 3 small children was not easy without family support. Following a holiday on Norfolk Island Dad decided to move the family permanently to Norfolk. Mum had just moved into a new home and was not as enthusiastic as Dad. In years past, Debra and Rochelle particularly would say to Mum “foot yu nowa born us orn Norfolk Mum!”

Mum made her life on Norfolk living out at Bumboras on the same road as her sisters and other

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NORFOLK MALL

Eileen Annette Richards - continued

family members. Mum and Dad turned their house into a family home adding gardens and miles of red leaf hedge. Mum was proud of her roses and orchids and often assisted with the sand flower posies entries for the royal show. Truth be known Mum designed and completed the entries with little input from us.

She was actively involved in her children's lives and in community groups – Royal Agricultural and Horticultural show as a stall holder for the Preserves section. Mum attended All Saints church on a regular basis in the early years and would be sitting in her father's pew at the back of the church singing along to the hymns. For years she was part of the cleaning of All Saints Church. Mum was also involved in the RSL Women's Auxiliary for a number of years along with Aunty June and Girl Guides with Fay Bataille.

Mum was fastidious in her home and her children were always well dressed and mostly well behaved, with the exception of Faye during one particular day when she was encouraged by her brother to sing a ditty to the Church of England minister about being an angel but letting out a swear word as he walked around the path to the front door. Mum was not impressed, as at the time Mum was a scripture teacher at the school.

Mum made friends easily in her younger years and both her and Dad were not averse to New Year's Eve parties and their home was often on the route for the continuous celebration. Family gatherings were always at mum's house and there would be Mum, sitting on her favourite chair in the kitchen, waiting until the last to eat so no one missed out.

Mum worked predominantly in customer service positions in the Milk Bar, Trading Post, Foodlands and Mark's Bakery. Mum loved the interactions with customers, from the early morning tradies to serving at speed to attend to all the customers. Mum was a hard worker who was not afraid of getting her hands dirty.

Mum found her voice in singing with the Norfolk Island Country Music Association and partnered with her sisters in singing at music nights at Rawson Hall. She was well rehearsed and chose songs that celebrated her voice.

Mum loved rock fishing, she shared many hours fishen' with Aunty Dawn off ar rocks at Bumbly, down orn Kingston Jetty and Cemetery.

Whilst Norfolk Island provided the perfect environment to raise children at the time, it did not cater for the final years of high school and Mum faced the reality of her children leaving home at 15 to complete their education. Mum found this hard to accept and Wayne, Debra and Shelley left for Sydney in close succession. Faye was the last one to leave to complete her education. When each of us returned home, Mum was always asking "now what would you like me to cook for you".

Mum and Dad parted once we had left home and not cooking for a family was an adjustment for her. She was a very sweet cook and was always interested in trying different recipes or styles of food.

Mum was active in sports throughout her life – as an adult she played tennis and croquet at Steeles Point.

Dad introduced her to golf which she loved and played this for many years earning a "C" grade championship in 1980. She had many happy memories of times down at the Golf Club. Mum surprised us by joining June Ryves Stretch classes in later years and was a keen participant and often would talk to us about her lessons.

When she stopped playing sports, Mum became a keen supporter of watching football and she moved from the NRL Canterbury Bulldogs to the AFL Hawthorn Hawks. Her grandchildren Callum and Saxon are wearing the colours of the Hawks for their Nanny. She would have been proud to see them dressed up today.

Mum was proud of both her Pitcairn and British heritage and, as the oldest of Herbert's children, she attended the 1988 King family bi-centenary celebrations in Sydney. Mum was also asked to represent her family by carrying the Commonwealth torch when it came to Norfolk in 2006.

Mum also loved and was loved by her many sisters and brothers in her family along with June and Cynthia was Robin Butterfield, Rob Wotherspoon, Lizzie Randall, Booda, Syb, Drill, Wal, Toobie and Loolie Nobbs. Mum was proud of them all and had an absolute commitment to family.

Mum had a great sense of humour and would love to share stories with great punch lines and classic Norfolk sayings.

Mum became a keen traveller, in her younger days she joined a pacific island cruise with Fay Bataille, Lizzy Randall and Dolly Christian, travelled to Japan representing the Lions Club, to the United States with Deb and her family. She visited every address where we lived in Australia – Sydney, Perth, Karratha, Port Hedland, Brisbane, Mackay, Melbourne, and Central Coast. In her travelling jackets and broaches she scheduled her year around visiting us all and when grandchildren came along the pull to visit more often became all the more.

We can honestly say that her children and grandchildren were her passion in life. She was only her happiest when she was with them and said that she loved her children and adored her grandchildren. We all felt the glow of that love and will miss it tremendously in our lives.

Mum joined the groups of ladies that got together every Tuesday and Saturday for morning tea. She became particularly close to many of them: Harry and Patty Buffet, Margaret Buffett to name a few.

Mum suffered some significant losses in her life: the passing of granddaughter Allana in 1991, the loss of her daughter Shell in 2004 had a profound impact and the very recent loss of her granddaughter Sheenie in Jan 2020 and sister June in May 2020, all took its toll on Mum. Yet she stayed resilient and stoic to the end. Whilst suffering these losses Mum always tried to live in the moment particularly with her grandchildren. Her indomitable spirit and ability to keep going despite whatever "hell" she was going through was awe inspiring.

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Eileen Annette Richards - continued

Mum was a fearlessly independent person who did not ask for or accept help easily as some of you may recall. If the problem could be fixed with blu tac or put aside to be sorted for another day, that was Mum. One of her favourite sayings was “morla nor sa touch et!” She was easy to like but hard to get to know and once you did she was loyal and very kind.

Mum, we are so proud to call you our Mum, Nanna, Nanny, Nanny Darling, Sister, Aunt, friend and we honour you today. With great sadness in our hearts we say farewell to you. In the days, months, and years ahead you will always be in our hearts, in our words and in our actions.

Thank you for Eileen Richards

The family of Eileen would like to thank the many people for their love, support whilst Mum was unwell and following Mum’s passing. To the messages, phone calls, offers to help, and hugs of support has meant a great deal to the family.

Thank you so much to the following people:

- Gary, Lynne, Terry, and Duncan for offering your homes.
- Don Reynolds and Ralph Weslake for the loan of cars for Debra and Faye’s family.
- Our Aunts and family who showed us love and support.
- David Fell for leading the service and supporting us to create and deliver our farewell to Mum.
- Jodie Williams for guiding another family through the process of celebrating our Mum’s life and for designing the service booklet. Also for providing the recording of Richard Bataille and songs to add depth to honouring our Mum. We appreciate your kindness and offer to assist us even though you have given up this role.
- The family and friends who made wreathes and for Auntie Robin for the beautiful centre piece.
- Shane and the grave-diggers for continuing the long held tradition of creating the resting place for Mum and for your hard work in the heat of the day
- Tardy for driving Mum and making sure it all went on schedule
- Alec, Roy, Allan, Ponna, Wiggy, Pendo, Gae, Phil McDowell and Peter Randall for playing at All Saints Church during the service. It was so lovely to hear your playing. Mum would be sa love et
- Those who helped make All Saints Church look lovely
- Tiana, Mitchell, Will, Liam for handing out the service booklets
- Milton Bradley and the Lions Club for the sound system
- Bumboras Uke Band for playing at the graveside service – yorlye sound so gude
- Don Reynolds and band for singing of John Adams’ prayer.

- Wesley James Quintal for leading the Pitcairn Anthem
- Gary Summerscales for videoing the service.
- Norfolk Island Golf Club members and workers for use of the Golf Club and those sullen who provided plenty of food for the wake
- Vince Reeves for making the cross on behalf of the Lions Club.

You all contributed to making Mum’s funeral so special and from the bottom of our hearts, thanks fu ucklun. Also to those sullen who we may have inadvertently missed off the list, thank you for your help and support.



‘Ken and Cassie Christian, welcomed into the world their 3rd child on The 5th of January,

A Little baby Brother to Rosie and Jimmy.

Forrest Andrew Christian- weighing 3.680 kg

We would like to Thank all our wonderful families and friends for all your love and support.

We especially would like to thank Gumsy/Mum/Rosemary for being off the Island away from home, for 6 weeks with us, for all your help and support waiting for the arrival of Forrest.

We are happy to get back to “ de baas side orn earth” again.’

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