



Vale

Frances Beverley Evans

Today we are honouring, celebrating, and remembering Frances Beverley Evans, affectionately known as Fran.

My mother was a kind-hearted, generous, loving and compassionate woman who always put herself last. Fran cared about everybody... and even up until her last days she was worrying about her grandkids and great grandkids and insisted that she needed to buy them warm coats for winter.

Frances Postlewaite was born in Hamilton New Zealand on 16 December 1939 and was fostered and later adopted by George and Violet Bravo. When Violet passed away, her eldest daughter Lorna took Frances under her wing and became her new mother. While Frances didn't get to meet her natural siblings Garth and Lyn until about 20 years ago, she always told us how blessed she was to have found them and how loved she was by her parents and her adopted siblings Eunice, Johnny, Cliff and Ruth.

When Frances was working at her first job at the Frankton railway office, fate turned her life in a different direction. She met a handsome young Norfolk Island man who had moved to New Zealand and found work driving trains. Charles Louis Evans – or Farmer

Lou as we all know him – was smitten, and it wasn't long before they were married in 1961. Soon after, Hadyn was born, followed by Philip a few years later - both born in Hamilton. The young family moved to Papatoe Auckland in 1965, and Louise was born in the North Shore hospital in 1967. After building a house in Glenfield they settled in the area until 1974 when they made the huge decision to relocate to Norfolk Island.

Once on the island, Fran loved being a stay-at-home mum for a few years before she started working for Dan Yager in his Leaside shop.

She soon got to know everyone on Norfolk and loved chatting to people in the retail industry. Her longest employment was as a sales assistant working for Agnes Hain at the Bounty Centre and the mini golf shop where Fran remained for the rest of her working life. Fran loved working in the toy shop because she loved and adored children and was able to watch all the Norfolk kids grow up when they visited her in the store. She had a phenomenal memory and was able to recall what everyone had bought. Sometimes when you went to purchase a gift for a child she would say "no you can't buy that because they already have one of them – but they would like this toy here because they were looking at it last week!"

If you had to sum up Frances in a single word, I would say she was 'stylish'. I don't know how she did it, but Mum always dressed to impress. Mum's favourite hobby was shopping... mostly clothes, shoes, bags and jewellery, however she loved buying for other people even more than for herself. She kept local shops in business, always buying gifts for people she loved, people she appreciated, and especially for children. During her later years when she could no longer drive a car, Fran taught herself how to shop online and discovered the shopper's paradise... Temu. The only problem was that by the time the parcels arrived she had forgotten who she had bought things for.

Mum created a welcoming family home for us - a place where humour was abundant, and laughter rang out on a daily basis. A place where her cooking filled the air with comfort, and she absolutely loved to cook. Another one of mum's favourite pastimes was gardening and she enjoyed filling the garden beds with colourful flowers.

Mum also liked to decorate the house, and every corner of the house held her care and thoughtfulness.

(continued overleaf)

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Frances Beverley Evans - continued

At Christmas time, mum would always go over the top with decorations.

They were in every room, and she painstakingly spent days transforming the house into what we can only describe as Santa's holiday home. The best part about Christmas was that Grandma Frances had a real excuse to spoil her grandkids and great grandkids, even though she had already bought them gifts throughout the year.

As a friend, Fran was equally remarkable. Her friendships were enduring, her loyalty unshakable, and Fran was always ready to offer advice - whether you asked for it or not. She gave generously of her time, her energy, and her heart, leaving everyone better for having known her. She treasured her ladies' lunches each Friday surrounded by her best friends, and she admitted that this was often the highlight of her week. In fact, there was one week that Fran was in such a hurry to drive to lunch with her friends that she drove all the way from Anson Bay into town with a pile of laundry on her car roof!

Mum had an infatuation with rugby league. Her super-power was that she could remember every footy player by name, as well as their wives and kids' names too. She knew where they worked and which teams they had played for. She was like a walking, talking football encyclopaedia! Although mum was very intelligent, she was also very naive. On one trip to New Zealand, she asked her sister-in-law "Thelma... is that the same moon we can see on Norfolk?"

Fran loved to travel, and her travel companions were usually her sisters-in-law. They frequented the Gold Coast and New Zealand, but also shared trips to the Northern Rivers, Melbourne, Sydney, Singapore, Hawaii, and Canada. As long as there were shopping centres and somewhere to play the pokies Fran would enjoy the trip. One of Mum's favourite holidays was when her and Dad took Grandma Rose to Disneyland.

By far the most treasured trips though were to London to visit her darling daughter Louise, son-in-law Andrew and their three children Ashley, Emma and Dominic. Mum and Dad would stay for months at a time to spend quality time with them. The joyous trips turned sour when Louise was diagnosed with breast cancer during her pregnancy with Dom. Mum and Dad relocated to London to be with Louise until she passed away, caring for the grandkids as their own, and supporting them all through a devastating time.

The devastation didn't end there unfortunately, as just two years later my own daughter Denae tragically died in a car accident. Fran never understood how life could deliver her such heartbreak - taking away her daughter and granddaughter - however, she found consolation from her bible and her faith in God. During her last days, mum talked about how she would soon be reunited with her darlings... Louise and Denae, and it gave her something to look forward to.

While today we mourn her loss, we also celebrate her legacy - a legacy of love, compassion, and resilience. She leaves behind a world that is brighter because she was in it, and people who are forever changed by her presence.

To my dear mother: thank you. Thank you for your love, your sacrifices, and your unwavering belief in us. Thank you for being our light, our safe place, and our inspiration. Though we feel your absence so deeply, we know that your spirit lives on in the lessons you taught us, the love you gave us, and the memories we will cherish forever.

Rest in peace, Mum. You are loved beyond measure and missed beyond words.

Words of Appreciation

The Evans family would like to thank the community for the lovely farewell for Frances. She would be honoured to know that this community cared so much for her.

- Special thanks go to the NIHRACS staff who went over and above to care for Fran until the end. To the doctors and the nursing staff - thank you for your patience.
- We would like to thank Fran's closest friends who visited her regularly Orn Daa Randa, and particularly those who kept visiting during her final months.
- Thanks to everyone near and far who offered condolences. Your kind words gave us all comfort.
- Ken Weslake for the Service
- The Pall Bearers - Shane, Pendo, Sam, Duane, Jimmy, Simon
- Trent Christian for the PA System and leading the hymns
- @kaawaa2899 (Kieran, Kevin & Shell) for Live Streaming
- Shane Quintal and all the grave diggers
- The hearse driver - Leonard Schmitz
- Norfolk Island Holiday Homes for the pall bearers van
- Robyn Butterfield and her band of helpers for the wreaths, arrangements and posies
- Everyone who donated the beautiful flowers and greenery
- All the people who helped in any way to make this service so beautiful
- The Golf Club who hosted the wake.

