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**Frances Christian**

**26th September 1943 - 25th July 2015**

On Thursday afternoon, 30th July 2015, the family of Frances Christian, together with her countless friends, gathered at the Kingston cemetery to lay to rest one of Norfolk Island's most popular ladies.

Frances had a strong faith and was the lady who prepared, month after month, the roster of things that had to be done to keep the Church of England's two churches - All Saint's Kingston and St. Barnabas Mission Chapel - in wonderful condition.

The Reverend David Fells conducted the service and he said that it was "his privilege to welcome you all to this graveside service for Frances."

"At the outset" Reverend David continued "and on your behalf, I would like to extend our sympathies to the family - to Howard, Teresa and Maria and families in particular.

"I also had the honour a few weeks ago, after Frances came home, to sit down with her and speak about today. 'Today' she said 'I would like a simple service. A service by the Book with my favourite Psalm - Psalm 121 - which speaks of my hope in the Lord.' So that's what we will be doing this afternoon."

"In lieu of Eulogies there will be something written in this week's paper."

The service then continued with a reading from the Bible "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

"We have come together this afternoon to thank God for the life of Frances Christian. To mourn and honour her. To lay to rest her mortal body and to support one another in our grief. Those who die in Christ share eternal life with Him and therefore in faith and hope, we turn to God who created and sustains us all."

Reverend David then prayed "Loving God, you alone are the source of life. May your life giving spirit flow through us and fill us with compassion for one another. In our sorrow today, give us the calm of your peace; kindle our hope and let our grief give way to joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Like Reverend David, I had the great honour of being asked to lead the singing, and the first of the two hymns - "I Come to the Garden Alone" was then sung.

The reading of Psalm 121 then followed - "I look to the mountains; where will my help come from?

My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

He will not let you fall: your protector is always awake.

The protector of Israel never dozes or sleeps. The Lord will guard you, he is by your side to protect you. The sun will not hurt you during the day, nor the moon during the night.

The Lord will protect you from all danger; he will keep you safe.

He will protect you as you come and go now and forever."

The service then proceeded with The Lord's Prayer, the placing of the Floral Tributes, the Committal and the singing of the Pitcairn Anthem "Come Ye Blessed."

At the conclusion of the service Reverend David then read the following short message from the family- "Throughout her schooling, Fran always wanted to be a teacher and her preference was to teach on an island. She loved Norfolk; she loved her life here; she loved the people and her childhood wish became true.

On behalf of Fran's family we would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to her Norfolk Island family, her friends - near and far - especially today as we remember her and pay tribute to her life."

*(continued overleaf)*

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**NORFOLK ISLAND FITNESS AND HEALTH NEWS**

*Information shortly on our Members and Clients  
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HEALTH CHALLENGE"**

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**Frances Christian - continued**

As promised, the following are two message that have been received from friends - 'both near and far' that capture their fondest memories of the happy times they spent with Frances and her family.

"Dear Fran

Your generosity of spirit when it came to welcoming us all from the mainland and our extended families - we were always made to feel valued and special and nothing was too much trouble. Invited to join in on Bounty Day, gain a greater understanding of Norfolk history and create such wonderful happy lifelong memories for our children. The ability to laugh and find the best in tough situations. The vision of you with your trusty spray gun covered in varnish and the stalactites and stalagmites in your little work shed where you supported Howard to build the tourist timber industry.

The fondest memories of sharing a Christmas at "The Christians" where we sat under the avocado tree and embraced a feast of beautiful food, friendship and joy, and laughed and joked. The calm and wonderful smile you always shared when the boys would come back from fishing after catching trumpeter by the bin full. How you would be able to cater for 5 - 50 within an hour, patiently and kindly listening to their never-ending tall stories.

Never complaining (to any of us) about the never-ending stream of cars entering your house each morning to "check the water" with Howard - just in case there was a chance of a fishing trip. The patience you showed in teaching these Aussie TEPs how best to grow vegetables and the responsibility for preparing, caring for and reaping the benefits of locally grown. Visions of you on the ride on mower in your hat mowing the lawns surrounding your beautiful property and always making time for anyone who turned up to say hello.

The Sports carnival where the competitive Fran would emerge and the joy when Nepean would win yet another carnival. The march past, the cross country and the Kindy Cup. The Easter Carnival, the hours of cooking, organising and the thrill and excitement with the kids having the time of their lives and yet another record fund-raising total. The support for the younger ones with class reading and your devotion to education throughout your life.

You have been a beautiful, caring, generous and supportive mother and wife, and for those of us who have had the honour and the privilege to know you, we have also been very blessed.

Always in our thoughts."

"A three year stay on Norfolk Island was undoubtedly a life-changing experience for our family, largely as a result of the friendship afforded to us by Howard and Frances Christian.

Fran has generously shared much with our family; she took our children to Sunday School,

taught our daughters to bake Norfolk pies, helped our children make flower posies and vegetable models for The Show, shared her expertise in making guava jelly. Fran could seemingly whip up a feast for a crowd in an incredibly short time always claiming "It's only what's in the garden!"

Fran has helped make Norfolk such a special place for us; my husband and I, along with our four children and now our four grandchildren continue to visit the Island regularly, and although we will dearly miss our good friend, we shall always remember and be grateful for how she has enriched our lives."

Here is a special message from Frances to the hospital staff. "Teaching the skill of cooking 'survival food' and waving a crooked finger to keep 'my old girls in line'!

My 'old girls' have now been caring for me, so I know I'm in good hands!... Although I don't know about eating their scrambled eggs."

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SOUTHERN TIARE v136		22-Sep	26-Sep
SOUTHERN TIARE v137		28-Oct	02-Nov

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NEPTUNE PACIFIC LINE  
BAF 34.5%
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XIN CHA SHA v021	31-Aug	SOUTHERN TIARE v136	26-Sep
JPO PISCES v034	28-Sep	SOUTHERN TIARE v137	02-Nov
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<b>SYDNEY to NORFOLK ISLAND</b>			
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ANL BARWON v444	2-Sep	SOUTHERN TIARE v136	26-Sep
CAP CAPRICORN v448	30-Sep	SOUTHERN TIARE v137	02-Nov
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CAP CAPRICORN v448	28-Sep	SOUTHERN TIARE v137	02-Nov
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**Cruise Ships**

Pacific Pearl	Sunday, 11 October
Silver Discoverer	Wednesday, 16 December

**Norfolk Island Agent**

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