



Vale

Frank Alfred Rapley Watson

8th July 1929 - 10 July 2017

On Saturday 15th July, family and friends gathered at the Kingston cemetery to farewell Frank Alfred Rapley Watson.

Following the welcome by Rev. David Fell, the singing of the hymn 'In The Sweet By and By', Max Hobbins delivered the following tribute to Frank.

"Frank Alfred Rapley Watson was born in New Zealand in 1929, the eldest son of Frank and Mavis (nee Rapley) Watson. Frank and his three brothers remember a country childhood, where his parents had a farm and his dad worked in the local canvas factory. He grew up during the great depression, so times were tough for everyone. At the end of 1939 his

family moved to Auckland and bought a corner shop and milk bar in the city centre. Frank would help in the shop and at age 12 would head off to the wholesaler to get tobacco and cigarettes for the shop. He also had a newspaper round delivering the afternoon paper after school.

In 1945 Frank began his first full time job as a leather goods and canvas worker, producing saddles and shopping bags. Two years later Frank was stricken with polio and became paralysed in both legs. It was eleven months before he recovered to go back to work and resume a normal life. He continued with upholstery, canvas and leather work until the early 1960's and was part of his dad's firm F.A Watson and Sons. Frank was always interested in cars, so branched out and went into partnership in running a garage, selling fuel and doing car repairs.

His mother died in 1969 and it was after this that Frank decided he needed a holiday and a change of scene, so he came to Norfolk. Many people over the years have come to Norfolk for a holiday and then found it difficult to leave. Frank Watson's month long holiday in 1969 has stretched now to a stay of nearly fifty years. Meeting and falling in love with Anne Tullner (nee Quintal) was a good a reason as any to stay.

He worked at Bruce Oldfield's garage by day and was a movie projectionist at the hotels and clubs by night. The crowds would pack in to see "The Sound of Music" but Frank admitted they got a few "dud" movies as well. Frank did however have a habit of falling asleep, so the click click click of the empty reel

(continued overleaf)

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Frank Alfred Rapley Watson - continued

would give a hint that someone needed to go and wake him up to change the reel and finish the film. At one such reel change he ran the movie up side down for the whole of the second half.

Other interests and past times for Frank included, doing the music for roller skating at Rawson Hall when that was in vogue, and also the picnic races at Kingston. He was famous for Christmas puddings at the Lions Christmas party, and Frank always managed to have a great one liner for every occasion. Once he said to me "Max, Don't ever go into a shop that has a large display window" I said "Why Frank" His answer "they will see you coming!"

Frank once had too many red wines at Rumours, he said "I'm leaving, but first I have to do some shopping for Anne. I offered to give him a hand, but he said "No thanks". Then he headed for Foodlands, and he had wobbly boots walking across Foodics car park, it looked so funny. Two days later I found out that he had told the staff that he couldn't find anything, so the staff ended up doing the shopping for him.

Over the years Frank helped Anne by doing maintenance jobs at Pine Valley apartments, upholstery work and mechanical repairs. Frank was a perfectionist and had incredible skills sewing and upholstering. Most recently Frank has made a big contribution to the boomerang bags project here on Norfolk. Producing Shopping bags his first and last job!

They say you take nothing with you when you die, but Frank takes with him a wealth of knowledge about cars and motors that is beyond comparison. Many a motorist may have got mechanical advice that an expensive part replacement is required or that the motor is not repairable at all, but bring it to Frank and sure enough you would hear him say " I just might have something for that", he would go straight to the right box in amongst mountains of car parts, and with a spanner turn here and bolt tighten there, the motorist would be back on the road, car running good as new. And a few tasty meatballs or a bottle of rum would be sufficient to settle the account. Although Frank has been semi retired since 2005, aged 76, he up until just a few weeks ago would still be found pottering around with spare parts, lawn mowers to get going and minding the shed with some old time records playing.

But now this is important.....

Anyone who is still waiting for a job he was supposed to do, thank you for being patient, and those who left cars or mowers, etc. Please come and pick them up!

He was proud of Anne, his stepchildren, his son and their families. Frank you were a gentleman. Wherever you are at this moment I hope you are enjoying the red wine and your friends will be also raising a glass to you at Rumours."

There then people placed their Floral Tributes to Frank followed by prayers, the committal and The Pitcairn Anthem.

Thank You

Jeremy, Maria and family would like to put out an island wide heartfelt thank you.

To all who have helped and given time, love, support and attention for us since Frank's passing and to give him a wonderful and fitting send off, our sincere thanks. The hospital and nursing staff, Shane and the grave diggers, Edie and the wreath makers, Jodie and Photopress, Reverend David Fell, Max Hobbins, Tardy, Pall bearers John, Speed, Leroy, Bergs and Ryland; Milt, Trent, Lions members and Boomerang bags team. Also thanks to Ebony and Bridgette from the kids.

This list is long but thank you to everyone. The list is also long to thank those that have shared a kind word and a funny story of Frank with us over the last 10 days. These are the extra special moments that mean so much at a difficult time. Thank you to all.

Thank You

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to everyone on Norfolk and beyond for their kinds words, thoughts and sympathies during this past time.

To the Doctors, especially Dr Zerby who was there at the end. To all the Nurses, Careers and Hospital staff. To Meals on Wheels. To Shane and the Grave Diggers, and the Ladies at the Usual Place. Jodie for the service sheets, the Police for the escort, and Tardy for Dad/Pop's final journey. The Pall Bearers, David Fell for the service, Max Hobbins for the eulogy, Milt for the sound system and Trent for leading us in song.

A special thanks to the Lions and Boomerang Bags for the guard of honour (he would have been so proud).

To Rumours, Mary, Di and Robyn and the Round Table, you were an important part of his life just like his family. To everyone for the cards, flowers, food and messages of kind words. If there is anyone we have forgotten to personally mention, please do not think your acts of kindness have gone unnoticed.

To Leroy, Joe and Rick you gave Dad/Pop a place and most importantly a purpose, all you did for him money could not buy. Two simple words are not enough but "Thank You".

To those who know us well, Frank was the only father we ever knew. His heart of gold, his generosity and giving nature is something we have always been proud of, and as everyone knows he was never one to ever say NO.

Ray would have dearly loved to have been here in person during this time, unfortunately due to the timeframe and distance he was not able, but he was with Dad in spirit with a red in hand.

As we now continue our separate ways without you, know you will forever be in our thoughts and hearts. The life lessons you taught us will guide all of us through life.

Your loving children and grandchildren Ray, Kathy, Ryland and Shyanne.
