



Vale
Gwen Bergagnin

17th September 1920 - 2nd July 2015

Eulogy read at the Norfolk Island Cemetery on Sunday 12th July 2015.

“Today we celebrate the life of a beautiful Norfolk Islander. A great grandmother who was truly an inspiration to so many and someone who will be missed by many more.

Gwendoline Helen Crystal Bergagnin (nee Menzies) was born on Norfolk Island on 17th September 1920. Gwen passed away at the Sunshine Coast Queensland, on Thursday, 2nd July 2015 aged 94 years.

Gwen or Gweny or Aunt or Nan as she was known was the eldest of 12 siblings. Gwen and sister Nancy Adams (deceased) were the eldest daughters of George (Simon) Menzies and Helen (Titta) Quintal. Titta later married Joe Thomas and they had a daughter Rosemary (nee Thomas) Donlevy. Simon married Georgina (nee Russell) and they had nine other children; Janice (deceased), John (deceased), Toni, Stephen, Sharon, Donna, Margaret, Tracey, and Vicki. Toni, Steve, and Vicky are here today to say good-bye to their older sister.

Gwen married Mirto Giovanni “Bert” Bergagnin in 1942 in Sydney. Bert pre-deceased Gwen in 1994 and Gwen will be buried next to him today. Gwen and Bert had their only child John on 20th October 1945. John married Maggie Robinson in 1974 and they had two children; Brett in 1974 and Cindy in 1977. In 1994 John married Narelle and it is so unfortunate that John and Narelle could not make it back home from the Sunshine Coast in Queensland for Mum and Gweny’s funeral. Our sincerest thoughts are also extended to John and Narelle at this time. Brett and partner Sarah Quintal are very proud parents of Gwen’s only great grandchild young Jack who was born in 2013.

Gwen or Nan absolutely loved her grandchildren Brett and Cindy. Through this Eulogy I must emphasise that Brett and Cindy also loved and cherished their time with Nan and their grandfather Bert who they affectionately referred to as Non. Brett and Cindy have certainly made the best of time with Nan and

(continued overleaf)



Deal with the Professionals
***Immigration changes provide opportunity for
Australian/NZ citizens to live permanently
on Norfolk Island***

STOCKYARD PREMIUM - NEW LISTING

This well presented property has 3 bedrooms, 2 ensuite and an office. Open plan dining/living area with access to verandah and view. Approximately 25,000 gallons water storage. 1kw solar power and solar hot water. Dbl garage, private access via sweeping concrete drive. 1,189 ha. You won't be disappointed, arrange to view now!

\$595,000

VACANT LAND- NEW LISTING

Over 1 acre rural residential land, near level. Situated in Cascade area. Remains of old house and operating water well. Needs clearing.

\$130,000

LOADS OF CHARACTER

Immaculately presented 3 bedroom 2 bathroom cottage in a convenient location handy to town & school. Sunny position. Front verandah. Open plan lounge/dining. Well appointed modern kitchen. 1 bedroom/office downstairs, 2 very spacious bedrooms upstairs. Approx. 18,000 gallons water storage. Solar hot water, town sewerage system. Garage & ample storage areas under house. Land area: 667m².

ALL THIS FOR ONLY \$320K

HOMELY

3 bed timber dwelling on nearly 4 acres. Hillside & valley views. Covered verandah. Open plan lounge/dining/kitchen with timber dado walls, high pitched timber beam ceiling & slow combustion fire. Kitchen has solid timber benchtops incl. island bench eatery. Norfolk Pine features thru house. Main king size bedroom with Juliet balcony, WIR & ensuite. 2 dble bedrooms. Family bathroom with sep. w.c. Approx. 10,000 gallons water storage & 2.1Kw solar panels.

PRICE REDUCED TO \$340K

IT'S ALL DONE

3 bedroom renovated furnished cottage on concrete slab. New kitchen, new flooring, freshly painted etc. Built-in robes, 1 bathroom, separate w.c., Covered rear verandah. Lock up garage with laundry. Solar hot water. 2 x 10,000 gal water tanks. Residential zoning. Close to town & school. Very convenient, low maintenance property.

ASKING \$330K

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HOMES FOR RENT**

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Gwen Bergagnin - continued

Non and they would be the first to tell you that they never missed out on learning and participating in life-skills whilst growing up in Norfolk Island thanks to their grandparents. Whilst growing up Brett and Cindy benefited from many experiences that could only come from Nan and Non. Both grandparents could turn the soil and grow anything, drop a line and catch anything, and light a fire and cook anything. Brett and Cindy can relate to these wonderful traits and skills for the rest of their lives.

Gwen was Aunt to many both here on Norfolk Island and in Sydney. Aunt and Uncle Bert helped many family members over the early years and in to the 1960's and 1970's with kindness and generosity. The family still refer to the gifts of kindness over the years as a saving grace to their upbringing and all-of-life survival through the tough times. I have been asked by a few to particularly mention that these acts of caring remains a huge memory recall of appreciation and thankfulness.

All Gwen's grand nieces and nephews on Norf'k called her Aunt. I know whilst growing up here on Norf'k we all loved Aunt's humour and kindness. Funnily enough some of the humour became more evident as we grew older. Nevertheless, that Norf'k humour incredibly distinguishes us apart from many other race of people. In the 1960's Aunt handed out nicknames to most of us and these have become life-long identifiers to not only us individuals but to many other family and friends. Every one of us can also remember the guarantee of cash from Aunt for our birthdays and for Christmas. Even before decimal currency Aunt would give us change that she and Uncle Bert had accumulated from their trips overseas. We felt special and we felt 'rich'. Every one of us who call her Aunt would like to sincerely acknowledge her love, her generosity, and her unconditional kindness forever and ever.

Gwen always talked about her very early days growing up on Norf'k. Gwen lived with Uncle Tom (Pert) Quintal and Aunt Mag. They lived down at Munna's and that was their family home. As a matter of fact many of us here today can remember fishing in Slaughter Bay at a special spot we used to call Aunt Mag's. Uncle Tom was a boat builder and his prize construction was a whaler boat he built and named Gwendoline. I can recall Aunt Gwen telling me about this boat and its crew. Before going on whaling hunts the skipper used to gather the crew, and in the early days Aunt Gwen, and say a prayer for their expedition and then Aunt Gwen would be there waiting for them to return. These and swimming in Slaughter Bay were very fond memories that Aunt Gwen told many a time. As a matter of fact Brett and Cindy had the hearse pass by Munna's on the way down here today to her final resting place as a tribute to these beautiful memories. If you see a flower there later that is for Aunt.

I can remember growing up on Norf'k where families never had much, where families had to do with what they had, and where families had to improvise and overcome most of the things we take for granted these days. We never starved and we always had fun. I can

still visualise those weekends when weekends were just that. Off we would go and drop a line because that is what we did back then. Straight from the sea and in to the frying pan just on top of the fishing spot. Not just the adults but every member of the family. Just to name a few we will never forget Aunt and Uncle Bert, Nig and Lorna, Turk and Lorraine, Nancy and Uncle Ern, Uncle Bri and Aunt Helen, Von and Bruno, John and Maggie, Kev and Jan, and many more too many to mention. Great memories. Like all families did back then; Aunt or Uncle Bert would have cooked the Gnocchi and other signature dishes before we went fishing, and as I mentioned before, memories of these special people and what they did for us become more apparent when we become parents ourselves. Aunt never did forget her grass root connections with the land and the sea and even until she just physically could not drive to either jetty she would be hanging a line. Bumboras was her favourite place and she loved snitching out the 'norf'k nanwi' and cooking it right there and then. Like many other Norfolk people we know; Aunt was a great teacher of our heritage and culture. Thank you Aunt forever and ever.

Gweny was a beautiful person. She has always been a lady of perfect appearance and she always had a very warm demeanour no matter who was in her company. She had the cheekiest chuckle and her smile and laughs were infectious to everyone. Gweny and Bert were successful in their planning and providing for themselves and for their families. There was always something left over for that rainy day and she definitely made sure that her grandchildren were never left short of love and guidance. Gwen, Gweny, Aunt, Mum, Nan, would always make sure that there was a medium to long term plan. A plan that involved all that mattered to her and Uncle Bert and this is evident in her offspring and all those who were helped by her. Gweny was revered and respected as a wonderful mother, and kind and caring grandmother, and in time when Jack is old enough to look back, Jack will wish he had had those cute little conversations with Nan that so many have had before him. Thank you Aunt for being such a beautiful beautiful person to everyone.

John and Narelle, Brett and Sarah, Cindy and Maggie would like to especially thank everyone who have joined them or have been with them to farewell their Mum and Nan. The family would like to pay respect to those who have assisted in so many ways over so many years both here on Norf'k and in Queensland. The kindness and unwavering support has been appreciated with much thanks. In recent days and weeks the family would like to thank the ladies at the usual place, the Sexton, the grave diggers and pall bearers, Tardy, the hospital, the police, the Lions, and those that have travelled to say their farewell. I have been asked to especially mention Praille for the flower arrangement on the coffin, Jodie for the service sheet, and Tony Watts and Sarah Prentice.

Rest in peace Gwen."
