



Vale
Hilton John Knight Quintal
Affectionately known as Jacky Ralph

7th October 1921 - 2nd July 2015

On Wednesday afternoon, 8th July 2015, relatives and friends gathered at the Kingston Cemetery to bid farewell to Jacky Ralph Quintal who due to his love for Country and Western music indirectly led him to be nicknamed 'Chad' (after the Country music singer in later years).

The service was conducted by Church of England Minister David Fell and the readings came from John 11:25-6, Revelation 7:17 and Isaiah 40:11 and this was followed by the singing of the Hymn "Brightly Beams".

John McCoy then delivered the following Eulogy to Jack:- "Hilton John Knight Quintal, affectionately known as Jackie Ralph was born in Cobar to Jack Knight and Rose Bennett on 7 October 1921. Jack Knight died when young Jack was a baby and Rose married Ralph Quintal, the Head Stockman on Tindarry Station. Ralph brought his wife and baby son home to Norfolk Island. They lived at Anson Bay and Jack and his younger brother Rueben attended the Anson Bay School. Later the family moved to Steele's Point and Jack attended the school at Middlegate. At the end of his first day at his new school Ralph asked him –

Watawieh dar school - Alright

Watawieh dem teacher - Alright

Watawieh dem boys - Alright

Watawieh dem gehl - I nor like Dottie Buffett.

Ralph laugh en tull "Wael watch dar one".

Jack grew up surrounded by older Islanders whom he held in great respect and shared with his family many stories.

Jack completed his schooling at King's College Parramatta where Jack Knight and his uncles had all been educated. At Christmastime at the end of two years schooling Jack jumped the train to Cobar and went straight to Granny Knight's. There he told her he was never going back to that school and he was going home to Norfolk. Once he had Granny's approval he then went and told his parents. The family moved back to Norfolk and Jack worked with his father Ralph in his butcher shop. Walking home one afternoon

(continued overleaf)

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Hilton John Knight Quintal - continued

he met Dottie Buffett at Sattie's Corner, riding her horse up from Steele's Point. Dottie invited him to dinner on Sunday night. Jack told his father that Dottie "se change plenty since hi gwenna school". He went to dinner on Sunday and they were rarely separated after that.

Jack loved music and the house echoed with it. He could sing, yodel, play the guitar, accordion, banjo and harmonica. He often spoke of Pa Menzies yodelling as he drove them to the pictures at Old Rawson Hall. At the beginning of World War Two he joined the army and at the Officer Training School in Queensland he suffered an accident where he lost his eye. On hearing of Jack's accident, his mate Bev McCoy at another training camp, put down his tools and started walking the thirty miles to visit Jack. He finally got a lift, two miles out, but on arrival was told he had missed Jack by half an hour. They had medivaced him down to Townsville in a Gypsy Moth.

After years of hospitalisation Jack returned home. He and Dot had three children, Joy, John and Gaye. Although Steele's Point would always be the special side orn Norfolk for both of them, they made Ball Bay their home. In a house that was full of laughter, music and happy times and surrounded with lifetime friends. Orl dem out Steele's Point, specially dem Buffett; den Reen en Jim; Bev en Dossie; Foxy en Ruthie; Bose en Bett; Edie en Syd; Joe en Chisty; Ron en Marlene en orl dems families; Freddy Shunna, Mary en Selby; ~ Mate Bob, Jean Nash en Beryl ~ George, Chris en Ric ~ Ma Nobby, Mesta en Miss Bataille ~ Adam, Jenny en Daniel, Jan, Coop en Vonny~ en du wi forget Clive. So many others but dars jess a few.

Jack loved Norfolk and its people. He enjoyed many jobs. Bosun got him a job at Works and Housing with Teeny and Shorty Dick; he worked for Ropey at the Saw Mill; plunt a beans, work a shep; work with Hodder building the RSL; at Kingfisher with Marty; building houses with Goldie; Restoration with Stegs en Rug. He built a house each for Joy, John en Gaye and gave them all one-nor-dar- illy piece a Norfolk. Jack and Bev McCoy were sent to Byron Bay to learn the finer points of whaling and on their return, worked at the Cascade Whaling Station where again he delighted his family with many stories. Hi lauw a gu fishen down Garnet Point en out ar windmill. Hi lauw laughfen en hi bin el miek a taeda salan laugh.

In 1988 Jack's family published a book of his poems and since then have found many other poems tucked away in drawers and cupboards. Anything that happened on Norfolk that Jack felt strongly about, was recorded in poetry, nort alwes publishable.

Joy and Michael had Sheree and Maree, John and Rosalie had Sharyn and Sarah and Gaye and Dids had Tzarn, Chelsea and Duane. The family extended to include Ian, John, Mitch, Bergs and Corinna, then came great grandchildren, Shanelle, Trent, Kyran, Alana, Jai and Jack. Loving thoughts are sent to those who couldn't be with us today, especially Sheree.

Dottie passed away in 2006. After sixty-eight years together all Jack wanted was to join her. Last Thursday he did. May he rest in Peace."

There then followed the reading of Psalm 23 and a poem from Jack's granddaughter Chelsea Evans followed by the placing of Floral Tributes; a Tribute from members of the R.S.L.; Recital of the Lord's Prayer and the Committal.

The service came to a conclusion with a recording the singing of the Pitcairn Anthem by Opera singer Byron Watson. For those who may not know who Byron is. his grandmother was Nancy Adams and his mother Tessa is the sister of Vonnie Grube and Brian Adams.

On the final page of the Service Sheet was one of Jack's poems "Thank Yu f myse illy piece a Norfolk" written by Jack in 1994.

Thaenk yu Yorlyi

The family of Jackie Ralph would like to sincerely thank the people of Norfolk Island and overseas who were so supportive to them and helped to make his departure full of happy memories. In particular the wonderful staff at the NI Hospital, especially to Dr Jenny who cared for both parents for such a long time and those who work orn daa Raenda. To Dr Mick Conner for leading the procession with bag pipes, Shane Quintal who was great, those who dug his grave, Vince for his Cross, Edie Syd, Prail and those wonderful ladies who made the beautiful wreaths, those who made morning tea, Tardy, his pallbearers ~ Neville, Raymond, James, Gary, Glen en Franklyn. To John McCoy who read his eulogy so well, to Reverend David Fell who gave a farewell that we will all remember, Lenny, Curtis, Lachlan and Mikiela, Cheryl Snell for the sound system and ensuring that the CD's all worked, Wal Finch and the RSL, Alma, Pixie, Elizabeth Nowell, Jimbo and Louise, Sput Douran, Jodie Williams, Toni, Millie, Ruthie en Shelly, those who sent cards and condolence or visited the family bringing gifts of food, memories and cheer, and especially, thanks to Albert.

A bit about Jack the Poet

The following little extract is taken from Jackie Ralph's book of poems "Reflections of the Past" and written by Jack's friend archaeologist Robert Varman back in June 1988.

"I wish that such works as Jack's had been written last century or earlier this century as it would have documented the social changes which are ever occurring."

"Other poems reflect the transition of life on the island where often senseless rules have been imposed by the 20th century to inapplicable situations, hence "Torrens Title" and "Registration Day" Poems such as "The Day they Caught the Bull" reflect the great sense of humour of the island."

There is no way that I can adequately present Jack- to me he is the quintessential Norfolk Islander and the quintessential Australian. This is an impossible combination yet here we have Jack and how he presents his poems.
