



*Vale*

## **John Edward O'Brien**

**15 December 1965 - 12 February 2023**

Writing a tribute to our John was always going to be difficult. We knew we would have to write something that emulates the beautiful man our John was, who lit up everyone's lives with his good humour, light touch view on life and loved the craic. As such, we want this to express John's thoughtfulness, his loving nature and of course, it has to be funny! Above all else, we want to talk about a man who has lived his life spreading happiness and joy to anyone who was lucky enough to meet him. We are the ones who were lucky enough to love him.

John was a gifted musician. He played the guitar, piano, the violin and much to the chagrin of his family, the tin whistle. John also had a beautiful singing voice (although that could be debated when he had a few jars). He joined the choir at the age of 12 and he was soon able to sing a number of solo songs not just in English but in Irish as well.

One issue we always had with John was his inability to take a compliment. His mammy, Anne, ever the dotting mother always wanted to brag about her amazing son to anyone who would listen. She had to tread carefully though; if John caught wind of any sort of praise it would be stopped immediately. In the words of Anne O'Brien; 'You wouldn't dare try to praise that boy!' A bundle of contradictions is John though as he was all of our biggest supporters. Never a football match, exam or special occasion went by without a good luck, hard luck or well done message from John.

Mammy's week revolved around her weekly FaceTime chat with John and Diane. It really was the highlight of her week. We would ring Mammy to tell her we would call up and we were sometimes met with; 'oh no no you can't- John is ringing me!' We knew there was no point being around Mammy when her 'Golden Boy' was on the phone! This 'Golden Boy' title was attempted to be claimed by John's Irish twin, Mark, but we all know he is the trouble maker. The 'Troublemaker' and the 'Golden Boy' don't seem like


they should be a good match, but we've never seen a greater friendship than these two brothers. Half the world away, New York to Queensland and Norfolk, distance was no obstacle for the pair who always remained the best of friends.

On top of John's many titles, one of his proudest was that of 'Big Brother. Fiona, the baby of the family always looked up to and admired her big brother. She was so lucky to grow up with her 'rock' always looking out for her and she was endlessly proud of her big brother.

If John ever tried to deny the role of Golden Boy, you just had to look at his achievements to know he was just being modest. John went off to Newbridge College to study music during secondary school and it was there he realised he had a penchant for maths. This had him headed for DCU where he met two of his lifelong friends Dave and John, where much craic was had.

John and the lads then lived in London after his studies and it was here he met a young Norfolk Islander named Diane. In Diane, John found his wife, his best friend, the love of his life and his soul mate. They travelled the world together and even spent 6 months in Ireland a few years ago and we were so lucky to get

*(continued overleaf)*



Australian Government  
Kingston Cultural Area  
Norfolk Island

# *Open House*

**Mr Eric Hutchinson, Administrator**  
advises

## **GOVERNMENT HOUSE**

**NORFOLK ISLAND**  
will be open for inspection on  
**WEDNESDAY 8th MARCH**  
from 1.00p.m. - 3.30p.m.

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**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
ADMISSION

**Adults \$15.00 - Children Free**  
(Must be accompanied by an adult)

**Proceeds In Aid Of**  
**NI Pony Club**

*John Edward O'Brien - continued*

to spend some much needed time with John and Diane. We are forever grateful to Diane for showing John the love, compassion and kindness he deserves, not just over these past couple of tough years, but throughout their marriage. John was a lucky man to have spent his life with Diane and we know she feels the same way about him.

From the bottom of our hearts we want to thank all the doctors, nurses, hospital staff and friends who looked after John during his illness. To Diane's family and their Norfolk friends - we cannot thank you enough for looking after John as your own. It has been so tough not being able to be with him over the past two years, apart from some very treasured time with John last year, but knowing how well you had all been looking after him made life for us a whole lot better. To Diane - we are sending all our love to you and John was so blessed to have you by his side through thick and thin. We know he's looking down on you thinking how lucky he was to call you his wife. No amount of words can make this loss any easier. All we can do is try to live our lives the way John did- with thoughtfulness, love and humour.

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Hi Diane,

Gave some photos to Anne Yesterday (called in and met herself and Fiona and a couple of Fiona's Kids). Dave had sent me the photos. A few memories below, too many to mention!

As 18 year olds we shared a flat in Dublin, no clue how to look after ourselves. Remember John making 'readybrek' (bit like porridge) early days, when we went to eat it realised he had bought self raising flour!

We spent most of our days skiving off to the races etc, attendance record at lectures was horrendous, John was smart enough to still pass the exams (I wasn't!).

We gave up the flat at college year end but were staying on in Dublin for one last night out and had nowhere to stay.

At 4am we initially tried to sleep under a bush in a local park but were freezing cold so John moved us to a nearby telephone box thinking we would sleep standing up.

Not very successful, John then spotted a guy he thought was in the same university as us walking by and jumped out of the telephone box asking if we he lived nearby and could we sleep on his floor! Not a problem, same guy became a good friend.

As we weren't very successful looking after ourselves we decided to move into digs the following year, this way we were provided with meals on a daily basis so at least we were fed. Food was awful and there was a very annoying dog in the old couples house. John would routinely feed the dog custard cream biscuits that he filled with mustard, poor dog would be sneezing for hours!!

We both moved to London and carried on in similar fashion for a few years, the best of times!! Not a care in the world, spending money we didn't have and having the craic. John Colum and myself undertook a

famous trip to the Prix de Larc de Triomphe horse race in September 1989.

We met up in London after work on the Friday evening and bussed it to Paris getting back into London at 8am Monday morning. Over the course of the weekend John had somehow managed to lose one trainer and one shoe. I can still see him heading off on the tube in his suit with a trainer on one foot and a shoe on the other!

We will all miss him terribly Diane, a truly unique individual with a unique perspective on life and a great friend.

*John Doyle*



NIHRACS -  
POSITION VACANT -

### **Short term contract Administration Officer**

NIHRACS is seeking applications for a short term contract FT Administration Officer Level 3 for the GP Clinic.

The purpose of this position is to provide effective front line administration/reception services in the GP Clinic full time 3rd April – 1st September 2023. We are looking for someone with availability between the hours of 8.00am to 5.00pm. Successful candidates will receive training in the relevant areas.

The person will need to meet the following selection criteria:

1. Demonstrated experience in reception and administrative tasks with customer focused approach to service delivery.
2. Proven effective communication and liaison skills.
3. Demonstrated initiative and ability to problem solve.
4. Demonstrated ability to work within a multi-disciplinary team structure.
5. Demonstrated ability to use computer systems and databases.
6. Willingness and ability to adapt to work in a diverse range of areas.

Award: Health Employees (State) Award

Should you have any queries contact Carrie Gilmore on 22091 or via email

Please email your application with a cover letter addressing the selection criteria, a current CV and the details of two referees to Carrie Gilmore, GP Practice Manager NIHRACS at [carrie.gilmore@hospital.gov.nf](mailto:carrie.gilmore@hospital.gov.nf)

**Closing date: 18th March 2023**

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Real Estate  
*hettæ home*

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## ~ Ocean Views @ Cascade ~



**\$995,000**

Nestled away on Young's Road in the beautiful Cascade area, this home offers privacy, space and quality. Timber clad with timber flooring and higher than average ceilings there are two large bedrooms each with own bathroom, and an open plan living dining and kitchen area. Set on two acres the grounds are perfect for anyone looking to create vege gardens and nurture the existing orchard. A large 2-bay garage/workshop/shed, water well, good sized water tank, and ride on mower are ideal for the keen gardner. If you'd rather relax, the wide verandahs and ocean views provide for that too. This is a rare opportunity in a tightly held location.

## ~ Quality Home with Panoramic Views~



**\$1,250,000**

Enjoy panoramic sunrise to sunset views from this quality 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom house located on Two Chimneys Road. Wonderfully elevated on the ridge overlooking Steels Point, the views extend from east to west and the home is positioned brilliantly with a northerly orientation. Boasting large bedrooms (the master with renovated ensuite and WIR) plus a study/sewing room, 2 living rooms and an open plan kitchen/ dining area, there is space for everyone inside ~ and outside, on the impressive deck where you can really make the most of those sunsets! Quality built, solar voltaic panels, new water tank - it really ticks all the boxes for Island life.