

It was indicative of HESSIE that the 2 hymns sung at the Uniting Church, Gilgandra were "Amazing Grace" and Norfolk's beloved hymn "In the Sweet Bye and Bye". Pastor Allan Wilson officiated.

To Mary and her family, to HESSIE's brothers Greg and Denise, his sisters Enid Weslake, Leila Gleeson (N.Z.) Mabel Pearson (Sydney) and Helen Webb (Brisbane) and their families we extend our deepest sympathy in their very sad loss of another of Norfolk's wonderful gentleman.

#### VALE

Last Sunday we heard the sad news of the death of Norfolk John McPhail of Maitland, N.S.W.

Relatives Peggy Evans and Mildred Bataille left last week to be with John's wife Maree and they will bring back with them the information of John's service, etc.

#### POINT VENUS

Working away in the Printery this week, we were surprised to receive a 'phone call from Michael Moran, who now lives at 56 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1PQ England. He was a resident on Norfolk some 30 years ago.

The reason for Michael's call was to inform us of a book he has just written - "Point Venus" - published by Brandl & Schlesinger, P.O. Box 276, Rose Bay, N.S.W. 2029.

The following is the text of a Press Release on Michael's book - "Norfolk Island is eight hundred miles east of Australia, south of New Caledonia and north of New Zealand. It is one of the remotest places in the South Seas. One visitor called it "a place fit only for eagles and angels".

Once it was a green, cliff-edged sub tropical paradise, guarded from human sight by hundreds of miles of empty water. Then it was turned into a living hell, a safe prison for hundreds of the blackest cut-throats from convict settlements of Australia. Finally it became the new home of the Pitcairn Islanders, the descendants of Fletcher Christina's *Bounty* mutineers. Ghosts of cruelty and romance still haunt its pine forests and stone built ruins.

*Point Venus* offers a vivid portrait of the "Isle of Death" through the stories of two passionate women living in two different eras. Paulina is a cultured wife of a ruthless prison governor, and they and their fellow officers recreate the properties of early Victorian England with elegant entertainments in the shadow of the gallows and the flogging block.

Mareva is the sensual descendent of one of Christian's brutal followers and she and the other islanders are trying to come to terms with the modern world reaching out to their refuge.

Michael Moran has produced a dramatic, deeply researched, finely written novel, offering an intriguing view into a unique realm of lyrical yet sinister beauty".

In a footnote to the above message Michael informs us that the publisher is posting a copy of the book to us and "he is coming to Australia, possibly Norfolk Island, in October".

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#### HERE AND THERE

On Tuesday afternoon as I was having a practice at Chapel, two gentlemen came in - they were on the special Tuesday Norfolk Jet flight - and introduced themselves - Christopher Davies whose parents were Joan and Stan Davies from the Cable Station. Christopher was 4 when they came to Norfolk but there were 3 other brothers born on the island.

With Christopher was Robert Jolly. Both live at Noosa and both very determined to come back for a much longer visit.

I had a nice long talk to Christopher about the many things he remembered as a boy - especially Aunt Dais on the organ and her husband Ron falling asleep in between pumping the organ!

...Visiting at the S.D.A. Manse right now, are Dawn Summersell from Murwillumbah and her daughter Lorraine Miller with husband Peter and their small daughter Jasmine from Toowoomba.

It was Lorraine who provided the music for the commencing hymn "Love is the Flag" at the Education Service last Tuesday, and Dawn who played it on the organ.

...Lovely to have Hazel Kruger back on Norfolk looking after Nan and Fred Smith's home while they are overseas. Are you joining us at Choir again, Hazel?

#### THANK YOU

Mr Cec Barkman wishes to record his sincere thanks to the doctors and all staff at the Norfolk Island Hospital for the special care and attention given to him during his time in hospital.