



Vale

Lorna Grace Ruka

6th January 1937 - 16th January 2018

Lorna Grace Ruka was born on the 6th January 1937 and passed away on January 2018. Lorna was the 10th child of Fred and Polly Snell of Shortridge. She was sister to Ernie, Hes, Boob, Pa, Major, Skip, Plute, Sal, Rangī, Eileen and Gus.

Death was a subject often spoken about in the house and over the last couple of weeks Mum has been reflecting on her life and decided she wanted us all to be happy in her passing and she wanted to share some of the more humorous things that have happened in her life.

Mum was raised in a loving environment and whilst they didn't have much, Shortridge rang with laughter and happiness.

Her big claim to fame attending the Norfolk Island Central School (which she admits to enjoying) was winning a three legged race with Eadie Christian (unnay Eade).

She loved sitting next to Leslie Wakefield with the hope that she would be able to share one of Auntie Carr's Anzac biscuits.

She recalls going to a dance during the week and would struggle to wake up in the morning to go to school. Fred would have none of it and would say, 'if you'll dance you'll go to school — now get up before you catch a flog'.

She would often help her mother and father after school at Oceanside where they worked and this is where she met Dr and Mrs Short who asked whether she would go to NZ with them to look after their 3 children. Thus begun her 40 year connection with NZ.

At some point Dr Short encouraged her to try nursing as a career and she teamed up with Maisey Nobbs and the two of them shared many experiences together. There were quite a few Norfolk Island boys working at the sawmills at Kawerau at the time and they would come to Auckland and stay with the girls so they could attend the dances at the Orange Dance Hall in Newton Rd.

(continued overleaf)

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Lorna Grace Ruka - continued

She vividly remembers Shorty Nobbs taking over the piano at one of these dances and belting out 'Take me home Kathleen' — dem was asked to leave shortly after.

Mum decided one day to make scones for the boys, she remembers Christie saying 'please take out dem scones before se tun to crumpet' — oh the teasing. She met Ned at one of these dances and they were married in 1958.

Michelle was born in 1960, Jason in 1961 and Adele in 1969. Mum believes her children were her greatest achievement and she loved them more than life itself.

Her grandchildren, Corey, Tyla, Sam, Lara and Summer-Rain were her shining light and her great grandchildren Koby, Ayla and Lylah were the star at the top of the tree.

Mum especially wanted to mention the wonderful doctors and nurses at the hospital who have given her 20 out of 10 care since she became sick. She especially enjoyed the many laughs with Jan and Joy reminiscing about the old days and you could often hear them laughing in the car park.

She also wanted mentioned her true and bestest friend Moira Robinson whom has been a confidante and back stop over the years

Her favourite saying, *You'll tek da gael out of Norfolk but you car tek Norfolk out of da gael.*

Family

There's a special kind of closeness

That only families know,

That begins with childhood

And deepens as you grow.

There's a special kind of happiness

In sharing little things

The Laughter, smiles and quiet talks

That daily living brings

There's special kind of comfort

In knowing your family's there

To back you up, to cheer you up

To understand and care.

Of all the treasures life may bring

Your family means the most

And whether near or

Far apart, that love

Will hold you

Close

Mum

Mum, this is what you meant to us as a mother.

How do you tell the single most important woman in your life what a difference she's made, or how many times the sound of her voice has lifted your spirits and given you the courage to keep moving forward?

We thank you Mum for a lifetime of loving us.

For believing in us and for putting our hopes, our dreams and our needs ahead of your own.

There are no words Mum to describe the giant hole you have left in our lives.

We have a thousand memories we will cherish forever because of the extra effort, care and love you

put in to making us who we are today. You have always been the light and rock of our lives. You enveloped us in love and our children will never forget your wisdom and we will never forget your advice: *Go hard but dugoo mard.*

Thank You

The family would sincerely like to thank the wonderful doctors and nurses at the hospital who made Mums final journey peaceful. We are truly blessed to have such caring and supportive people amongst us and we could not have made this trip without you and thank you for allowing us to be with Mum at this time

To Shane and the gravediggers for allowing us to have Mum where she wanted to be.

To the ladies in the usual place, thank you for the beautiful flowers and your attention to detail,

To Tardy for driving Mum to her final resting place. To David Fell for his words of wisdom and for blessing Mums journey, and to Milt and Sim for music and PA system

To Jonno for the service sheets at such short notice and finally to the wonderful people who have phoned, called in or sent messages of support, we wholeheartedly thank you.

Mum did not want to have a wake and we would like to honour her wishes, however, we, as her children and grandchildren wanted to celebrate her lifewith a few informal drinks at 59 New Cascade Rd (Daa old homestead) and we're happy to share your company.

Thank You

It is with much humility that we extend to the people of Norfolk Island, our appreciation for their generous and loving kindness and support to us at the recent Fund Raising event. We would particularly like to thank all our friends who contributed and organised the event which I understand was wonderfully supported.

I will be home on Saturday for a few days before starting on going treatment on the mainland and while I can't thank you all personally, please be assured that we as a family are deeply grateful and humbled by your support at this time – oonie orn Norfolk would de happen, Love,.

Shane McCoy and family

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