



## **Thomas Kauri Tama Greening**

*'Maori Tom'*

*27th May 1956 - 26th May 2019.*

Thomas Kauri Tama Greening known to us all as 'Maori Tom' was born in Gisborne, New Zealand on 27th May 1956, growing up he spent his school days in Pio Pio, a small town in the Waitomo District.

From there he went into the panelbeating trade where he achieved his First Grade Ticket.

Tom came to Norfolk Island in 1981. He told us he 'wanted to get on a yacht to take him around the world' - he stayed here for the next 30 years! He would often say to his mates 'a lot of yachts pass Norfolk, but none want to pick me up'.

He was very much part of our community. He was involved in Ambulance, Police, Cadets, Football, Tennis and the Lions Club.

We all remember his sense of humor. One evening at a local party Tom drank a large amount of Jack Daniels. He announced that Norfolk Island has a 'Black Parrot'!! Nobody took any notice so he asked everyone to come to the back verandah and he will show it to them.

When everyone was on the verandah he looked into the bush area and then announced it was 'too dark to see the Black Parrot!!' He kept this boring joke for years.

On another occasion Bear borrowed Tom's car and one night on the way home ran into a bank badly damaging the front of the car which was a small Fiat.

Tom examined the car and said 'We should be able to drive this car because the motor is in the back!'

He had a girlfriend for some time, they shared a flat. One evening he came home from work and his girlfriend was cooking a roast dinner. He sat at the table and asked 'where is my supper' and she replied 'it won't be long'. Finally she put the food on a plate, walked over to him and tipped the roast on his head! Then got up from the table, had a quick shower and headed for the pub.

He came home one evening to find all his clothes on the roof.... Tom, you must have had a good sense of humor.

Tom and Tracey married in 2002. He left the island in 2012 for work and worked in various places in Australia in the mining industry.

Sadly, Tom passed away in Western Australia on 26th May 2019.

Tom - you always had a smile on your face. We are so happy you are here with us and you will be missed.

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### **Thank You**

Over recent years I have visited Norfolk Island many times. I normally have a relaxing time, but on my last trip I unfortunately experienced a medical emergency.

I would like to thank and congratulate all those that helped looked after me:

- Jimbo and Hannah for interrupting their Saturday morning to come and get me in the Ambulance - Jimbo for doing his best at distracting me from the pain and Hannah for driving so carefully along Anson Bay Road to avoid potholes.
- Jim (Dr) for calmly making all the right decisions and making me well again - the medical treatment was first class.
- Louise, Fran, Jane and Anita for being true professionals at their job - especially being able to administer treatment with great care to a somewhat uncooperative patient.
- I am sure there are many others that helped without my knowledge behind the scenes, or when I wasn't aware of what was going on around me.

The Island is going through a challenging period right now, but the fundamentals that make the Island great (and attracted me to it in the first place) are still there. The country values of kindness, respect, community and resourcefulness.

I know that I disrupted the weekend of many, yet the care I received was exemplary. Even small things like freshly baked scones in the hospital sets this experience apart.

I hope that one day I can repay the kindness and care that I have received from the people of Norfolk Island.

My deepest gratitude to you all.

*Kit Marshall*

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