



In Loving Memory of
Margery Jill McDowell

10th July 1931 – 27th May 2017

On Sunday 4th June 2017 a funeral service was held for a much loved mother, grandmother and great grand mother Jill McDowell.

With Reverend David Fell welcoming all to a packed St Barnabas chapel and with Jill's family participating in her service, grandson James read the following eulogy, Philip and Scotty played hymns Jill loved, Liane read the lesson, and Christine lead the pallbearers (replaced by Steve at the graveside)

"Margery Jill McDowell was born on Norfolk Island in her Aunt Daisies house on 10th March 1931.

Her mother, Marge Rossiter, was Doll Sanders twin sister and the Rossiter girls grew up in Charlgrove on Douglas Drive.

Her grandmother was Ethel Robinson, and it was through her that Jill had her link to Mathew Quintal, Edward Young, William McCoy and John Adams, her sixth generation grandfathers. This was something she was always so proud of.

Her father, John Croger, was a Cable and Wireless Engineer at the Anson Bay Cable Station. Cable and Wireless engineers were assigned to stations around the Pacific, including Norfolk Island, and as a young girl her family left Norfolk Island, initially to Southport, then Fanning Island, Cocos Island and on to Fiji.

It was here that she developed her deep love for the Fijian people.

After the war broke out in the Pacific, Marge & Jill were evacuated from Fiji. She often mentioned being on a ship with depth charges exploding behind it to deter Japanese submarines.

They moved to Sydney to live with Elsie Rossiter and from here Jill went to St Gabriel's Boarding School Waverly for her high school years.

After high school, with the war now over, she went to Malaya and joined her parents. In Penang, she

(continued overleaf)

Norfolk Island Real Estate

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**"EXCLUSIVE" NEW LISTING
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\$440,000 sold furnished

**"EXCLUSIVE" NEW LISTING
"Commercial" Shops, Shed & House**

Two shops, with a 3 bedroom house behind plus a commercial shed on a separate portion.
All tenanted and producing income.
Central location Total land area 1635m²
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**"EXCLUSIVE" HOME
Bucks Point, Ball Bay**

Tidy, well maintained & presented 3 bedroom split level cottage in a lovely rural setting. Ideal holiday home or rental 2 bedrooms, laundry, WC & bathroom on upper level. Kitchen, dining and TV room on middle level. Main bedroom and lounge on lower level with decking. Pleasant valley outlook with distant sea views.
Tidy grounds. Single carport. 1347m² Land
\$345,000

**REDUCED!
"EXCLUSIVE" WHAT A VIEW**

Set on a generous portion with panoramic views of the valley across to Kingston area and ocean to Phillip Island. Two bedroom residence with two adjoining one bedroom units. Well fitted kitchen & dining area, spacious lounge, covered front deck & rear tiled deck capturing stunning sea views. Well kept gardens & grounds.
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"EXCLUSIVE" LAND Snells Lane
Cleared, fully fenced. Ready for your builder
Land Area 1879m²
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Margery Jill McDowell - continued

trained and worked as a secretary and at the same time met James McDowell from Northern Ireland, who was the Municipal Engineer there, and later Malacca. Jill affectionately called him "Paddy"; a name that stuck with him for life.

In 1950 they married and had two boys, David and Philip. The colonial life in Malaya was a charmed life with Drivers, Gardeners, Cooks and Aamas to take care of the kids. But when the country became unstable with the communist fighting and the country's looming independence, they left Malaya.

So with no job to go to, and two little boys onboard, they sailed to Sydney and then on to New Zealand. Paddy got the job as County Engineer in Hokitika which, at that time, was extremely remote and hard living. The county was the longest in New Zealand, and Paddy was often away for long periods on horseback constructing the Haast Pass. After 2 years of rain, gorse, more rain, floods and more rain, they had had enough (Jill always said he must have been the only one to apply for the job).

So the family moved to Warkworth, just north of Auckland, and that was home to Mum for the next 35 years. Christine was born there and Mum worked as school secretary in the local primary school for 23 years.

But life doesn't always go smoothly and David died in 1982 after a long illness.

Paddy passed away in 1991 and as Jill had always wanted to move back to Norfolk Island; in 1994 she packed up everything and came back. A move she never ever regretted as her love for the island runs deep.

So that was the family history, but what of Jill as a person and a mother?

As a mother, she was always there for her children. When they became cubs, she became a cub leader and encouraged them to get every badge that was going. She pushed her children onto get Queens Awards and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

With music running deep in the family, Jill's children all started learning the piano at the age of 6; something they are so grateful for.

But Jill also had a competitive, determined streak. She was a champion swimmer and her shelf at home is lined with cups. Her mother Marge was a champion tennis player and at one time, singles champion of Fiji.

When asked why she didn't play tennis it became evident mother teaching daughter was not the way to go. When Marge tried to teach her, it put her off the game.

But, Marge couldn't swim, so Jill took up swimming instead - and excelled at it.

In fact this leads onto "how Jill met Paddy". Paddy was president of the Penang Swimming Club. One day, he had finished swimming, and was on his way out when he caught sight of the beautiful Jill in the pool. He changed back into his togs and got back in. He promptly challenged Jill to a race - and lost.

Being a woman of active mind and body, she struggled with the incapacities of aging. No one else

but Jill would put makeup on before a facial. It would also be fair to say the elderly Rossiter women were known for not mincing words. In fact, after caring for her ailing mother, Jill used to say "hit me over the head when I get to 60", but 60 came and went and she stopped saying it.

But to us, her strongest conviction was her faith in her God, a faith she has had since her childhood. As a child she would polish the penny she took to Sunday school.

With religion so out of favour in this secular world, it is easy to forget the hope that it offers.

Her forefather John Adams had this strength of faith which turned a society around that had fallen into total anarchy.

We don't know whether Jill inherited this from him but her faith never wavered. Ever. This was the faith that stands her in good stead now.

Jill lived a full and blessed life, surrounded by those who loved her. We already miss her immensely and her sparkle lives on. We find peace in knowing that she is once again with her beloved son David and husband Paddy. We love you so much Mum. Rest in Peace".

Following the service at her much loved St Barnabas Chapel, a graveside service was held with granddaughter Caroline and son Philip reading the eulogy, David Buffett reading Jill's favourite 23rd psalm, and to the beautiful sound of both the Bumboras Uke Band and Fijian Tribute Choir, and after Donald led the Pitcairn Anthem, Jill was laid to rest.

Thank You

Jill McDowell's family would like to extend such grateful thanks to all those who cared for Jill and eased our grief at this time.

The hospital staff who loved and cared for Jill, Rev. David for his spiritual support to Jill particularly in her last week, Jill's extended family who travelled to be here, Edie and the "wreathmakers at the usual place" who made such beautiful wreathes and all those who donated generously from their gardens, Tardy for driving the hearse, Tim and Grant for the police escort, Donald and all in the Bumboras Uke band, Jodie for the lovely service sheet and Toni for the printing, Joe for arranging flights at such short notice, George, Alan and Diesel for being pallbearers, Milton for the PA, Shane and the gravediggers who so generously gave of their time, those that handed out the service sheets both at the Chapel and Graveside, The Fijian community for their beautiful tribute to Jill and for the tapa cloth they laid over her mound, David Buffett for reading her favourite 23rd psalm, those who visited and brightened her day, her longtime friends who cared for her in so many ways and all those who gave food, cards and calls of condolence to us.

We sincerely thank you all for the kindness and support shown to us (and apologise to anyone we may have inadvertently overlooked).
