



Vale

A Celebration of the Life of
Marie Anne Bailey OAM

28th November 1926 - 21st March 2016

It is only to be expected that when you devote years of your life to the betterment of the island that you call home, when the time comes to say farewell, those of us who are left join with family members to offer expressions of support and sadness.

This was the case on Saturday, 26th March when members of the Norfolk Island community gathered at St. Barnabas Mission Chapel and later at the Kingston Cemetery to say farewell to Marie Anne Bailey OAM

Reverend David Fells, welcomed us all to the Chapel and after the singing of the Hymn "Gethsemane", Mary Christian Bailey delivered the following Eulogy:- "Marie Anne Bailey was born in 1926, and died in her 90th year.

This afternoon, as we reflect on her life, we have decided to take you on one of Marie's tours.

It will be quite a journey, full of adventures, lots to do and see, a few challenges. But at the end of this tour, you will be very glad to have met this iconic and visionary lady, who has done so much for our island.

The tour begins at Marie's home, Greenacre, the old house that was built by George Bailey who came to Norfolk Island in 1875 to work for the Melanesian Mission as a blacksmith. and married Emily Christian, who had arrived from Pitcairn in 1856 at the age of four. George and Emily had six children, and the youngest of these was Tom.

The first stop on our journey will be Fiji. Tom and his wife Edna Roberts were stationed there with the Pacific Cable Board. While they were there Marie was born in 1926. With her fair colouring, she must have stood out, and loved to tell people she was so fair because she was born in the daytime!

In 1930, when Marie was four, the family returned to Norfolk Island and lived for many years in one of the Cable Board houses at Anson Bay. Tom so much enjoyed daughter Marie's company, and sharing activities like fishing and gardening with her, that he kept her back from school until she was seven, when she eventually started at Lisa Everett's little Anson Bay School.

(continued overleaf)



Deal with the Professionals
*Immigration changes provide opportunity for
Australian/NZ citizens to live permanently
on Norfolk Island*

SUITABLE BUILDING BLOCK

Over half an acre of vacant land on New Cascade Rd. Flat to sloping at rear. Beautiful valley and mountain views. Some mature Kentia palms. Land size: 2208m²

\$95,000

CLEARED VACANT LAND

Just over an acre of land on New Cascade Road. Flat at road side and sloping at rear. Looking out to mountain and valley. Sealed road frontage. Land size: 4049m²

\$90,000

SPACIOUS FAMILY HOME

Expansive well maintained 2 storey residence, 4 bedroom and 3 bathrooms. Near town. Covered outdoor entertaining area. 3 bay shed + carport + single garage & workshop. Approx. 17,500 gals water storage. Would convert to ideal rental property. Land size: 1661m².

\$415,000

WELL APPOINTED

4 bedrooms (ensuite to main). Both main and ensuite bathroom has been renovated. Residence has renovated and redecorated. Lounge with slate flooring plus separate TV room. Spacious eat-in kitchen with island bench. Double garage. Solar power (3.5Kw) plus solar hot water. Orchard with bearing fruit trees. 26,000 gallons water storage. Views from wraparound deck. Land size: 1837m²

GOOD BUYING \$460,000

IMPECCABLE

Beautifully presented and maintained 3 bedroom + office home. Conveniently located close to school & shops. Renovated kitchen with new appliances. New bathroom. New built-in robes in bedrooms. Lounge room with new timber floor, stone fireplace & high raked ceiling with timber beams. 10,000 gallon water tank. 1.5W solar power. Level portion of land with gorgeous gardens & fruit trees .

\$370,000

RENTALS WANTED

**NIRE are looking for 1 & 2 bedroom
rental properties.**

Contact us Today

**Tel: int + (6723) 22429
Mob: int + (6723) 50803, 50804, 51400
www.norfolkisrealstate.com
SEE ALSO www.realestate.com.au
E: realestate@nire.nlk.nf**

Marie Anne Bailey OAM - continued

In year 6, she moved to the Middlegate school, and made the hour long journey on horseback each morning and afternoon, usually along the old Pine Avenue.

Let us stop the bus here for a while. Marie loved to tell us how she watched those pines come down to make way for the new airstrip back in 1942. The roots of the pine would be severed, a rope attached, and they would be uprooted using two bulldozers. The branches would be removed from each side, and the tree would be rolled out of the way. Marie recorded that the whole process took just 15 minutes.

The new airfield would soon play a significant role in Marie's life. One of her diaries records the aircraft she observed flying in and out each day. Then after the war, the family gained passage on a New Zealand Airforce plane and travelled to New Zealand, where she was enrolled in Massey Agricultural College. At first Marie had thought she would like to study dairying, having had much first hand experience at home. But after a year, she decided she did not really want to be around cows for the rest of her life, and did a two year diploma in horticulture.

Marie loved to grow things all her life. Only weeks before her death, she was still planting cuttings in her potting shed. In those early years, she developed a small industry exporting acalypha leaves for New Zealand florists to use making wreaths, and also exported avocados, which had first been brought to the island by her own father. Both these activities provided employment for local people with picking and packing. She was appointed as an inspection officer for the Bean Seed industry, and, rode all over the island on her bicycle to inspect the plantations for disease. She told how she would look longingly at her father's car when it was raining, but he would not take the hint, encouraging her to be independent and hardy. She experimented with a couple of bicycles with small motors, but eventually asked Shane McCoy's father to do up a re-possessed car in Sydney and ship it over here for her. Marie's horticultural and gardening skills also led to her having a place on the Norfolk Island National Parks Advisory Committee, where she served for 25 years.

You may be surprised that the next stage of our tour takes us to what is now the Leagues Club in Ferny Lane. The new airfield was bringing increasing numbers of visitors to the island, who needed to be welcomed, fed, entertained, and taken on sightseeing tours. Marie saw wonderful opportunities for the island, and as someone who was always thinking one step ahead, she worked to fill those needs. A tourist bureau was set up, using an old hall that had to be moved from the airport to Ferny Lane. An office was set up, and there was a hall with a small stage. Marie went with Jim Needham (Tourist Bureau President) to the Chapel to collect bamboo to line the walls.

There were concerts and dances, and pies and coffee were sold after the pictures. All of these helped to raise much needed funds for tourism. Marie never sat around waiting for the government to do things, she got stuck in herself. In the early days, when it was difficult to fill the planes, they tried exporting produce to Auckland, a venture that was not altogether successful. Locals really enjoyed the convenience of air travel, but were not so sure about having their lives disrupted by large numbers of visitors. One day Marie called a public meeting, and to advertise it, she arranged for posters to go up

all about, saying "NO TOURISTS, NO PLANES" The community got the message!

Marie actually took it on herself to make sure everyone not only took on the responsibility for making visitors welcome, but ensuring they also benefited from the emerging industry. The newly formed Tourist Bureau found they could not cope with the office work, the airport transfers, and the sightseeing tours, and Marie saw the opportunity to start her very own tour company. Her very first tour buses were Ford lorries. One of these, the Model A, is still going strong, although it makes only an occasional appearance on the road. It was not long before the very first of a long line of Toyota buses was brought to the island. Locals were encouraged to open their homes and gardens, to get involved in catering for tour groups, to demonstrate their traditional skills and culture, and to generally showcase the island's story. And of course, there were the drivers – Dolly, Gwen, Doodsie, Zena. – nearly always women. Later there some fellas like Pauly Ted were allowed into the fold. It was always said that her staff worked with her, not for her.

I should mention that during these years, this hardworking lady also ran a 24 hour Taxi service (and she meant it), had the school bus run, and was able to boast "We meet every plane."

It is those Toyota buses that will take us on a brief diversion to Japan, where Marie met up with all the Toyota big-wigs, and secured the Toyota agency for the island. Unfortunately, the Japanese had difficulties in dealing with even such a strong woman as Marie, and the agency was eventually passed over to a man.

And while we are detouring on our journey, let us fly off to other parts of the world. Marie loved to travel, and she often took her staff with her. She competed in the South Pacific Games in Guam. There was a trip to Whangarei to see the launching of the new Bounty. There was a visit to Hawaii with her friends and staff, and when there was a hitch in their travel arrangements, she made an impulsive decision to pay a surprise visit to her cousin Charlie Roberts in California. Then there was the trip to Wimbledon, when a casual conversation with another lady in a queue resulted in a lifelong friendship. You see, Marie just loved to talk about Norfolk Island wherever she went and to promote it. She would strike up conversations with strangers in lifts, on trains, in restaurants. She was forever putting Norfolk Island on the map.

After this diversion, let us continue our journey down to Kingston to the Golf Club. As you enter, you will see Marie's name and photo everywhere. As a young girl, Marie had taken up tennis like her father, but one day decided to play with his unused golf sticks. He watched her practising, gave her a few hints about her stance, and she soon discovered a wonderful talent. Her name appeared on the Club Champions Honour Board 22 times in 29 years. She had two holes in one, and was a life member and patron of the club. It was only a few years ago that broken wrists, then a shoulder injury forced her to retire from golf, still on a very low handicap.

As our tour leaves the Golf Club, we will just call up to Government House, where Marie was presented with the Australian Sports Medal in 2000, and the Most Outstanding Contribution to the Developing of the Tourist Industry in 2007. Later in 2011, Administrator Owen Walsh would present her with the Order of

(continued overleaf)

Marie Anne Bailey OAM - continued

Australia. She accepted all of these, and many other accolades, with matter-of-fact modesty.

We will now head up New Farm Road to the historic Nobbs homestead Moira. It was here, in conjunction with Val and Kit Nobbs, that Marie began the iconic Island Dinner back in the early 60's. This was an opportunity to showcase traditional Norfolk Island foods and cooking as well as gracious island hospitality. When increasing age made it hard for the Nobbs sisters to continue opening their home, Marie needed to find a new permanent home for this popular occasion on the visitor itinerary, and the opportunity arose for her to purchase the historic Bishops court, opposite the Chapel. Right at this same time, Marie had also taken delivery of a Cessna aircraft, to conduct sightseeing flights over the island. The plane was christened the Flying Nun to tie in with the Bishop's court name.

Before we continue our travels, you may ask if there is a written Guide Book to accompany our tour? Does anyone have one of these gathering dust on their bookshelves? This is the 1984 edition of Marie's A to Z of Norfolk Island. Well, get it out and read it. It has some great historical information, excellent descriptions of the Norfolk way of life, and some surprisingly perceptive political comment. It also gives you an insight into Marie's wry sense of humour. Under the heading of Currency, she suggests Norfolk could have some special coins called a Fletcher and a Bligh – the Fletcher definitely having a higher value! She always wanted Norfolk Islanders to be proud of their unique history and heritage.

Eventually Marie sold both Bishop's Court and Marie's Tours. We will travel back to the old Bailey homestead, but if you think we are coming to the end of the journey, you are seriously mistaken. We will visit the Pitcairn Settlers' Village, developed by Marie around her property to show that the rich history of the island is not limited to the Penal Settlement area. Marie was finding that the sheds and outbuildings at Greenacre, many of which had once held the buses, were filling up with items and artefacts from past years. As she started to put them on display, many people came forward to loan or donate other items that told the story of the Pitcairners and their early years on Norfolk Island. The focal point of the village would be Marie's grandfather's Blacksmith shop. Marie also built a hall, Christian's Cave, which to this day is a favourite place for meetings and gatherings. Visitors greatly enjoy Marie's colourful gardens, and the healthiest most luxuriant array of pot plants you will see on any verandah on the island.

We will travel back out the front of the homestead along Queen Elizabeth Avenue and see the magnificent row of stately and colourful Poincianas, all started by Marie from seeds taken from the grand old tree at her home, planted by her father in 1930. She has watered and nurtured them to maturity, and they will be a wonderful memorial to her community-mindedness for years to come.

Just a little further on, we come to the Cyclorama and Hilli's. This was another of Marie's visions that she worked to make a reality. The original inspiration had come from a Diorama she had seen during a train trip across Canada. In Marie's mind, it was a wonderful way of telling the story of the Pitcairn and Norfolk people from the Mutiny up to the present day. Just around this time, her cousin Tracey and Sue had returned to the

island, and accepted the enormous challenge of visually creating the story "in the round". As we know, this attraction has, over the years, moved many people to tears, and in 2014 earned a major TripAdvisor Award.

The day the Cyclorama was finished, Marie's mind moved to her next project, which would involve the land adjacent to Hilli's Restaurant. After initial thoughts of a maze, or a map of Norfolk Island laid out with plantings, Marie decided she would like to do something to honour Queen Victoria. At her father's knee she had learned that the Queen had gifted Norfolk Island to her forbears, and Tom had learned this from his mother's knee. But there was nothing on the island to acknowledge this gift, and she was going to set this right. The paddock was transformed into a beautiful park, with plantings representing many countries of the Commonwealth and Polynesia. At the centre a gazebo was built with writings and pictures portraying Norfolk Island's association with the Queen. At the centre of this is a bust of "Vicky" - Marie's affectionate nickname for her – obtained from England. Queen Victoria's Garden was a wonderful gift to the island.

Yes, we are nearing the end of our journey and will return to the old homestead where it all began. Marie was now experiencing increasing health and mobility problems, but had acquired her "buggy" which enabled her to retain some independence, and to run around her beautiful domain, checking on the Village and her gardens, pruning and watering, fertilising and tidying up. In between times, she had a constant stream of visitors to her kitchen, including many from overseas, and there were lots of talks about the old days, and occasions for poring over her old diaries and mementoes and photos. Marie became a living reference book for nearly 90 years of the island's history.

Marie was an only child, and never married or had children. But she has left behind an extended family on both Edna and Tom's side, who loved her dearly as a sort of trusted "aunt." and who will miss her presence deeply. And then there is Tina Marie, her beloved dog, now safely homed with Carol and Dan, the last of a long line of pets and animal friends who were so very important to her. There are pictures and other reminders of them all through the house, including a diary of the activities of a little bird called Cheep who used to visit her.

So what have we learned on our journey through Marie's life? She was an optimist, an achiever, an enabler, a pioneer. She was incredibly generous. She adored her island home, and everything she did was to honour it and promote it. She was never happy with second best. Nothing was worth doing unless you put your whole heart into it. She achieved things that other people did not even dare to dream!

Marie Bailey was truly Norfolk Island's National Treasure!"

The message from the Bible - John 14:1-4 - was read by Carole Yager and after Reflection and Prayers the funeral party left for the Kingston Cemetery.

Kingston Cemetery

After a welcome by Reverend David Fells, those present recited The Lord's Prayer and this was followed by the singing of "Ship of Fame".

Charles Christian-Bailey then read the following Eulogy that he had written for his Cousin Marie.

(continued overleaf)

Marie Anne Bailey OAM - continued

“It is difficult to summarise such a long, full and valuable life of a person into a few paragraphs. Those who attended the earlier service at St Barnabas heard a little more than I will say here, however I will try to capture some of the essence of the very special person who was Marie Anne Bailey OAM.

Let's take a Marie's Tour back in time through her life. Most of us present may only know of Marie's recent achievements, some will know of earlier achievements, but I would say all of us present would be aware of the great RESPECT this community has for Marie Bailey – a respect fully evident by the number of people gathered here today.

Marie passed away peacefully last Monday afternoon at 89 years of age. After enjoying a relatively long and healthy life, her last few years became challenging with increasing health problems, some of which caused her immense pain. Like many of her generation, she was never one to complain and always maintained an optimistic outlook even right to the end. Her health problems took her on many trips to hospital in Sydney over the last 8 or so years. We all know Marie as a great pioneer and advocate for the Norfolk Island Tourism industry. Marie never missed an opportunity to promote Norfolk Island, always filling her travel bags with brochures and handing them out to Nurses, Doctors, other patients, taxi drivers, strangers in elevators and at every occasion she could. Her ability to communicate with people of all different ages from different walks of life, won her many life-long friends from all over the world.

The next bus stop in this remarkable life was her great appreciation of her Pitcairn Island heritage. At 83 years of age when most people have long since put up their feet, Marie sees it important to memorialise and recognise the great gift Queen Victoria made to the Pitcairn Island people back in 1856, by granting Norfolk as their new homeland. Marie's Grandmother, Emily Wellesley Christian was born on Pitcairn Island, came here in 1856 and was granted by Queen Victoria the land that is Marie's home today.

Using her wealth of experience in horticulture she created the beautiful Queen Victoria gardens at the front section of her property. Along with dozens of plants bought and donated, she struck and raised many interesting and exotic shrubs and trees to plant in the grounds. In the centre she built an 8 sided gazebo to honour the 8 families relocated to Norfolk from Pitcairn and the wonderful gift made by Queen Victoria. These gardens will remain a living, growing sanctuary to be enjoyed now and into the future by all locals and visitors alike.

Moving along next door, in 2002 at 76 years of age Marie develops one of her grandest achievements – Fletcher's Mutiny Cyclorama. This magnificent panoramic display was the brainchild of Marie after being inspired by a similar display in Quebec Canada. Marie saw this grand exhibit on one of her many travels around the world some years earlier. Her passion to tell the story of her famous forebears and to create memorable tourism experiences left a burning desire to develop a good quality attraction. When her cousin Tracey Yager and Sue Draper moved back to the Island, she saw the opportunity to realise her dream by using their creative talents to craft this world class tourist attraction that we know today.

Marie retired (and I say that loosely) in 1989, after a career at the time spanning over 40 years in the tourism industry. More time was needed to pursue her other great passion of Golf and Gardening. However to Marie there was something not right. Tourism at that time was slanting too far towards the convict settlement side of Norfolk's history at the exclusion of Pitcairn Settlement history. She felt this was the most important settlement as it is the one that exists here today. Her drive and determination lead her to fill a void by telling her family story, in doing so keeping alive some of the facets of Norfolk Island culture and traditions. Marie was immensely proud of her family history and in 1989 she decided to honour this connection by opening to the public her historic family property “Greenacres” or formally known as “Shortridge”. With this property she created “The Pitcairn Settlers Village”.

The Governor General of Australia Sir Ninian Stephen was visiting Norfolk at the time and it was suggested by the Administrators Office that he may be available to officially open the Village. However, although he did attend the opening, Marie bestowed this honour on the Oldest Living Norfolk Islander- Mrs Gordie Beveridge. The same honour was accorded to Mrs Sylvia (Girly) Nobbs, Norfolk's Oldest Living Resident, some years later when she opened the Cyclorama.

A journey through Kingston with a stop at Norfolk's historic Golf Club will see a name recurrent, spanning several decades on the honours boards around the walls.

MARIE BAILEY Ladies Club Champion 22 years out of 29 years from 1950; Life member; Course Record Holder; Club Patron; Hole in One on two occasions.

Marie represented Norfolk in the Pacific Games in Guam in 1999 and again on Norfolk for the Mini Games in 2001. She also played in the Fiji Open in 1979.

The other day we received the following tribute from the Golf Club which I will read:-“The honour boards speak for themselves on Marie's achievements

Marie was instrumental in Golfers competing in the South Pacific Games and once she stopped competing herself she mentored and supported the ladies teams. Marie was greatly admired and respected at the club and her achievements and contributions will not be forgotten”.

We thank the Golf club for paying your respects to Marie's Life with your guard of honour this afternoon.

Let's take a trip up the gravel track to Mount Pitt, when the Norfolk Island National Park was proclaimed in the early 1980's. The legislation provided for an advisory council to represent the interests of the Norfolk Island Community. What better ambassador to represent the tourism sector, Marie served as a dedicated member of Norfolk Island National Park Advisory Committee for 25 years, many of these years as the Chair. She often held a fractured committee together with her conciliatory resolve and her practical no-nonsense business sense.

It's a well-known fact Tourism underpins the Norfolk Island economy. Journey back a bit to the 1950's and a lesser known fact is that pioneers like Marie Bailey are responsible for the growth and success of the industry today.

Marie got a job with the Tourist Bureau in the late 50's. At this time visitor number to the island were around 640 per year. The Tourist Bureau relied on a

(continued overleaf)

Marie Anne Bailey OAM - continued

Government subsidy of a meagre 104 pounds per year of which also had to fund her salary.

A regular air service had been established to the Island in the 1950's. The Islanders had come to value this service as their link to the outside world, however few people seemed to be concerned about tourism promotion and growing a tourist industry on the Island. Support and subscriptions to the newly formed tourism board were lack lustre at best. A wonderful story she often told was of an occasion prior to a meeting to discuss tourism promotion where poor numbers were expected, Marie and others pinned posters around the Island simply stating; NO TOURISTS – NO PLANES. This instantly grabbed the attention of the community, filling the meeting hall with concerned residents.

Her resourcefulness and Can-Do attitude safeguarded the success of the Tourist Bureau. The old YMCA hall was relocated from the airport to where the Leagues club stands today. From these premises funds for tourism promotion were raised from concerts, refreshment sales and even a sly bar.

In the beginning, it was the tourist bureau who organised the island tours. Owen Evans truck, with seats fitted to the back was used to conduct the tours. Owen drove, while Marie did the commentary.

Later on it started to build up and soon got to the stage where the office had to be manned full time, while someone had to meet the aircraft. So that was when they gave her the choice of either running the office or taking the tours and running them herself. So in true Marie Bailey fashion she said "okay, forget me and I'll go my own way".

That's when she started out with Charlie Bailey's Model A Ford truck and commenced Marie's Norfolk Tours.

As the business grew she purchased the first Toyota bus ever to be imported to Norfolk. She ended up with several buses in her fleet over the years. Marie had secured the original Toyota dealership on Norfolk, eventually surrendering it after finding the Japanese reticent to do business with a single woman.

Many of the tours she pioneered still exist today and providing meaningful employment and supplementary income to local families. Progressive Dinners, Behind the Hedges, Island Diners to name a few. Marie bought a Cessna 172 and conducted Scenic Tours for a while. She also had a 24 hour Taxi Service (her after hours service was staffed by her personally)

Marie's Tours was a dominating force over 30 years. She taught the Islanders to take ownership of tourism. She took immense pride in everything she did. She ran a tight ship, but all of her staff were her friends first and employees second.

At the drop of a hat she could often shut shop and shout all of her staff on a trip away. They went to places like Lord Howe or Hawaii.

Ironically Marie's success in business was not necessarily due to a measured assessment of percentages, business plans or any of that boring stuff. Rather she believed fully in what she did, she drove everything from the heart, but most importantly she worked incredibly hard. Her greatest riches were derived from the pride and satisfaction of what she had accomplished.

Let's take a look behind the hedges to a time when Norfolk relied on various produce industries. Marie had attended Massey University after school and attained

a degree in horticulture. On her return to Norfolk, just after the war, she became the agricultural inspector, inspecting and certifying certain exports like bean seed.

At the time National Airways had just started flying to Norfolk. National had trouble filling the 17 seats so a special airfreight rate of 6 pence a pound was offered for local producers to send produce back to New Zealand. Marie kept busy packing and sending avocados, beans, fruit-salad plant, sacks of sweet tatie, cut flowers and all manner of produce.

At one time there was great demand from New Zealand florists for the Red Acalypha leaves to be used as floral fillers. Various old ladies like Moosha and Lilly Oodo would pick the leaves and A young Marie took her motorbike with side cart around and collected the leaves for fumigation and packing ready for the aircraft. There were 14 leaves to a bundle and around 2000 bundles were exported weekly. This collaborative spirit help shape to person who she was to become.

Sadly, changes to Quarantine laws saw the end of this business.

Marie grew up on Norfolk during wartime. She made many friendships with New Zealand servicemen many of which endured into her later life. She was a great recorder of interesting facts and observations. Like the method and length of time it took them to remove a Pine Avenue tree. She was always curious and interested in how things worked and how they were done.

Marie's early childhood was spent at the Cable Station with her parents Tom and Edna Bailey. Tom was in the cable service for many years working in various postings through the Pacific.

Marie was born in Suva Fiji while her father had a posting there. A lesser known fact that Marie was always proud of. She always claimed she was born in the daytime that's why she turned out white!

The family returned back to Norfolk when she was 4. Marie and her father Tom always shared a special bond. Tom kept Marie back from school for the first 2 years so he could spend more time raising her and teaching her life skills in her homeland. She always talked fondly of the fishing trips down the Chord in their little boat "carkrotch" that they kept on the rocks there.

(continued overleaf)



For all your painting needs

**Need a Professional painter ?
Call Now !**

**Top quality work with
fast and friendly service**

- Spray Finishes
- Water Blasting
- Domestic / Commercial
- Interior/Exterior
- Roofs

" What we quote is what you pay "

Mobile: 55588

Email: allstarpainting@ninet.nf

Marie Anne Bailey OAM - continued

Marie was a competent doer – while others were busy talking about it, Marie was busy doing it. She told her stories through her actions, her creations, her generosity and her leadership.

We shouldn't grieve too much for Marie, her accomplishments are all around us today for us to enjoy and benefit from. Instead we should take a leaf out of her book and just get on with our backsides and do it. Marie, you were small in stature but to this place you were a giant – and as one of your Doctors described recently a real monument for this community.

You may have never had children, we thank you for treating us as your own. We know many generations of Norfolk Islanders to come, will know your name”.

Marie's cousin, Tracey Yager was the next speakers and she delivered the following tribute to her Cousin:- “Marie had a huge impact on so many people, not just here on Norfolk but all over the world.

Anyone who met Marie remembers her.

She has made friends with so many people during her life - many of them aren't able to be here today and our thoughts are with them.

Marie was an amazing woman - she wouldn't want me saying any of this, she didn't like being in the limelight, she'd tell me to sit down and be quiet! But it has to be said.

She shaped the way Norfolk is today.

She proved that gender or size is no barrier, that if you have real passion and a strong heart you can achieve anything.

In essence Marie was a people person, she inspired people, she had a genuine interest in others and would befriend anyone who was in her presence for more than a few moments.

Over the past few days as people have shared their memories of Marie with me one of the things that has come through so very strongly is the tremendous amount of respect that the people of this island have for her.

I would like to share with you some of the wonderful words people have used to describe Marie:

- Innovative • Trail Blazer • Champion
- Selfless • Entrepreneur • Visionary • Brave
- Pioneer • Wealth of Knowledge • Determined
- Before her time
- Strong yet Gentle at the same time
- Great Company

These were just some of them that I've heard over the past few days, but of all, the most common words used to describe Marie have been:

“SHE WAS A NORFOLK ICON”

Marie's Fijian Friends then sang their hauntingly beautiful farewell song “Isa Lei” - “Isa Isa, you are my only treasurer” as the Floral tributes were placed on the coffin and the Committal took place.

“Come Ye Blessed” Pitcairn Anthem was then led by PJ Wilson and the Farewell song - “I am Woman” was sung by Helen Reddy.

The late Marie Bailey OAM

Thank you to all of you.

From the Yager and Christian Bailey Families

What an amazing and supportive community we live in!!

Thanks Yourli for Uklan

On behalf of the family we would also like to extend our thanks to Jo and Jonno and The Norfolk Islander.

It is a great service that you provide and we would like to acknowledge that you do this free of charge.

It is much appreciated.

Charles, Tracey, Kim and Sue

Where to start:-

To all those who sent emails, card – who called and those who made the effort from overseas to make it over in time, none of it will be forgotten and is appreciated.

Jodie Williams, the service sheet did absolute justice to you and Marie.

To all the ladies at the usual place, once again you have out did yourselves in your beautiful arrangement and care of placing at St Barnabas – thank you

Shane Quintal your care and thought of where to place the grave was much appreciated.

To the grave diggers your dedication and in your free time says it all.

Tardy thank you so much for helping putting her to rest and driving past all the things that meant a lot to Marie.

Golf Club, it was an honor for us for you all to be present and show your respect to an amazing lady.

Reverend David Fell – your words were heard by all – thank you for your support and words of encouragement and comfort.

Pall bearers all of you meant a great deal to Marie – thank you.

Milton your timing was faultless, thank you for the beautiful music.

Andre Nobbs, thank you for organizing the PA system for us.

Service Sheet Distributors it is with appreciation we say thank you to you all.

Phil McDowell and PJ thank you for the beautiful playing of the organ and leading the Pitcairn Anthem.

Fijian Singers there was not a dry eye in the house it was stunning and beautiful, Marie would have loved it.

Helen Reeves and helpers you made it a breeze on the day, our thanks is heart felt.

The Doctors, Nurses and Staff at the Hospital.

Thank you for your ongoing care over the last few years, you have battled with us we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

You are all amazing, your care and attention to Marie was impeccable – she was never a number to you all and that is a credit to our wonderful Nursing staff at the hospital.

You didn't stop there, your support and words of comfort for friends and family goes beyond the line of duty.

You all made Marie comfortable and at peace and for that we will never forget.

If we have forgotten anyone we apologise so many people did so many things. Thanks Yourli

Charles, Tracey and Family.
