



Vale

Marie Louise Freshwater

Funeral at St. Barnabas Chapel, Norfolk Island on Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 2.30 pm, followed by a Burial at Kingston Cemetery.

Marie Freshwater's family has asked that I warmly thank you for being here with them in this chapel this afternoon, to share with them a celebration of Marie's life and to support them in the difficult task of farewell.

Marie and Charles Freshwater arrived to live in Norfolk Island in 1967, with two young children: Barry (then 10 years old) and Anne (7 years old). Marie was then 41 - beautiful, talented, well dressed, active and hard working and proved to be popular. They bought a portion of land towards the better part of the Island at Steeles Point and built a home there. It remained their much loved home for the remainder of their days. For Marie, that means she lived amongst us, we her friends and she ours, for 51 years -half a century, plus.

The Early Years in Australia

Marie was born Marie Louise King on 6th January 1926, in Sydney. Her parents were Henry and Alice King. Marie has a brother Ray, and a sister Daphne. Marie was the eldest. Ray and Daphne presently live in Kiama and in Sydney.

Marie and her sibling grew up in the border town of Albury, NSW, first in Smollett Street and then Wilson Street, where her father kept a shop and grew vegetables, which he sold on his rounds in a horse and cart. She went to school in Albury.

Marie commenced her teenage years at the commencement of WW11. She had then been introduced to ballroom dancing lessons in Dean Street, and very quickly was also teaching other students. After outbreak of war, dancing became busy with the influx of troops in the area. Albury had two army camps at that time and the soldiers would come dancing, sometimes in their army boots. Marie would ask them to wear their socks. She, in her dainty nice silver dancing shoes, was rather sensitive to the heavy clod of army boots!

Back in the day, Ballroom dancing was popular and her group travelled extensively through country Victoria and NSW. Examples include, Rutherglen, Yarrawonga, Bright, Beachworth, Corowa, Junee, Griffiths, Mildura. Hearing the names being rattled

(continued overleaf)

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Marie - continued

off, rather sounded like lucky Starr singing "I've been Everywhere man"

I mention the detail of which street and what shop and where, because Barry and his wife Sue in their journey across Australia, have sought out and visited the shop, with its cellar, the home, and various towns Marie went to, to dance away the night hours. Marie and friends would all go in a bus to the country halls of this town and that. They were demanding hours! After a return home at 6.00am, she was off to where she worked as a bookkeeper. Dickensian high desks and tall stools were still part of office furniture then. Her boss was unimpressed when Marie fell asleep once, aloft one of those stools and fell loudly to the floor.

Marie had and continued a passion for dancing. She was a gold medal winner in Ballroom dancing. The first outside metropolitan Sydney.

Marie continued to live in Albury until after the war. She studied an introductory business course at the Convent in Albury and one of the Sisters, Sister Aloysius encouraged Marie to study accounting.

She moved to Sydney in her early 20's to further her dancing interests and lived on the north side of the harbour, first at a boarding house with Mrs. Furugi at Fairlight. Her job in Sydney was with the Real Estate Agency, Armados Real Estate. In the city. Marie looked after the accounts.

Charlie entered the scene after Marie's move to Sydney – at a dance. Charlie couldn't dance. To quote Marie "He hadn't any idea. He had 2 or 3 left legs ". But he had charm or perseverance or both. The real test came the day when Charlie did not help her down from the bus – Marie was indeed annoyed at this. Then realised, that instead he had given his attention to an elderly and infirm lady getting off behind Marie. His wanting to be helpful was a defining moment for Marie.

Marie and Charlie were married on 1st September 1950 at St. Matthew's, Manly .

It was a financial struggle to buy their first home at 6 Bangalow Avenue, Balgowlah; plus they coped with the difficulty of a sitting tenant and thus it was some time before they had complete possession of their first home. But they achieved it. They then sold and moved across the road to no.7. Then sold and moved around the corner, still in Balgowlah.

Marie and Charlie had two children. Barry and Anne.

Charlie was a painter. He developed a business, respectable in quality and financial terms. He employed some 16 to 20 tradesmen and reached the stage where his time was rarely spent with a brush, but in management of jobs across the Sydney environs. Marie cared for the books. One of his clients was Vern Alston, who with his brother was building in Sydney. When Vern and his brother built Pine Valley and The Polynesian here in Norfolk Island, Charlie came as their painter in 1966. He spent 6 weeks here. He fell in love with the place. The year following he brought Marie to look. They bought a block of land from Peter Custance in Stockyard Road, earlier described.

They returned to Sydney, sold up and moved here in September of that same year- 1967

Upon arrival they lived at Pine Valley Apartments for 6 Months, before moving to a half finished house, with no power or flushing toilet. At that stage the electricity grid did not extend to Steeles Point.

Charlie was happy to be out of the city, Barry and Anne quickly settled into school. It however was a great challenge for Marie. A different world to Albury or Sydney. Sometimes a lack of essential household ingredients such as flour or sugar. Sometimes a limited supply of fresh vegetables in the shops. She would often reflect on the recommendation that if you saw a truck or ute with a green leaf on the back, follow it to the shop! Marie was fascinated how some of the more sedate Island gentlemen drove their vehicles. She encountered this at a T intersection. The other vehicle had right of way. But the driver paused and he refused to move on, explaining later that he understood he had right of way but it was more important that ladies go first! Sadly those days have passed.

The challenges of moving her family to a totally new and different environment, soon became a way of life and in all this she made close and lifelong friends.

Margaret and Peter Christian were like family to her. Sunday Mornings after church for pancakes at their place. Peter was Marie's favourite Bridge partner.

Owen and Beryl Evans shared their love of Norfolk Island's flora and fauna with Marie as well as regular card nights.

Marie could turn her hand to most things. Sewing, knitting, cooking, entertaining, she made her own clothes, and clothes for her family. She was indeed skilled.

Work History in Norfolk Island

When the family first arrived, Marie worked with the Ombles in their supermarket opposite the airport. She also spent time with Amy Bathie there.

In 1968 Marie was engaged in the philatelic bureau (when the Island had its own postal service) and with her skills quickly recognised, she moved to become the Records Officer of the Administration.

Marie was the most impressive of Records Officers. The records were immaculate in her care. Marie had an orderly mind which transposed a mass of sometimes unintelligible paper work to an orderly group of recoverable records. She knew the files the Service possessed and could quote the categories and their numerical designations. In some cases provide you with exact folio numbers on certain subjects. Her corporate memory was invaluable. Marie was courteous with and tolerant of all who hassled her with their needs, and who competed for the vast array of Administration stationery and office equipment for which she was responsible.

Upon Marie's passing last Thursday, many of her former colleagues in the Service have expressed to her family, their appreciation of her friendship and companionship. I see you all around here in this chapel. Barry and Anne are grateful for your kind words and your presence at this service.

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Marie - continued

The key of course was that Marie loved her job. She moved into the Records position and made it her own.

Upon the changes in 1979, post the Nimmo Report, the Administrator's Office was created as a separate entity and relocated to its present building, initially the top floor of that building. Marie was head hunted – you could do it in those days- to work there. She transferred in the time of Administrator Peter Coleman with Peter Ilich as Official Secretary, and concluded upon her retirement from the Service in 1989.

Church and Community Work

Marie was a devoted Christian. She attended All Saints Balgowlah and attended here at St Barnabas and All Saints Kingston. She also spoke well of the more comfortable seats at the Uniting church. Marie was an integral part of church life here. Marie was parish Secretary- excellent minutes and correspondence. She cooked and laboured for the church Spring Fair. The many chocolates she made were always the first to be sold out at the Spring Fair.

Marie was a loyal supporter of the Royal A & H Society's annual Show. She was always part of the strenuous effort to set up the Hall for the Show. With Owen and Beryl and Sam Browne there would be unloading of vehicles with tables, trestles and produce and crafts. Then the reloading at the Show's conclusion.

Marie won prizes. She liked to tell the story against herself of entering her Plum Pudding (a recipe she attributed to Beryl Evans). Unknown to Marie, Charlie had replicated the brandy with cold tea! Marie didn't drink so wouldn't know the difference was Charlie's claim. Notwithstanding the dramatic switch of ingredients, it won first prize. Marie could make anything work.

Marie had a healthy routine in her days of good health. She walked at Kingston and swam and snorkelled in the Bay. She loved this. The family reckoned she knew the names of every fish in the Bay by name: Peter, Paul, Mary, Jack whatever!

Charlie died in 1999

Marie continued to live at the Steeles Point Home.

Marie's grandchildren, now adults, all attest how devoted a grandmother Marie was to each of them. In their youth and in their adulthood, whether here in the Island or stationed elsewhere, they always received her unflinching love and affection, and her interest in their progress in life.

In more recent years Marie has needed to cope with the difficulty of short term memory loss but in these later years received love and support and care from her many friends. Sam Browne regularly with Sunday night dinners and Delwyn with many others, meals and care on a daily basis. This support allowed Marie to be in her own home until her 91st year.

Some 18 months ago when Marie located to the verandah at the Hospital, she held strong friendships, particularly with Beth Quintal and Jill McDowell, her Lunch Bunch friends of earlier years and Joan Kenny; all now of blessed memory, and Norma and Orm Judd. They all provided her with caring company which

ensured she felt secure, safe and at ease. The carers at the Hospital were invaluable and Delwyn continued to visit and took her on outings.

At 92 and a half, Marie's time has come to depart, until we meet again at Jesus's feet.

Marie's son Barry and his wife Sue, their daughter and son, now adults of course, Kate and husband Seth, and Andrew with Andrew's wife Sally:

Marie's daughter Anne with Stephen and Anne's daughter Susy and Son Simon, again both adults:

They are supported by us all, at this farewell.

We thank our Lord for the life of Marie Freshwater, Who was a part of our lives in this Community for more than half a century.

Thank You

Barry, Anne and family would like to express our sincere appreciation for the overwhelming love and support we have received and to all those who sent flowers, cards, messages and food to us at this sad time.

Also, a huge thank you to the wonderful dedicated Nurses, Doctors and hospital staff, for the loving care that they provided to Marie and made her time up Orn Ar Randa as comfortable as possible. To Reverend David Fell, Phil McDowall and Julie South for the beautiful service, music and singing at the chapel, and to David Buffett for such a meaningful eulogy full of wonderful memories. To Shane Quintal and the Grave Diggers, the Ladies at the Usual Place and all those who donated flowers, Auntie Meg and Chil, Tim Thompson, Tardi, the Pall bearers, Moochie and his team, Eve and Bee, Chrissy and Kenzie, Milton Bradley, Darlene Buffett, together with many others involved before and after Marie's passing - too numerous to name.

To all of Marie's dear friends and ours, and anyone who we may have missed, our heartfelt thanks.

God Bless all yorle, we daa lucky fer lewe in the most caring and loving place in the world. Thank You!

*Barry & Sue and family
Anne & Cooky and family*

