



## VALE

With the death at the Norfolk Island Hospital last Sunday evening, 14th January of Mary Elizabeth Nobbs, Norfolk Island lost its oldest citizen.

Born at Kingston on 22nd August 1885, second eldest of the family of 7 born to Lindsay and Annie Buffett, "Mary Jo" as she was known to us all, married Joseph Atkins Nobbs on 18th January 1912 in All Saints, Kingston. Joseph died on 31st December 1947. They had no children.

Mary Jo lived by herself in her home on Taylor's Road and up until last year, did her own housework and played bowls. She had many relatives and friends who saw to it that she was never lonely or wanted for anything.

In her day she was a great sportswoman, tennis, golf and bowling trophies accumulating in her home. She was very fond of fishing and

was never happier than when going off with her bamboo rod to get a catch from the rocks around the island. With no children of her own, she "mothered" many and was loved by all. A gentle, courteous woman, she had a definite Norfolk accent which was a delight to listen

For many years, Mary Jo taught the art of weaving the local Moo-oo (flax) and corn husks into picture hats of attractive design which were worn by the ladies to church in the earlier days and in the latter years by both men and women, to ward off the sun, and at Bounty celebrations. Not only did Mary weave hats, but her exhibits of baskets, table mats and bags were always items of interest at the local Show. She exhibited at every Show and last year won 5 prizes for her handcrafts. She was a Life Member of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Norfolk Island and also of the Norfolk Island Bowling Club.

The death of her last remaining sister, Helen Buffett, last October, was a loss from which Mary Jo did not seem to recover and her health deteriorated rapidly since. As Rev. Philip Kitchin said in the service held at All Saints, "Mary has had a full and happy life. In these past few weeks life was getting to be a burden to her and so let us be thankful for her sake, that she has had her home call and is even now rejoicing in the presence of the Lord and in the company of the loved ones who had preceded her".

Mary Jo will be much missed. There would not be one person who knew her, who was not amazed at the tremendous vitality of Mary Jo in her nineties - playing bowls, winning trophies, going fishing and looking after her home and garden. She leaves a big gap in the life and history of Norfolk Island.

Our photo shows Mary Jo in happy mood, taken on her 93rd Birthday.

The relatives of the late Mary Jo Nobbs would like to offer their most grateful thanks to Dr. Sexton and the Hospital staff for their kind attention and care to Mary while she was in hospital and to the numerous people who helped in various other ways they also extend their sincere appreciation.