



Vale

**Mera Patricia Edith Martin
(nee Christian)**

16th July 1934 - 8th July 2021

“On Thursday 8th July 2021 mum rose early and showered, washed her hair, brushed her teeth and had a cuppa and hopped back into bed “en jes switch orf”.

Mera Patricia Edith Christian was born 16 July 1934 - the last child of nine to Charles Ett & Mar Ett Christian, sister to Penny, Frankie, Syd, Pam, Esme, Dayell, Ena and Fletcher. From all accounts Par & Mar Ett ensured their children’s upbringing was quite strict - they were very conscious of the Christian family name and the need to maintain their good standing within the community.

If mum did anything that didn’t sit right with Par Ett he would say “Mira - dars stoopid!”. Similarly he would say to his children “I nor mine wuthen yorlye do, jes es long as I nor yuh bout et” - given the population of Norfolk at this time this was actually a very effective form of neighbourhood watch.

Mum excelled at school on Norfolk both academically and in sport and as a very young teenager was sent off to schooling in New Zealand. Sadly whilst at school she received a telegram advising that Par Ett had died and she was unable to return to Norfolk for his funeral. One can only imagine how alone and isolated she must have felt in her grief.

Mum said when she first went to NZ had never seen or used a flush toilet and so frightened by it was she that she’d pull the chain and run.

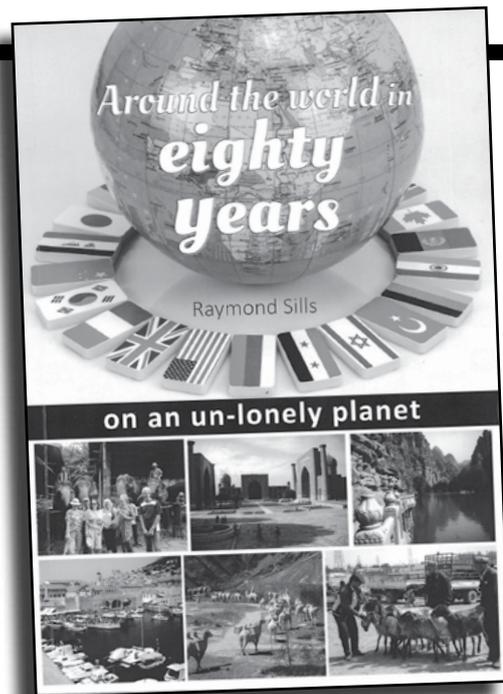
When mum did make it back to Norfolk she learnt as was customary at the time with island wills that all land was left to the sons of the family and so mum inherited just 25 pounds and the family horse (curiously called “Trouble” - as mum said “fa ketch ar horse you hawa wear one skirt - nawa like a maen”). This had a profound impact on mum and made her even more determined to achieve with whatever challenge she

took on as I’ll outline further on.

Still at a very young age back on Norfolk mum met a very handsome New Zealander on his first stop on his around the world journey and to cut a long story short by the age of 16 she was married and living in Auckland with dad - he was 24. Mum had Jenny when she was just 18 with Brett and Howard following within 10 years. The family moved back home to Norfolk in 1974 purchasing a large house on 19 acres up Selwyn Pine Road that eventually became “Highlands”.

The Highlands Years - this period typified mum’s determination to succeed and what could be regarded as her finest hour. The Highlands formula was pretty much “Jes du gude furret - domyne whos-et” so anyone including guests were welcomed around the kitchen table with a cuppa, Norfolk food (including produce) and robust discussion. Guests heard Norfolk spoken and were educated in the ways of Norfolk and why. Highlands accepted its first guests in 1976 and mum was so nervous hosting 6 people for breakfast that she asked Aunty Pam to come up and help. It was only a relatively short time and mum was soon serving 25 guests for breakfasts and hosting 55 people for

(continued overleaf)



The Official Launch and Sale of
**‘Around the World
in eighty years’**

will be a the

**S.D.A. Church Hall on
Sunday 25th July at 3.00pm.**

Mera Patricia Edith Martin - continued

dinner twice a week. She pioneered for guests Clifftop BBQs, Breakfast Bush Walks, Pitcairn Dinners with traditional dishes hosted by her as she spoke only Norfuk (and she'd graciously answer any question visitors wished to ask), 5 course semi-formal dinners and the Norfolk Island Map with all the Norfuk place names as they're known in Norfuk.

Mum's determination again shone through - it was extremely rare that she would ever turn down an accommodation booking, so much so that on many occasions the family would end up with nowhere to sleep because mum had booked out our beds and we'd have to sleep in Mary Bore's old "house" across the road - no power so we learnt how to use a kerosene lantern! On a different occasion Howard had been stuck out Phillip for a few days (eradicating rabbits) and on returning to Kingston pier he was met by cousin Jimmy saying "quick your mums been in a car accident", Howard thought Jimmy was joking until he saw mum in the back of Jimmy's car with blood trickling out of the corner of her mouth. She'd had a head-on collision just by Watermill Valley dam and her car was a "write-off" - unbelievably despite this mum still went ahead with a confirmed booking that evening at Highlands for 57 people for cocktails - there was never any thought of pulling out.

Tennis - in summary, mum's tennis achievements included;

- 1) Auckland Hardcourt Champion in the late 60s , early 70s
- 2) Represented Norfolk in both the Mini and South Pacific Games
- 3) Cheryl Club President & Club Champion in Singles and Doubles

...and then there was "the serve"...hold the 2 balls and look up at the opposition receiver, hold the stare and take 2 steps to the right then back to the left 2 steps, hitch one ball up the side of her draws and commence the face on wind up service action, the ball delivery would resemble a World War 2 bomber coming in over the net below radar. Invariably the receiver was so overwhelmed by this ritual that by the time they actually made contact with the ball they could offer nothing in reply. Mum was also very big on "Courtcraft" as she called it , that is where you stood , who you played to and whether you played their forehand/backhand depending on whether they were left/right handed, where the net player should be to capitalise on the anticipated weakened return etc. It's literally a science and admittedly a skill that ,whilst the tuition from mum may have been amusing , makes a lot of sense and we're lucky to have been educated accordingly.

Some quick lesser known "mum fast facts" ;

- 1) Mum was a seamstress having made the wedding dresses for both her god-daughter and niece
- 2) Mum could play the piano by ear as could a few in her family. Timmi Lloyd has once said (as an excellent music sheet reliant pianist herself) how envious she was of people like mum who could just hum a tune and then gradually before you

knew it she'd be playing "Somewhere my Love" or "Bridge over Troubled Water".

- 3) Mum volunteered as a witness at the 1976 Royal Commission into Matters Relating to Norfolk Island and provided a submission.
- 4) Mum ran a respectable 3rd on "Tempest" in the 1972 New Year's Day Horse Races on Norfolk
- 5) Mum was very close to being a qualified accountant.

Norfolk for Norfolk - simply put mum was more Norfolk than the strongest, tallest, healthiest pine. She was a determined, fiercely passionate protector and promotor of all things Norfuk including;

- 1) Our language
- 2) The Norfolk Way
- 3) Our native flora and fauna
- 4) Our cultural heritage
- 5) Our own right to Norfolk's future

For mum a cat had a better chance at becoming a dog than Norfolk ever becoming Australia. She deeply loved and respected her Christian Family position on the Council of Elders and similarly thrived on her NIPD involvement. For all this mum we so proudly walk in your shoes.

Mums Quotable Norfuk Quotes;

- 1) "Be braewe lowe, dunt you cly - es true you jes d'besteste.g. "younges brother anyone el aars for" or "hugger in the South Pacific" etc... comforting words from a mother.
- 2) "Nor gwen noa se shef et" - typically said by mum when you were seeking her opinion on a tree you'd transplanted into a new location. Her endorsement.
- 3) "Es a fact!" - normally said by mum after she'd released the details of a particular belief or theory she'd come up with usually around the kitchen table - some sensible, some a little out there. Usually sealed the delivery with this and how could you argue.
- 4) ...and finally the quote that launched her as a "Radio Mega Star" - "Gut no such thing as gossip, es all news on Norfuk ailen"

A quick mention of those who couldn't make mum's funeral (due to COVID Lockdowns) including grandchildren Anna, Alice, Douglas - we're thinking of you" . To those who managed to make it home sincere thank you - Blair, Daniel, Mia and....Sarah.

(continued overleaf)

PLEASE BE CAREFUL

when transporting firewood,
machinery, green waste,
plants or any other organic
materials across the Island
to avoid spreading the
Argentine Ants
into new areas.



Mera Patricia Edith Martin - continued

A special heartfelt mention to Joanna Innes-Walker who was one of mums closest friends who'd intended coming up from NZ to mums funeral and sadly and completely unexpectedly passed away last Friday - our hearts go out to Alistair, Karen and Emmy.

Enjoy now being with your own immediate family Ma - please invite Dad and Nana (from the other side of the cemetery) over occasionally. Rest In Peace - you always said you didn't like goodbyes and it was always " 'til we meet again" en we gwen. so no worries Ma - how bout we jes lubbee daffy. At this point Jonty signed off with a special "Love You Ma".

Thank You

Ma often referred to "The Norfolk Way" and our family was very fortunate and appreciative to experience it with her recent passing here on Norfolk.

It's infectious and will make us equally determined to help others when they face similar unhappy times. At the risk of unintentionally leaving someone out we'd like to thank the wonderfully caring hospital team, Shane and his team down a town including Tard, Gav, Darls, the beautiful wreath makers, everyone who fill ucklun up lorn g fa youse wetls, David Fell, the people who opened up their gardens for us, Trent, Gary, Milt/Sim, Jodie for the Order of Service, Photopress, Hot Krust, The RSL including Vuni and her team, the hugs, the handshakes and the kind words and thoughts from near and far.

Ma meana be se lowe et thank you en we how lucky fa gut all yorlye.

Art In The Park

20th – 28th NOVEMBER 2021

For all those visual and creative artists and those that would like to give their ideas of constructing an outdoor work of art, here is the opportunity to be part of an Island event to be held at 100 Acres Reserve

For those who haven't been involved in past Art in the Park events, here is some information.

Creative Artists of any age are invited to prepare a work that can be displayed for 8 days and able to withstand any weather nature throws at it. The exhibits are displayed outside, throughout the reserve. The works are for display only, not for sale, and it is open to anyone who would like to be a part of the "Art in the Park" experience.

Natural materials are a good way to go and some clever exhibits in the past have used objects and surrounding backgrounds to enhance their work. It doesn't have to cost much to make your piece as recycled materials or things we throw away daily can be utilized. Paper/cardboard is probably not a good material to work with as it can blow away or be damaged if it rains.

Our organizers Alison Ryves and Lisa Richards will be setting a course closer to the event, and artists will be able to choose a site that best suits their exhibit.

Once the Grand Opening is held, the public then walk through admiring the art and additionally taking in the beauty of the place.

Art in The Park events in the past have been amazing, with many diverse and wonderful entries. So, the invitation is there, let's make 2021 another great exhibition and show just how creative we are on this island.

There is plenty of time to come up with ideas and create your artwork so why not go for a walk at 100 Acres and let the place inspire you. It truly is a beautiful and inspiring place. More news in weeks to come.

HEAD FOR THE SHED

Norfolk Island Men's Shed Inc

Come and join us at the top of The Village on Wednesday afternoons from 1-3pm.

Want to help with community or individual projects?

Steve is your man to help you with your skills, or do you just want to pop in and relax, play cards, have a cuppa and a chat?... see you there.

Ring Bruce on 53058 or Paul on 23431 for more information on what's happening at the Men's Shed



Australian Men's Shed Association
SHEDDERS TO SPONSORS

The Norfolk
ISLANDER



KIERNAN
AGENCIES



Norfolk Island
