



*Vale*  
**Nola Iona Warren**

*nee Young*

Hullo yorle – thank you for joining us today to celebrate Nola’s life. My name is Kristina and I’m Nola’s niece. Today I’d like to share with you some special memories about Nola. Firstly, on behalf of my mother, Leona and the rest of our family I’d like to thank Darralyn Griffiths, for the kindness you and your family have shown Nola over the past few years and for helping to organise today. I’d also like to acknowledge Meralda Warren who helped put this life story together.

On the 29th April 1941 in her mother’s home (up Jimmy’s) in Adamstown, Pitcairn Island, Adena Julia Christian and Eric Woodburn Young became parents to their little girl, Nola Iona Young. Sadly on 16th December 1942, baby Nola lost her mother Adena. Her grandparents, Lila and Theodor raised her in their home at Brown’s Hui and later moved into a renovated home at Parmi.

Her father, Eric moved to NZ in about 1945 returning to Pitcairn occasionally for short stays. As Nola grew into a young woman, she spent time with him in NZ and also when he came home to Pitcairn.

Growing up, Nola was especially close to her grandfather, Theo. She would spend many evenings sitting on the porch listening to Theo talk about the history of Pitcairn and its people. This sparked her life long interest in Pitcairn genealogy which I’ll tell you more about later.

Friendships were very important to Nola. As children, she and Mavis Brown became close friends, playing together and a lifelong friendship blossomed. They often recounted the days growing up and making mud cakes under the house at Brown’s Hui. Being the smallest, Nola could crawl under the house to their special play area to bake their mud cakes.

*(continued overleaf)*

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### *Nola Iona Warren - continued*

On 28th September 1955, Nola became a mother with the birth of Barry Ronald Young. He grew up at Parmi, spending his childhood and early teens on Pitcairn. Barry left for NZ in the 1970's and later moved to the US, where he married Anne Lemon. They have one daughter, Mariah who also has one daughter, Naomi (Nola's great granddaughter).

On 7th June 1966 Nola married Reynold Warren in a private wedding at the Mission House.

She and Reynold shared a great life on Pitcairn.

With her photographic memory, Nola was an excellent historian and would read and talk about anything to do with Pitcairn history or genealogy. She would sit for hours recounting events that happened. Or who did what. Or when this was built and that taken down.

She served as Pitcairn's librarian for many years and also became a culture teacher in Pitcairn's Pulau school. With her knowledge she was able to help map the cemetery and helped with creating name plaques for graves that had long been gone.

Nola's assistance with the US-based Pitcairn Island Study Centre and the Pitcairn Log has been invaluable to many. She and Reynold once attended the Florida Conference and people were in awe of her knowledge of Pitcairn's history. Back on Pitcairn she would lead tourists on a walk around Adamstown, telling them of different events that took place and the history behind it all.

Nola was a very skilled weaver in the traditional Pitcairn style, using patterns and techniques passed down by women for generations. Like most Pitcairn Islanders, she would sell her crafts (in this case: baskets, fans, jewellery and dolls) to visiting tourists. If you think about it – there will be many homes around the world today decorated with one of her special crafts. When I look around my own home, most rooms contain a basket woven by Nola or a carving by Reynold. They were very kind to me and my family.

Nola was also well known for her cooking and warm hospitality. Any visitors to her and Reynold's home down Bob's Valley (and later at Parmi) would be greeted with a smile, a cup of tea and her famous baking (rolls, pineapple buns, sweeten biscuits). Before gas was introduced for cooking on the island, Nola did all of her cooking over an open top fire called a bolt or in its adjacent traditional stone oven.

Visitors often became lifelong friends – some of whom Nola and Reynold visited in their home countries of New Zealand, Norfolk Island and America. A great highlight was visiting America on several occasions to see their son, daughter-in-law and of course, their precious granddaughter Mariah. Nola would talk often of her family living in America and with the phone system installed in 2006, it gave her an easier link to keep in touch with her family overseas.

Some special friends were: Bill and Catherine (formerly of Auckland, now Fairlie); Joe from Norfolk Island; Rae and Eddie from Rotorua; Neil from Tauranga and Kevin and Marie from Wanganui. Nola also kept in touch with several friends in America.

When in Wellington she often stayed with my parents, Leona and Tony – and visited with Elaine and Ray; Betty and Sheri plus other friends and cousins in the Pitcairn community. When in Auckland she often visited with Pony and Suzanne and other family in the Pitcairn community.

In recent years, Nola and Reynold's old family home became unsafe for them to live in so a new one was built in Parmi. In the new house, the walls of the sitting room are covered with photos showing pride in their family. Many of these photos are of their great granddaughter, Naomi - that unfortunately they never got to hold.

Sadly Reynold passed away on 30th October 2017 and for the first time in her life Nola was alone – but the Pitcairn community rallied around her to provide with love and support. Some names spring to mind – Carol and Jay, Darralyn, Charlene and their families, Royal and Mike, Mavis and Meralda, Dennis, Leslie Jacques and Simon Young.

In November 2018, after many months of chronic pain Nola left Pitcairn to have a hip replacement in NZ. She had the surgery and recovered well at my parents' home in Wellington. In February, after being cleared by her doctor to return home Nola came to Auckland, where she intended to visit a lot of friends and family before making the journey home to Pitcairn. Sadly, she collapsed soon after arriving in Auckland and left this world behind.

Nola was so much to so many – a daughter, a mother, a wife, an expert historian, weaver, cook and friend.

From all ucklin - good bye Nola - we gwen mess you – tek it easi an rest in peace

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## **In Memoriam**

*In Memory Of*  
**“Palmer”**

**George Edwin “Puss” Anderson**

**7-12-38 - 19-10-18**

Those we love don't go away  
They walk beside us every day  
Unseen, Unheard, But always near.  
Still loved, Still missed.  
You left us far to soon  
With love from all your family

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