



Vale

Peter 'Pumpkin' Knapton

5th July 1940 - 14th September 2021

Peter (Pumpkin) as he was known to us by was born on the 5th of July 1940 out at Bishop's Court. Second son of Bertha Christian and William Knapton.

At the age of three his mother took Peter and his brother Wiggy to Sydney, where they lived for 12 months, at which stage their mother sent them back to Norfolk to live with their grandfather.

During his childhood days he along with Wiggy had to earn their keep by tending to the animals, chopping, and stacking the firewood, clearing the land of onion weed and mowing the lawn around the house with an old push mower. Pumpkin used to pull the mower from the front and wiggy would push it from behind. They would get time off on the weekend so that they could go swimming down Emily.

Pumpkin, Wiggy and Culla would get up to all sorts of mischief when they were young. One particular story was during watermelon season even though they had plenty of melons of their own they thought it would be better to pinch them from Hokki Bataille. They would ride the horse to the paddock and have the adult's gumboots on, so it looked like it was an adult who had stolen the watermelon not the boys.

He used to love going to the dances around the hall and this one time he had to cut some firewood before he went, he was swinging away with the axe and it came down between his big toe and the next one, not too much damage or so he thought, got all dressed up put his polished shoes on and went to the dance, it wasn't until his shoe filled up with blood that he thought maybe it was a bit worse than he first thought.

Peter first job was at the airport and that is where he started his electrical career, later he moved back to Sydney when he was 17 to work for his stepfather Tom in his business TP Johnston Electrical. He had a flat above the Hotel Hope in Paddington with his mother and stepfather living just across the street.

Little did he know but he was also working with his future brother-in-law who brought him home one day
(continued overleaf)



BAR OPEN

6 Days from 12 noon

Thursdays – Open at 2pm

Lunch on the Deck

Saturday to Tuesday

Sunday Roast Lunch

Woodfired

Pizza

Friday Night



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Peter 'Pumpkin' Knapton - continued

to meet his girlfriend Kaye's sister Rhonda. Peter and Rhonda first met on that blind date when she was 15 ½ and he was 18 ½.

At 21 he went to New Zealand to work for a little while staying with Wiggy and Vera and then Roy and Mae Nobbs before moving back to Australia 18 months later. To live with his mother at Gladesville, then spending the weekends out at Guildford to visit Rhonda.

In the early years of their relationship, they would go dancing and the drive-in movies with friends nearly every weekend. One of those friends was Bob Dunn and he used to drag race. Peter joined the crew and for a few years he and Rhonda would travel up and down the east coast of Australia to race meets especially at Castlereigh in western Sydney. The terrifying Ts was the racing team's name.

Peter and Rhonda went out together for 6 ½ years before they got engaged when he asked Rhonda's father to marry her, he said to Peter about bloody time. They were married on the 20th of January 1966 at the All Saints Church Parramatta. Peter brought Rhonda to Norfolk Island on their honeymoon for three weeks, they stayed up where the Gas Centre is now. One story from their honeymoon was Bear as a young boy wanted to take them fishing off the rocks and the closest way down was over the cliff and down a rope which Rhonda flatly refused to do, so Pumpkin being the gentleman that he was took Rhonda around the long way to get to the fishing spot.

When back in Sydney they moved into their first home in Auburn where Joanne was born in September 1969. Later moving to Ryde early 1971. Pauline came along in May 1972. Peter brought Rhonda and the girls home to Norfolk for Bounty in 1974 for a holiday showing them what Norfolk was all about, before returning to Ryde where Darren came along in December of 1977.

In the early 80's their home in Ryde became Little Norfolk for all the young Norfolk Islanders who were living, and working in Sydney at the time. Many a weekend was had barbequing, playing Darts and lots of laughter.

By 1984 Pumpkin was getting home sick for Norfolk and especially after coming home for a friend's wedding he decided to pack the family up and move back. In late 1985 a job offer came through to work at Norfolk Electrical so in January 1986 they moved back to Norfolk Island. Pauline and Darren attending the central school and Joanne finishing her schooling by correspondence.

After a few years Peter left the electrical trade and went to work on his own mowing lawns which he did for several years before getting a job with KAVHA doing the lawns and later painting the buildings of Kingston and Lighterage working on the pier when the ship came in up to when he retired in 2008.

Pumpkin loved his football and was an avid Balmain Tigers supporter, he used to go to games as often as he could and was there in the grandstand when Balmain won the 1969 grand finale. Back here on Norfolk he

was President of the Norfolk Island Leagues Club for many years and President of The United (Greens) Football Club. Any working bee or help that was needed to be done around the club he was there.

After retirement Pumpkin's world was his family, especially his grandchildren Ashley, Eli and Peyton. He would do anything for them, nothing made him happier than the day that Pauline, Michael, Ashley, and Eli moved home to Norfolk Island from the USA in 2010. He also loved lending a helping hand to his girls with their businesses.

In his later years when his health began to fail, he would have to go back and forth to Sydney for medical appointments with either Joanne or Pauline by his side, he used to hate going and was always happy to come home afterwards. His illness didn't stop him wanting to help anyway he could, but it did used to frustrate him no end that he couldn't do all the things he wanted to.

Now the world is a sadder place without Pumpkin in our lives, and we will forever cherish and hold onto the memories we have of him.

Thank you.

Thank You

The Knapton family would like to take this opportunity to express our sincerest appreciation for the thoughtfulness presented to us and love we have been given during our time of bereavement.

A special thank you to Robyn and the ladies who made the wreaths, Milton and Trent for the sound and music, Dr Peter Mann for tending to Dad during his final battle, Mal for driving the hearse, Shane and all the boys for digging the grave, Michael for supplying the beer and all your support. David Fell for the beautiful service. To all the pall bearers for laying Peter to rest. Tim Sheridan for reading Dad's eulogy and wearing the right colour jersey. Koszta, Jaylon and Riely for handing out the service sheets.

To all our family and friends for the food, flowers and support. Finally to Priscilla, there are no words to express how truly grateful we are to you for helping us nurse dad through the past few months, if it wasn't for you it would not have been possible to keep Dad at home until the end.

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.

