



*Vale*

### **Richard Walter Snell**

Richard Walter Snell, affectionately known as Gus, was brought back to Norfolk to be laid with his parents and siblings by his three daughters on 13 March 2020.

Gus was born on the 11 March 1941 on Norfolk Island and died in Bega on

4 December 2016 surrounded by his family. He was the son of Fred and Polly Snell and the youngest of 12 children - Ernest, Hes, Boob, Pow, Skip, Major, Plute, Sally, Rangi, Lorna and Eileen.

The service to lay Gus to rest on Norfolk was led by David Buffett AM, who affectionately recalled Gus and Pedro's role in picking the first Reds side on the Island.

Gus's granddaughters Nikai Stewart and Ella Spurling sang "Green Grass of Home" accompanied by Trent Christian. A reading of John Chapter 14: verses 1-3 Jesus is Speaking was read by Gus's nephew David Snell.

Ella, Nikai and Trent led family and friends in singing one Gus's favourite songs "In the Garden".

His eulogy, read by his eldest daughter Janette, was:

As the youngest child in the Snell family, and with four sisters directly above him, life was not always easy for Dad. His determination and strength of will would often get him in trouble. He was apparently a bugger to get to school and was extremely adept at dodging it wherever possible, which would invariably get him in the doghouse. The story we heard is that Dad started smoking at the age of four, however when we ask him if it was true he replied "Don't be ridiculous, I was seven" and then went on to comment on how he used to get into trouble with the Headmaster for smoking at school.

Dad would strut like a rooster when chaperoning his sisters to the local dance. This infuriated them and poor old Dad would once again be in the bad books.

Dad had an active childhood playing tennis, cricket, rugby league for his beloved Norfolk Island Reds and he also rode and trained horses. He joined a whaling crew in his late teens and this saw him live in New Zealand for a period of time before moving across to Northern NSW. He told his youngest daughter Penny that the reason he ended his whaling career was

because the sound of the whales crying broke his heart.

Dad returned to Norfolk Island where he met Mum (Lorna) who was working on the Island as the Matron of the hospital. They eventually married on the 28 June 1969 in Bega NSW. After a brief period in Bombala, Dad and Mum settled in Moss Vale where he managed a Beef Cattle Station and Mum worked at the Bowral Hospital.

I was born in 1970, followed closely by Sal in 1971. Penny was born at Bega Hospital in 1973 and shortly after that we moved to Bega and Dad worked for a brief period at the local sawmill and then went on to Bega Cheese and enjoyed a long career with them spanning 30 odd years.

Once Dad left Norfolk Island, married and had his family, his visits home would be filled with fun loving memories often embellishing stories of old with his special story telling abilities and his infectious laugh. The visits back to Norfolk were rare and precious to Dad. The time he spent there with his siblings, nieces and nephews meant the absolute world to him.

Dad's relationship with us girls was a close-knit loving one. We proudly stood by him and supported him through some of the toughest periods in his life. He was very proud of our achievements and loved having us home.

*(continued overleaf)*

## **Ferny Lane Theatre News**

**We regret to advise that, during the current state of emergency, we shall not be able to screen movies at The Ferny Lane Theatre. We apologise for any disappointment.**

**We shall however continue to offer DVDs for hire from World Traders.**

We have those you may have missed at the movies plus many more. Why not catch up on some that you have always wanted to watch but have never had the time.

### **IN THE PIPELINE**

Pavarotti, Jojo Rabbit, Little Women, Last of the Blonde Bombshells, 1917, Star Wars – Rise of Skywalker

**The historical play,  
TRIAL OF THE FIFTEEN  
is in abeyance for the  
time being.**

### ***Richard Walter Snell - continued***

Dad was an extremely loving, modest, strict and fair father but cranky... in fact, over the years, cranky became the standard description for him. Despite this, he supported us in every aspect of our lives, and we loved him for that. Having said that, his competitiveness often got the better of him. It wasn't unusual for him to up and leave halfway through one of our sporting games if we were losing and then frankly tell us what players were a waste of space.

There was however no achievement that made him prouder than the birth of his grandkids. They say that although Dad was cranky he mellowed with the birth of his first grandchild Daneika and continued to soften as more and more came along. This was when we started to see more of his humorous side. Dad's favourite thing was to tease the kids or rather amuse himself with things like turning the cold water on full blast while they were in the bath, or as Neik recalls, Pop taking her on fishing trips, teaching her how to feed lemons to the seagulls and laughing at their reactions. He also loved it when his cat – incidentally named Cat – attacked people as they passed him in the house – it was sight that gave him lots of laughs. His younger grandkids Chelsea, Nikai and Ella, recall that some of their fondest memories of Dad were around the dinner table, where he would crack his jokes, tease and torment them. On occasion when Ella would ask her mother Sally what was for dinner, Dad's standard response, knowing full well that Ella has a nut allergy, would be peanuts, peanut butter on toast something sprinkled with nuts.

Dad was extremely proud of his grandsons Joe-Joe and Jordan, especially with their football achievements. He rarely missed a game when his boys were playing and if he did, he would call that night to see how they went. He was equally as proud of his granddaughters – Daneika, Teneille, Emma, Sara, Chelsea, Ella and Nikai with all their achievements throughout their schooling years and moving into adulthood. Dad welcomed his three foster grandchildren, Matari, Nakeiley and Islah-Rose with open arms and accepted them as his own. In 2014 Dad welcomed the birth

of his first great grandchild Jacob who he dearly adored. The naughty kid in Dad adored the naughty kid in Jacob and he would take great delight in his antics. But Dad's teasing side kept coming through... he found it hilarious to place a dinosaur that Jacob feared in front of Mum's china display knowing it was enough to deter him.

Our kids remember their Pop as a caring but cheeky affectionate prankster. They spent their early years trying to decipher between the truth and fabrication of his stories about him growing up. He told them stories about the about having his ears and nose pierced with bones, the different animals he used to ride to school, such as a bear sized koala (never knew there were Koala's on Norfolk) and never having anything to eat but stew made from things he had to grow and reap himself.

Shortly before he passed I said to Dad you are good guy... his reply was "yes I am," and he really was.

Today we are comforted by the fact we have brought him back to his beloved home here on Norfolk. To lay him with his family and to know that he is united with his parents and siblings brings us a sense of peace and happiness.

The service ended with Trent leading the Pitcairn Anthem.

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## **Liquor Bond – Ceasing Of Sunday Trading**

The Liquor Bond Sunday trading trial has been completed with positive responses received from customers. With the end of the trial, and the current corona virus concerns, the decision has been made to cease Sunday trading at the Liquor Bond until further notice.

The Liquor Bond at this stage will remain open Monday to Saturday 10.30am to 6.30 pm but these hours will may also change subject to State of Emergency requirements and economic conditions on the Island.

*Bruce Taylor*  
GROUP MANAGER SERVICES



**In response to the directive given by the NSW Uniting Church Synod, Norfolk Island Uniting Church will be suspending services and activities due to COVID-19, until further notice. This includes church services, and ministries to children and youth run jointly with the other churches on island.**

**At this stage the op shop will remain open** (maintaining stringent hygiene precautions, and social distancing protocols) until further notice.

**We are exploring ways of connecting with people** through the local media, as well as meeting together pastorally whilst maintaining appropriate social distancing protocols.

**Please feel free to ring Rev Owen Lukins personally (mob 51579) or at the manse (ph 22179) for more details, or if you need support during these unprecedented and potentially testing times.**

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