



Vale

Robert Neville Wotherspoon

11 September 1947 – 19 October 2024

I once heard it said of man, that the idea, is to die young, as late as possible. Dad lived this philosophy perfectly, maintaining his playful spirit and cheeky nature right until the end, while carrying himself with a quiet dignity that defined who he was.

Behind Dad's reserved manner lay a master of dry humour and perfectly timed pranks. At Saint Barnabas Chapel when dad worked at Pinetree Tours, he and his friend the late Archie Biggs would position themselves at opposite ends of the church during tours. 'Wha-side yu wunt-a start fuss boat we start des daye Arch?' Dad would call out. 'Him-me start up dar front fuss wha?'

And like clockwork, every tourist's head would swivel forward. 'Noo-a, noo-ae, lets tek et down dar baek en start with dar flaeg!' Archie would counter, and the whole group would turn again, 'I se change myse mind, we start up ya, more Interesting I thawt' Dad would reply. Soon enough their's heads are tunning laff ulla tunning a riight like carnival clowns with their mouths open. This was classic Dad finding ways to bring joy and laughter to everyday moments.

His mischievous spirit never dimmed. One night

out at Paradise Hotel, dar wun doun-a-toun with the late Ken Nobbs knowing he had a strict curfew to get home, Dad se manage fe sneakily tek his watch tunning dar time fe Ken's back 4x hours. Poor Uncle Ken, completely unaware of the prank, was quite pleased with himself as the night rolled on, certain he had plenty of time fe dancen en singen before he needed to head home. You could imagine dar look orn his faece when he finally arrived hoeme at 6am to face the music, hours past dar curfew! He se ketch et! Dad orchestrated water fights at Sanitarium Health Food Company, unplugged coworkers vacuums while deep in machinery, turned lights off within the factory to leave the workers in the dark and many other cheeky adventures. Dad would always have a smirk on his face when retelling his tales.

Yet beneath this playful exterior was a man of remarkable strength and dedication. When Mum proposed moving our family to New South Wales, Dad set aside his deep connection to Norf^k.

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Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**

Draft Heritage Management Plan 2024 for Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area, Norfolk Island

Draft Heritage Management Plan 2024 for the Arched Building at Longridge, Norfolk Island

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Notification for Public Consultation required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (DITRDCA) under 341s and 342s of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act) has prepared a draft Heritage Management Plan for the Kingston and Arthurs Vale Historic Area (KAVHA), Norfolk Island and a draft Heritage Management Plan for the Arched Building, Longridge, Norfolk Island.

Under the paragraph 10.03C Section 341S of the EPBC Act, comments are invited on both of the draft Heritage Management Plans from members of the public, Indigenous people with rights and interests in the place, key stakeholders and community groups by close of business 20 business days after which the last notice is published.

The draft Heritage Management Plans can be viewed and downloaded, without charge, at: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/territories-regions-cities/territories/norfolk-island/community-consultations> or are available in hard copy at the Royal Engineers Office, Kingston, the Norfolk Island Regional Council Customer Care and Norfolk Island Library.

Submissions can be made via email to Kingston@infrastructure.gov.au or sent to P.O. Box 201, Norfolk Island 2899, or handed in person to the KAVHA Secretariat, The Officers Mess, Kingston, Norfolk Island.

The deadline for submissions is **5pm (AEDT) on 20 December 2024**.

Note: Persons requiring special assistance may contact KAVHA Secretariat via email KAVHAscretariat@infrastructure.gov.au or phone +672323315.

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With just six suitcases and unwavering faith, he left behind everything familiar to give Vanese and I a Christian based tertiary education and future opportunities he never had.

When I recently thanked him for this sacrifice, his response captured his essence perfectly: "It was never a sacrifice he tull, it was a privilege to do that for my family."

His journey began in Auckland, where even as a schoolboy at Bayfield School Ponsonby, his character was already forming. Academics here wasn't his strong suit, but he certainly made his presence known, just not for dem scholarly achievements, instead for his mischievous naature. Disturbing the peace and teasing fellow students frequently landed him in trouble, earning him regular visits to dar headmaster's office. The punishment in those dayes was dar caene, administered with a technique dem yusa call "the cut", striking both downward and upward. He yusa catch et plenti. These early antics were just the beginning of a life lived with good humor and authenticity.

Sport and deep friendships shaped Dad's early life in profound ways. During his days at Kelston Boys High School in Auckland, his talent on the soccer field playing for Lynndale Association Football Club caught significant attention. He was on track to represent New Zealand, a "what if" moment he'd occasionally reflect on with a mix of pride and his characteristic humility.

But life had other plans. In 1963, when Dad was 16, his mother the late Delores Pearl Wotherspoon (née Buffett) affectionately known as 'Pumbles' felt the irresistible call of her island hoo-um. Together with Dad's father the late Robert Blackwood Wotherspoon, who was fondly known as 'Squash', they made the decision to return to Norf'k. Dad inherited both his mother's deep love for Norf'k and his father's strength of character, qualities that would define him throughout his life.

On Norfolk, Dad's sporting spirit found new outlets. He joined the Greens Rocky Point Football Club later merging to become the United Football Club alongside the likes of Alec Nobbs (Uncle Alex) and the late Franklin Randall affectionately known as 'Shanks'.

Golf became another of Dad's passions, particularly those rounds with his lifelong friend Barley Christian. Even during his Pinetrees Tours days, Boo Prentice would catch Dad's eye and playfully mime a golf swing behind Lou's back, a silent signal that would see them sneaking off for a quick round when they should have both been working.

Sport became the foundation of some of Dad's lifelong friendships. His friendship with Franklin Randall (Uncle Frank) exemplified this perfectly. Before dads sister Elizabeth (Aunty Liz) entered the picture, dem two were inseparable, cruising around in Uncle Frank's car and stirring up mischief wherever dem two goo. When Aunty Liz arsa dem fe join their adventures, dem two reluctantly agreed, with the condition that she'd have to sit in dar back seat. Soow dem two troublemakers would then take great delight

in tecken orf en driving fast round dem corner, and ein zigzag patterns, watching and laughing as Aunty Liz slid from one side of dar back seat to the other, her head bobbing along with every tunn. The dynamics shifted dramatically the day when Uncle Frank tull, "Now es yoos turn fe jump in dar baek Rob – Liz is up ya long fe me." And just like dar, Dad found himself demoted to the back seat, where he stayed until he got his own car.

Dad's work life reflected his character, adaptable yet reliable and consistent. Through his days in Paradise Hotel, doun-a-toun working maintenance with characters like Charlie Unoo, Turk, and Uncle Alec or Friday nights sitting behind the drums, playing in the band with the late David Rogers, George Smith, and Toofey Christian, filling the evening air with music and watching sullun dance the night away. Or at Browse About Shop opposite Rawson Hall, working for Ron and Marlene Campion where he'd often be embarrassingly funny making remarks behind a smile to visitors in Norf'k so that they wouldn't understand a word he was saying "Aww si dem sullun how tye tye ein dem shoe"

But it was as a family man that Dad truly shone. He loved his siblings – Elizabeth Randall, the late June Richards, the late Eileen Richards, Cynthia Deadman, and Robyn Butterfield.

Mum and Dad's love is one that spanned over half a century, a remarkable journey of 55 years together, with 50 of those years in marriage. This story began through the wisdom of Mum's grandfather, the late Poppa Dick Charles Hebeswait Hastings Nobbs, who saw something special in dad.

Their marriage was a class in love, patience, and dedication. Through five decades, they weathered life's storms together, their bond strong. Dad showed us that real love isn't found in grand gestures or fairy-tale moments, but in the dedication of showing up every day, in choosing each other again and again through both sunshine and rain Their relationship set a powerful example for all of us, demonstrating that enduring love is built on a foundation of mutual respect, unwavering commitment, and daily acts of kindness. Even in his final hours, Dad's thoughts centred on Mum, making us promise to take care of her, a testament to how his love for her remained his primary concern until his last breath.

As a father, he taught through example rather than words, showing us that integrity isn't what you preach but how you live. He found great joy from his six grandchildren: Kyan, Aaliyah, Kaylee, Alijah, Liam, and Ava. In their presence, his quiet demeanour would

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TRIAL OF THE FIFTEEN

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give way to a gentle playfulness that showed the depth of his love

We somehow have this illusion that our worth is measured by achievements and accolades. Dad knew better. His life showed us that true significance lies in who we are, not what we do. He was quietly strong-minded, often stubborn, but always wise in his advice. His legacy lives on in the lessons he taught us through his actions about dedication, forgiveness, gratitude, and unwavering family focus.

To our family, he is remembered for how he lived. He was witty, funny, hardworking, and a dedicated family man. After a courageous six-year battle, Dad lost his fight against cancer, a cruel, malicious disease that gradually stole his health and quality of life. He lived without complaint, without bitterness, without self-pity. Even in his darkest moments, Dad showed remarkable strength of character, getting out of bed when his once strong frame had been reduced to a shadow of itself. He continued to focus on family, finding joy in simple moments.

Dad’s story reminds us that the most powerful influence often comes not from grand gestures, but from a life lived with authenticity, humour, and unwavering love for family. His quiet strength, his cheeky smile, his steadfast faith, these were the true measure of the man we loved and lost.

How powerful the influence of a single life, no matter how humble. Dad showed us that the greatest achievement isn’t in what you accomplish, but in who you become and how you love.

What gave dad unshakeable peace, even in the face of such adversity, was his absolute certainty in the blessed hope of resurrection at Christ’s return. As a devoted follower of Jesus, Dad faced death not with fear, but with the confident assurance that this was not the end. He went to sleep in Jesus, holding fast to the promise that one day, at the sound of God’s trumpet, he would awake to a world where pain, suffering, and sickness would be no more. His faith remained unshakeable until the very end, a testament to the depth of his belief in God’s promises.

Dad will be remembered not only for the courage, dignity, and grace with which he lived life and faced death, but also for his unwavering trust in his Savior’s love and the hope of that glorious reunion morning.

A Message of Gratitude

The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to our community for their overwhelming support and kindness during this time.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Pall Bearers; Kyan Wotherspoon, Ken Weslake, John Nobbs, Barley Christian, Leighton Judd, and Brendon Wotherspoon.

One of the most touching moments was witnessing our island tradition of people pulling over and standing respectfully by the roadside, a beautiful gesture that reminds us of the strength of our community bonds and traditions.

A special thank you to Pastor Danny Milenkov for conducting the funeral service and providing words of comfort that touched our hearts and gave us strength during this difficult time.

Special thanks are extended to the dedicated nursing and specialist caring staff at the Sydney Adventist Hospital, Leonard Schmitz for driving the hearse, and Shane Quintal and the gravediggers for their professional services. The wreath makers created beautiful tributes, and we thank all who donated flowers.

We are grateful to the Norfolk Island Hospital staff, Mal Snell and the Norfolk Island Regional Council team for their support. The live streaming team Kevin, Kieran, and Kaawaa who enabled our family and friends abroad to be part of the service. We thank Uncle Alec, Don Reynolds for their musical talents alongside Wesley Quintal for leading the Pitcairn anthem. Thanks to Trent and friends who provided beautiful music and PA system support.

Our heartfelt thanks to Don and Maree for generously opening their shed for the wake, and to everyone who contributed food and helped with the preparations. Your hospitality and kindness mean so much.

To everyone who sent messages, cards, provided food, accommodation, and called your kindness has touched our hearts deeply.

Thank you all for being there for our family during this time.



RECYCLED PRODUCTS

- Compost \$120/m3*
- Crushed glass sand \$250/t

*available from Customer Care

RECYCLING TIP

Placing small plastic pieces like bread tags and bottle tops together in a container will help us to recycle them properly

OPENING HOURS

• Monday	• 7-2
• Tuesday	• 7-2
• Wednesday	• 7-2
• Thursday	• Closed
• Friday	• 7-2
• Saturday	• 7-3
• Sunday	• Closed

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