



### A TRAGIC LOSS.

Word filtered through the community late on Saturday afternoon, 4th November, that Robin Smith had been washed off the rocks at Puppy's Point while fishing.

This was firstly received with stunned disbelief but when we heard that divers and the Rescue Service had been called out, the disbelief turned to extreme worry - and I have no doubt, many prayers were said for the safety and eventual rescue of Robin.

On Sunday a big search was organised and the Red Cross members kept up a supply of refreshments for the boatmen and divers. Another search was conducted on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to no avail and rescue attempts then ceased.

A Memorial Service was held on the cliff top at Puppy's Point on Friday afternoon with Rev. Les Thompson, Father Harry Moore and Pastor Noel Gallagher taking part.

Members of Robin's family from New Zealand came over for the Memorial Service...Ron, Carol, Herbert, Peter and Dennis. Brother George and Robin's mother Nancy live here on Norfolk.

Robin Mark Smith was born in Pukekohe, New Zealand in 1955. He spent his early life in New Zealand and first came to Norfolk Island with his parents, the late Les and Nancy Smith in 1966.

He attended the Norfolk Island Central School, returning to New Zealand for his Secondary schooling.

After leaving school he worked as a builder but came often to Norfolk, returning in 1983 to go into business with his brother George in "Smithy's" and the Hire Centre.

He was well-known around the island for his cheerful nature and many social interests, including music, entertaining and travel.

He met his fiance and best friend Shirley some 4 years ago and they have enjoyed a warm and happy relationship.

We could think of no better tribute to Robin than the following poem "from a friend" given to us this week.....

"Having fun and always at play,

Mr. Robin Smith - he was always so gay  
Filling our hearts with his joys and happiness

He was never one to be distressed.

He was 'OUR' FRIEND

And could have been others' too.

Such a great loss for me

Such a great loss for you.

I shall miss him, my friend lost so young

Sadness is felt by everyone.

You were given to us, a special gift

We'll remember you always, our friend Robin  
Smith.

The Smith, Christian and Den Boer families wish to thank the many, many people who have given so freely their time during the past week - the Police, boat-owners and their crews, the divers, Administration employees, Volunteer Rescue Service personnel, all the Clergy and the many private citizens who have assisted in any way to help ease the pain and the shock of Robin's passing.

A heartfelt Thank You also to Ernie, Marge, Paul and Rona and to all those people who have lessened our sorrow by providing food, sending messages of sympathy, making floral tributes, offers of cars, accommodation, by flying in from overseas to be with us in our time of sadness.

Your loving support has meant the world to Shirley and her folks and especially to Nancy, Ron, Carol, Herb, Peter, George and Robin's cousins.

All the boat operators, divers and other volunteers wish to convey their thanks to the Red Cross for the food and hot drinks provided on their return to Cascades last Sunday.

Alarm expressed at rumours.

Many listeners to Father Harry Moore's Catholic Church programme last Wednesday would have agreed with his comments regarding the never-ending stream of rumours that were rife on the island during the search for Robin Smith.

Like Father Harry, we just cannot understand from whence these rumours come - while in no way criticising the staff of Radio VL-2-NI, we cannot understand why the 'powers that be' could not have put over the air, a short statement as to how the search was going.

We all had hoped that a miracle might happen but as the time drew on, surely a small message with the approval of the family, could have been broadcast. This, we feel sure, would have eased what must have been at times, unnecessarily cruel crosses for the family to bear.