



Vale
Sidney Alfred Moore Cooper
'Coop'

2nd August 1945 - 4th June 2022

Coop's Eulogy

Hey thanks all yorlye for coming down here today, Coop would be so humbled. *"How was your meal tonight folks is there anything else I can get you or, could I offer you a little glass of port to finish the night"*.

How many of you can remember the legend host of SeaWorld restaurant, Sid Cooper.

Sidney Alfred Moore Cooper otherwise known as Dribbles or Coop. Husband, brother, father, pop, butcher, policeman, green keeper, airport groundsman, fireman, safety officer, restaurateur, palm seed exporter, legend sportsman, chef de mission, mentor and all-round good bloke.

How can you articulate such a man's life in a few minutes.

Coop was born on Norfolk Island on the 2nd August 1945 and as described just before in his own words, es island sullen.

Myse Mum is descended from the Christian's and Quintals and my dad came to Norfolk during the war.

Coops upbringing on Norfolk at that time and similar to many on the island can only be described as humble.

The family home with Fred and Polly Snell at Short Ridge was always a hive of activity. Food was always an issue with everything either grown or caught.

Apart from chores in farming and helping the family, life was spent with his grandad Fred often on his buggy backed up on the eastern side of town pier fishen fer yowwa, or, out on the cliff tops looking for whales.

Fred who only had one leg used to help the whalers spotting whales from the cliff tops.

He had a radio that he used to call the chasers. *"Norfolk 1 Norfolk 1 to chaser 1, pod of 6 whales 2 miles to the NE"*, he would describe.

When he around 15, Coop moved to Sydney to do an apprenticeship in butchery. He lived with his Aunty Jean and Uncle Hess Snell along with Malcolm and David in Guildford.

His aunty and uncle helped many members of the family as they made the move from Norfolk chasing their dreams.

It was in Guilford where Coop pursued his football career and found the love for the punt following the dogs, trots and horses.

Returning to Norfolk in the late 60s Coop continued in the butchery business working for his uncle Plute Snell at the back of the old Hopkins store now the bounty centre. These were the days when mustering or separating stock to kill was done on horseback with the cattle generally mard es a mard.

"Dem fer Ronny Dickies de mard es, he bin use a tull."

Initially, Coop, Jan and Sa lived with Jim & Doreen and Kevin down orn Dorby corner until they built their house on Driver Christian road.

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'Coop' - continued

The time spent with Jim, Doreen and Kev were some of the fondest times of his life he recalled. Family, farming, cattle and sport!!

It wasn't long before Jan and Coop had their house built and established a beautiful garden and in 1981, Nikki was born.

Nikki was Coops ah ooo and was always with Coop.

Both Nik and Sa inherited all of those beautiful traits of Coop of being open and friendly.

Dar thing for Coops *"it costs nothing to be friendly"*

Coop had a wide and varied working career.

As mentioned before, he completed an apprenticeship in Butchery, followed by working as a green keeper at the Norfolk Island Golf Club.

He was a member of the Local police force and held his role as a local policeman as a major achievement.

In 1976 Coop got a job at the Norfolk Island airport as a groundsman and later safety officer.

Ben Christian, better known as Booboo was his first boss at the airport.

One of the first things he said to Coop was *"Boy, de side es the fus side sullun use a see when dem come to Norfolk, maeke sure we always maeke sure these grounds look gude"*

It was an era between manual labour and the use of machinery and working along the likes of Booboo, Hackett, Teeny Menzies, Robbie Chapman, Bill Pumper, Ernie and Mac Adams, Francis Menghetti, Peter Sam, Peter Summerscales, Spindles and Yarm and he fitted into the system like a hand in a glove.

He took great pride in his job at the airport and to be honest we think it hurt Coop a lot when he was asked to hang up the boots.

In between his 7am to 3pm jobs Coop pursued the great Norfolk dream, work hard and play hard.

In 1987 Coop bought a share in SeaWorld restaurant along with Kevin Williams, Bunting and Barry Wilson.

This was a great era and Coop was the rock behind it all.

He was proud of the fact that even right up until the end return visitors to Norfolk would hunt him down and tell him that the night they had at SeaWorld or the ticcytour he took them on was the highlight of their visit.

Coop was always out the front on the floor, with Wayne, Joss, Sa, Jeanine, Sarlu, Cara, Tania and too many more to remember.

He was renowned for his hospitality and his bottle of port.

In the mornings before work he would clean the restaurant and, one at a time his mates would call in to have the ritual coffee, slice of bread, peanut butter and porpay jelly and catch up on the gossip. Moochie, Willie, Sam, Skeetus, Barry and whoever else would turn up.

It was a highlight to Coops day.

In addition to the restaurant he started a palm seedling business with Kevin Williams. He set up hot houses at his property on Driver Christian and would spend many a night or early morning pulling one and two leave shoots to be exported off island.

But it was sport where Coop legend status will be forever remembered.

It will be his enduring legacy as possibly one of Norfolk Islands finest sportsmen. He was always a team player and had that ability to draw the best out of a person under the extremists of pressure.

From a humble beginning as a pole vaulter with a bamboo or porpay pole at school *'Yeah, laugh away he usa tull, but I was'*.

To being recognised in 2000 as one of Norfolk Islands sportspersons of the century. An honour that he was so humble in accepting as it was his opinion that someone else deserved it more than he.

His sporting career highlights included,

- Playing for Parramatta jersey flag final as the curtain raiser to the 1962 Great Britain v Australia test match
- Breaking the Norfolk Island Golf club course record in 1972
- Captaining the mighty Longridge team to multiple Dickett shield wins
- Captaining arguably the finest group of Norfolk Island men to defeat the visiting New Zealand Glenora 1st grade rugby league team and later defending those wins in New Zealand
- Winning multiple South Pacific Games medals in lawn bowls, Bounty bowls and multiple other club championships.
- Representing Norfolk Island at 2 Commonwealth Games
- Being Chef de mission at the 2001 South Pacific Mini games here on Norfolk Island.

In a lawn bowls sportsman profile for the 2018 Commonwealth Games Moochie Christian wrote of Coop -

'He got me into bowls, he's the best all round sportsman on the island and I've played numerous times with him, and there isn't many tournaments I haven't won when I've been on his team.'

Coop was also a fine tennis and had a beautiful grass court at this house for many years. He was also a fine cricket player in his day and was partial to a game of table tennis.

How many of you can remember rugby league on Norfolk Island in its heyday. The fierce rivalry between United, Cascade and Longridge.

Of Coop trying to catch Golla after Golla upper cut him in the scrum. *'I ony wanted to shake his harn'*

Of the individual rivalry between Coop and Yarm. Terrific workmates but fierce enemies on the sport field.

Coop retired from sport in around 2015 and whilst the body couldn't do what it used to do, his heart and competitive nature remained as strong as ever. Never the one to take a backward step in offering advice, moral support and encouragement and relished the opportunity to say a speech or two at functions.

Coop was staunch in his morals. His family always came first and look out if anybody tried to come between.

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'Coop' - conitnued

He was terrifically proud as being the caretaker of the land that Jim and Doreen had passed down to he and Jan and was always willing to take people on a tiki tour of their properties.

And he loved Norfolk, as the interview just before which Beau described Coop valued our traditions like Bounty day and Thanksgiving Day. He particularly enjoyed the company, banter and beer after All Saints church was set up for the following days service.

Coop, there are so many things we are going to miss about you and I'm sure each of you all here today will have a memory of the interaction you've had with him.

Certainly, we as a family are going to miss him desperately especially at our family dinners.

'Wal dun yorlye gherl, yorlye se maeke I it dar much I gwen car sleep or'

Him leaning up on the Bowling club wall, the golf course fence or the touch footy fence offering advice or moral support

Those morning teas down at yours Sammy. *'Man, dar fulla el cook sweet.'* He loved you like a son Sam.

Or the 12 noon pot of tea with Alec. *'You awa bin howe one of his pots of tea he bin usa ask. Nobody el maeke et simmis hem. En you know dar fulla el fix anything.'*

Ula the morning teas around the table of knowledge *'Bloody Culla he know everything'*

Yep, everyone has a story about Coop

To our Dearest Jan

We ride your heart break, surely no more

For me personally, going out in a fance will never be the same or, the Sunday morning coffee and cattle run

'Tulla Nomes fer maeke et extra hot or...'

I'd say to him dar fance nor look dar gude pop and he'd say

'Foot we nor jes jillilly et des daye wha? Morla nor se touch et'

Rest in Peace legend

Morla narwa gwen be the same

Nik's Tribute to her Dad

Everyone has a male figure to guide them through life.

However, Vaness and I got lucky! We struck the jackpot with our Dad. We both had a Father Daughter bond that could never be broken. You see, not only did we get a male figure in our life to compare every other male too, but we got a legend for our Dad.

Dad loved to say a few words at gatherings. So it seem fitting that I try to do that for him, at this here his final gathering. For a man who had a massively giving heart and simply loved living.

Dad looked for the good in everyone. Those that liked him, those that didn't like him, those he didn't care too much for either. In his eyes everyone had a good quality. And he had the pleasure of meeting ALOT of people!

Dad had many roles in his time - butcher, policeman, fireman, sportsman, immigration officer, restaurateur, farmer, green keeper, palm seed exporter, airport reporting and safety officer but ultimately there were only a few things in life that Dad lived for.

Above all else! Dad worked hard to provide for and love fiercely his family. Mum first, then Vaness and myself. Then his two son in laws Dave and Dave and his grand babies Beau, Jared, Key, Jay and Sam. His immediate family was his everything! He loved his extended family too, those that are blood relatives and others who were good mates who he considered family. There are many.

His other love, was for the soil we stand here on today. There is no better place on earth than home. All he wanted to do since going to Brisbane unwell was come home. And he tried with all his mite to do just that.

I think everyone knows that Dad loved to talk. He could make conversation with anyone. Quick witted, a bit too cheeky at times, with many a story fe tull and always on hand to deliver a few words of wisdom.

He also enjoyed a love of sport his whole life. His achievements are great, yet the modesty he displayed made him a humble superstar.

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'Coop' - continued

Looking back I'm sure it was the social aspect of sport that he loved the most. It gave him opportunity to not only talk: but to share his big generous heart with all those that crossed his path.

He continued to do this even whilst unwell in Brisbane. Ever the cheeky lovable person that he was, he shared his warmth and touched the hearts of so many. He brightened everyone's day, even when he wasn't feeling his best.

At the end of each day, right up until our final conversation. I would say to Dad "I love you" and he would say I love you MORE". But I don't think he knew just how much my heart would break when those words were no longer able to be spoken.

Dad really was the glue that held our family together.

It doesn't matter how you knew Dad or what nickname you called him by. It was an absolute honour to have lived and learnt alongside him.

And although my heart remains broken. I know in time I will smile more with all the amazing memories that Dad created for our family.

He will always be my hero.

Nik.

Thank You

It is difficult to find the words to express our gratitude for the kindness that has been shown to us during this sad time.

Firstly, a massive thank you to David and Jared for being with me all night at the hospital before Coop was transferred to Brisbane. And then to David again, for accompanying me to be with Coop.

Thank you to Karen & Lew, Darryl, Glenn Robbo, Shirley, Big Kev, Wesley James, Kylie and Jade for taking the time to visit Coop at RBWH when he was up to it.

A huge thank you to David, Jared, Millie, Rees, Nathan, Katie, Aunty Noel, Aaron and Wint for flying in to visit Coop on his second stay in ICU.

To Beau and Sades my grateful thanks for all your love, support and care to Pop and I in Brisbane.

Thank you to Wes for being there for Coop en auwa during a difficult period away from home.

To KTV a big thank you and love from me.

Thanks heaps to James, Ngaire and girls for all you did whilst we were away. To those who watered the plants, cared for our lawns, cut the hedge and assisted in some way our grateful thanks to you all.

To the many others who helped us and to those who provided delicious cooking and grocery items, sent beautiful flowers, sent cards, messages, phone calls, added credit to my phone, those that called down and helped arrange Coop's return to his home a big thank you. Your support has meant the world and we appreciate your kindness.

To the sporting community and AFP, thank you for the guard of honour. Coop would be so humbled to know that so many people cared for him. And to David M just one huge big thank you for everything.

We are unable to write individual thank you's to each one of you, given the great outpouring of support and for sure we would miss someone.

Please know that your generosity and thoughtfulness have touched us deeply and we are truly grateful.

Knowing that we were not alone helped us bear our grief and sadness. We thank you one and all for being there for us.

Jan, Nik & Family



JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

NIJRL will be holding a cake stall this Saturday from approx 8.15am inside Foodlands until Middy. This is one of many Fundraisers for us, as we aim to raise money for a HUGE 2023. We have the u14s going to the Gold Coast in April and then hopefully a Home Rep week in late 2023.

Game Day 2 is this Sunday 26th June. Please see the times below. Also Noting that League Tag is now playing before Junior Bs. Teams and numbers will depend on how many kids we get turn up in this first week of the school holidays, as will the upcoming Footy schedule.

Game times are as follows -

- **Midgy C's** NIDS vs ALL STAR PAINTING 8.40am for 9.00am kick off
- **Midgy B's** SLICK & SONS vs CASTAWAY 8.40am for 9.00am kick off
- **Midgy A's** GLENCAR LUXURY VILLAS vs BUTCHER IN THE MALL 9.00am for 9.40pm kick off
- **Junior C's** NORFOLK ISLAND REAL ESTATE vs CHRISTIAN BAILEY AGENCIES 10.00am for a 10.30am kick off
- **League Tag** HOT KRUST BAKERY vs NORFOLK ONLINE 11.00am for 11.30am kick off
- **Junior B's** PAW PAWS vs ISLAND PLUMBING & GAS 11.15am for a 12.15 kick off
- **Junior A's** SPEEDS vs BEDROCK 12.45pm for a 1.15pm kick off

NIJRL canteen will be selling drinks, crisps, chocolates, and this week adding some Sausage Rolls and Hot Dogs (note Cash Only).

Setup time for Sunday will commence at 8.30pm, field setup change is at 10.00am and pack up is at 2.30pm. If anyone can offer assistance to the committee members with this it would be most appreciated, just make yourself known to the officials.
