



Uncle Tom

19th July 1930 - 22nd June 2017

On Sunday 24th of June, we farewelled one of life's true gentlemen, Thomas Leslie Lloyd.

A service was held in All Saints Church, Kingston where Tom had enjoyed leading the Church of England "Sing-along" as recently as a few weeks ago (after being instrumental to its beginnings in the late seventies).

The service was conducted by the Rev. David Fell who said, "It's a great honour for me to be here this afternoon to officiate at the funeral of such a well-loved and respected Norfolk Islander. An honour not just because I was Tom's minister, but because I had the spectacular privilege of calling Tom, my friend".

He went on to say "It is right that a man like Tom brings our community together today, for his life touched many of our lives in various ways and at various times. He was a great Norfolk Islander, and in many ways he lived a public life, but it is those who knew him most personally and intimately who today grieve most deeply, and to whom the rest of us extend our sympathy for your loss".

The congregation then sang "How Great Thou Art" before a eulogy was read by Mr. Albert Buffett. Tom had previously selected Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 to be read, and after the Chaplain's reflections on the passage the congregation sang Charles Wesley's great hymn "And Can It Be", before the casket left the church to another favourite of Tom's, "When The Roll Is Call Up Yonder".

At the graveside the congregation sang "God Be With You Til We Meet Again" before the floral tributes were laid as "Steal Away To Jesus" was played. The significance of "Steal Away To Jesus" being that Tom's beloved Tim was playing this song on the organ at All Saints on the night she died. Now it was Tom's turn to "steal away to Jesus".

The saying of the Lord's Prayer, the Committal, and the singing of "Come Ye Blessed" brought this service to a close. In the eulogy that was read we heard the following:

(continued overleaf)

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Uncle Tom - continued

“Thomas Leslie Lloyd - “Uncle Tom” the only child of Leslie Redford Lloyd and Mary Nelves Buffett and was born on Norfolk Island on the 19th July 1930.

Uncle Tom was proud of his Pitcairn - Norfolk Island heritage as he had the blood of the mutineers flowing through his veins, coming down from Adams, Christian, McCoy, Quintal, and Young and also with a splash of Nobbs and a good drop of Buffett.

Tom married Edna Alice Fyfe, known to us all as Tim, on the 12th December 1959. When Tim and Tom married Tom became the step-father to Valerie and Douglas. Tom loved Tim’s children and was in-turn adored by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Tim’s daughter Valerie and son Douglas spent many a happy time on Norfolk with their families, eating guavas and enjoying long lunches at Greenways.

What a dynamic pair Tim and Tom made, plunging into all the community affairs from dancing - Debutantes Ball to concerts and off course the weekly newspaper, “The Norfolk Islander” which was founded in 1965 following on the suggestion of the Administrator at the time Roger Nott.

Acting on that suggestion Tim and Tom spent two years in Sydney saving money before coming back to Norfolk to start the paper, the first edition hitting the street / roads of Norfolk Island on the 6th August 1965.

Tom had served his apprenticeship in Sydney in the printing trade before returning to Norfolk working for Burns Philip. To advance the suggestion of a newspaper they returned to Sydney in 1960 where Tom worked as a Compositor for G. W. Hall, Printers at Chatswood, returning to Norfolk Island in 1964 to start Greenways Press and commencing “The Norfolk Islander” in 1965.

In the years before Tom’s passing he started to writing his memoirs and it is with pleasure that we share with you, in his words, a little about his role editing the little local paper “The Norfolk Islander”.

“It would be fair to say that I had the dream of starting a small weekly newspaper on Norfolk Island. As the great-great grandson of John Buffett, who commenced the Pitcairn Island Register back in the 1820’s it seemed logical that with the backing of my Editress wife Tim, who apart from being a wizard on a typewriter was the great grand-daughter of a Scottish book binder, we should continue this work in the Norfolk Islander.

We printed 1,000 copies of Volume 1, Number 1, and they were all snapped up by the public. Whether they thought that this would be our one and only effort I do not know.

My only thought was “wow”, if the circulation continues at this rate and with the paper costing 6 pence per copy it would not be too long before we could invest in more efficient machinery and maybe Tim and I could become “media magnates!”

Fool away tumpulley! We printed another 1,000 copies of Volume 1, Number 2 and received just on 400 back! So out the window went my dreams of more efficient machinery and Tim and I eventually

becoming the Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Murdoch or Sir Frank and Lady Packer of Norfolk Island.

During the following years we had any periods of great satisfaction in recording the exciting events that were taking part around us and becoming part of Norfolk’s history.

There were many periods of sadness and the thought often crossed our minds as to whether we should continue.

Continue we did and we had the help of many of our senior pupils from the Norfolk island Central School every Friday evening or later on a Saturday morning. Too name a few of these young people - Tania and Wendy Anderson, Teresa and Maria Christian, Jodie and Lorinda McCoy, Faye Marie and Debbie Richards, Chris and Grant Kenny, Brent Adams, Howard Martin, Peter Randall and many more who, long before they employed school age check out staff at Foodlands, worked at the Printery to earn money to keep their motor bikes chugging along.

Apart from these young people, we encouraged a number of others to undertake apprentices in the printing trade and Tim and I had the great satisfaction of seeing our own Phillip “Lully” Nobbs successfully complete his trade course as did Jonathan (nicknamed ‘Stormy’ after my dog) and Tracey Graham”.

Greenways was often at the forefront of technology. It was the first member of the Pacific Island News Association to get MacIntosh computers way back in 1986, Tom enjoyed his Heidelberg GTO as well as his platen press which he restored with Bob Davidson.

To give an idea of Uncle Tom’s community involvement here are some of the many areas of his involvement;

Boy Scout Association, N. I. Dramatic Society, N.I. Amateur Theatre Society, Flora & Fauna, Rawson Memorial Hall Trust, Norfolk Island Golf Club, Norfolk Island Lions Club, Church of England Parish Council, Norfolk Island Amateur Sports Association, South Pacific Games, Norfolk Island Social Services Board, Norfolk Island Bi-Centenary Committee, Thirteenth Commonwealth Games, Norfolk Island Youth Sports Fund.

In the 1988 New Year’s Honours List, Thomas Leslie Lloyd was recognised for his services to the Norfolk Island Community with the Order of Australia.

Sadly Tom lost his wife Tim of almost 46 years on the 30th October 2005 whilst he was in Tahiti.”

Uncle Tom’s reputation was known internationally as well as the contacts he had made and this is indicated by the expressions of sympathy from the following which was delivered by Mary.

“On behalf of Federation of Touch Football please accept our sincere condolences on the passing of your well known and loved personality, (Uncle) Thomas Lloyd. His contributions to the development and growth sport on Norfolk Island and the Oceania Region are greatly acknowledged, he leaves behind huge footprints in the hearts of all who knew him.

Kind regards

William (Bill) Ker, Secretary General”

(continued overleaf)

Uncle Tom - continued

“We, VASANOC - the Vanuatu Pacific Games Association, Commonwealth Games Association & National Olympic Committee and Vanuatu Sport Family are saddened by this passing on of this Legend of the Pacific Games.

Our prayers and thoughts are with you and his family.

RIP Uncle Tom.

Yours in Sport,
Henry”

“It is always sad to learn of a Sports colleague who is no longer with us.

From the Niue Island Sports and Commonwealth Games Association executive here in Niue, please convey our condolences to the surviving family of the late Tom.

Yours in Sport,

Maru Talagi

President. Niue Island Sports and Commonwealth Games Association”

“From Ricardo C. Blas, Secretary General, ONOC.

I have just received news from Bill Sakovich advising me that Uncle Tom had just passed away. We are saddened with this news and I wish to express our personal condolences to his family, Norfolk Island sporting community and extended families.

He was such a lovely person and I had the distinct privilege of working with him during the Pacific Mini Games when I was President of Pacific Games Council. I also had the privilege of hosting him in Guam during his transit time and we loved every moment of visit with us.

Our prayer go out to his family during this difficult time. “

From local sporting Associations -

“Our sincere condolences from all at the Golf Club on this very sad day for Norfolk. As a life member of the Club, Tommy will be sadly missed by us all.”

“Matt Christian on behalf of the Norfolk Island Outrigger Club pass on condolences for the loss of Tom, extremely sad to hear the news.”

“The Association of Norfolk Island Archers offer their sincere condolences on this very sad occasion. As patron Tom was a major part in the establishment of the sport in the early years. We remember his commitment with fondness.”

His close relationship to his cousins and their families and their appreciation was expressed by Glen Lyons who with his wife had flown in to farewell and say good bye to Uncle Tom.

Tom’s carer Mary also told of the interesting times and the joy he had shown for her granddaughter Cora.

An amazing man doing at times an especially difficult job. Always keen to serve and help, and we are sure sometimes, in his humble way, unbeknown

to him playing a major role in the shaping the ‘young people’ into the people they became.

The passing of Thomas Leslie Lloyd, “Uncle Tom”, leaves a huge void in the Norfolk Island community and he will be sadly missed.

Thank You

As Tom’s carer for a number of years, I would like to say a big ‘thank you’ to Aunty Ede and dem ladies at the usual place, Shane Quintal and the grave diggers, Peter Randall for playing the organ, Tardy for taking Tom to his final resting place. So many others who have sent cards or rang and offered help and support during this sad and difficult time.

To all my wonderful family and friends who have helped me so much over the years with Tom, I wish to express my sincere thanks to all yourli. It was an honour and a privilege to care for such a kind and gentle man.

Mys love and thanks again to all yourli,

Mary.

Thank You

Tom Lloyd’s step-daughter, Valerie and step-son, Douglas with his wife Robyn together with their son Adam and daughter Barbara have been overwhelmed by the generosity and care shown to us by the people of Norfolk Island prior to and following Tom’s death.

There were many more of Tom’s adoring family in Auckland and Sydney who were unfortunately not able to attend Tom’s funeral.

Sincere thanks to Mary Cooper who looked after and cared so much for Tom up until his death and afterwards by organising the many details with the help of Jonathan Snell, Albert Buffett and others to make the funeral just happen with minimal worry on our part.

Our sincere thanks go out to the Sextant and grave diggers, the ladies (and some men) who supplied and prepared all those beautiful floral tributes at All Saints and for the cemetery, the administration and hospital staff for preparing and transporting the coffin, the pallbearers, the members of the Lion’s club who arranged for the sound system and the Lion’s club premises to be available with food and refreshments after the funeral.

We sincerely thank Reverend David Fell who conducted the funeral service, organist Pete Randal, the impromptu band that played as we entered the church, Albert Buffett, Jonno Snell, Mary Cooper and Glenn Lyons who spoke and various others who helped at the church.

Thanks to the members of the Sports Association and Lion’s club who formed a guard of honour and special thanks to Trent Christian who led the singing of the hymn and the Pitcairn Anthem at the graveside and the Fijian singers who sang Isa Lei as we departed. There were so many, not mentioned, who contributed and we are very thankful to all these people.

Uncle Tom - continued

Our beloved Tom was an inspiration to all his Sydney and Auckland family. Knowing what he had achieved on Norfolk Island, and elsewhere, and the number of people he inspired on the island during his life, we were not surprised by the huge number of people who attended the church service and who were present at the graveside.

Thank you Norfolk Island.

Tom's Australian and New Zealand family

Good afternoon Johnno,

I was sorry to hear the death of one Thomas Lloyd yesterday morning.

Certainly a passing of an era on Norfolk Island.

I would have loved to be there for the funeral but being a pensioner now I can ill afford the airfare.

Tom was a wonderful person, always had the best interest of Norfolk Island and its residence to their forefront of his endeavours, a wonderful ambassador in worlds travel with the NI Sports Association.

He will be sadly missed at the Sunday Evening sing along at All Saints in Kingston.

Kerrin

Farewell Thomas Leslie Lloyd

"Ready or not" was how it felt when I received the news that Tom had passed.

I thought straight away that we have lost a gentleman that had a life that "mattered". A life he led of hopes, ambitions and plans - but has now expired. The wins and losses in his involvement with sport that once seemed so important will fade away.

What mattered to Tom was not what you bought, but what you built, not what you got but what you gave. What mattered is not your success but your significance.

An approach and attitude of not what you learnt but what you taught.

Tom's life showed us what mattered with every act of integrity, compassion, courage or sacrifice that enriched, empowered and encouraged others to follow from his examples. Leading with example of that is not your competence but your character.

A life that mattered to so many people doesn't happen by accident it happens by choice and that was what Tom did, he did it all by choice.

How many people he knew from near and far doesn't matter, but how many people that will feel a lasting loss now he's gone does matter. His life was lived with kindly deeds, and giving a helping hand for others' needs. A wonderful, true and sincere memory will be left behind.

Sometimes we don't know how to deal with situations in life that can't seem real but for now Tom is in a better place so we will say goodbye but just for today so it seems like you are just going away.

Rest in Peace Thomas

Much love Tracey, Kye and Ryan. x x x

Our Friend Uncle Tom

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words about our dear friend, the late uncle Tom Lloyd.

We have known Uncle Tom since 1978, when in Fiji for a South Pacific Games Council meeting and we had to spend a few extra days in Suva. We all got to know each other better, and for many of us, it was the beginning of a long friendship.

Tom was well known and loved by all in the Pacific region, he was vivacious and very outgoing. Tom kept things alive, whether it be in a council meeting, the SP games or just a casual visit. Tom was very much part of the South Pacific Games Council.

For some reason Tom and I hit it off and we corresponded frequently, up till a few months ago. I visited Norfolk for the Games Council meeting and again the games in the early 90's. A few years later, Jeannie and I made a trip to visit Uncle Tom and our friends on Norfolk. Our daughter Anneka also enjoyed her visit to Norfolk during the South Pacific Games. Thank you to "all the people of Norfolk Island"!

Jeannie and I were even more delighted when Uncle Tom and Mary visited our home in Hilo, Hawaii in 2008. Tom also visited us on Saipan in the 1990's.

We all feel we have lost of an "uncle", a pillar of the games and sport on Norfolk, although, we all know he will remain in our hearts forever and will always be remembered as "Uncle Tom" throughout the Pacific.

Our deepest condolences to Mary, the family and everyone on Norfolk. Sorry we are not able to be there with you.

Thank you Tom for being a big part of our lives!

*Bill and Jeannie Sakovich
Saipan, Northern Mariana Island, and Hilo, Hawaii*

Timi and Croyden, Jo and Jonno would like to offer a very sincere "thank you" to Mary, and your family who supported you Mary, for the years of friendship, love and care you have shown to Uncle Tom.

You have no idea how much it meant to us knowing he enjoyed his final years in a family full of love.

To hear the kitchen ringing with laughter, sitting with him enjoying the sun on the front verandah or watching you two talk 'shop' or doing research in the office, him dancing with Timi and always asking after Croyden, will be part of our memories of him for ever as we look out the printery windows across the lawn to Greenways.

We would also like to offer our sincere thanks to those special to him who visited Tom in his final days, and everyone who came together to farewell Tom and helped us ensure he had a beautiful farewell.

He was a special part of our family's lives with us, and Keith and Di all those years ago. A gentleman always guiding in his own way, for many a decade.

Thank you one and all.
