



Vale  
**Alice Inez Buffett, OAM**  
 6th March 1931 - 29th April 2017

**A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE  
 AN EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN**

The funeral service for Alice Inez Buffett was held on Sunday, 7th May, those who would be travelling in the funeral procession were introduced to Paul Stevenson who said: "For those who do not know me, I am Paul Stevenson and I came to Norfolk with my wife and family in the 1990s to manage the National Park.

Alice Inez Buffett, known to many of you as "Maa" was a Baha'i. She was the first Islander to accept Baha'u'llah and she wanted a Baha'i funeral, so this is the first Baha'i funeral on Norfolk.

Alice planned her funeral 8 years ago and she would be grateful to Rachel, Lorraine, Robbie and Maureen for implementing her wishes. Alice had asked Denise Quintal to conduct the service but due to Denise's poor health I have been asked to stand in for her.

The Life of Alice - The future will reveal the contribution of Alice to this community and the world in general.

Alice was a facilitator -She facilitated the recording of the heritage of Norfolk Island through her history books and her orthography of the Norf'k language which has allowed the flourishing of a new and vibrant literature.

- She facilitated the potential of many, probably hundreds of Norfolk Islanders through her counselling and encouragement
- She also facilitated change by questioning the status quo, especially regarding the equality of men and women and other social justice issues.

In her eulogy Maureen will provide more information on Alice, her life and contribution to this community.

A Baha'i funeral - As mentioned before, Alice was a follower of Baha'u'llah.

For those of you who do not know, Baha'u'llah, the Founder of the Baha'i Faith, was born 200 years ago  
*(continued overleaf)*

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***Alice Inez Buffett, OAM - continued***

and His teachings have since been adopted by the most widespread religious community in the world, second only to Christianity.

Baha'is have been coming to Norfolk since 1923, before Alice was born. Alice accepted the Faith, partly as it did not require her to compromise her love for Christ, but also because of its teachings that are relevant to the challenges of today.

The Baha'i Faith has no clergy so community members conduct the affairs of the community. My wife, Soussan, Colin Dibdin and myself have been members of this community and have returned to assist Alice's family and friends today.

There are few ceremonies in the Baha'i Faith and the only specified requirement for a funeral is to have the Prayer for the Departed which is read at the graveside.

Alice has added to this a series of readings and prayers that were meaningful to her and are footsteps of her search for spiritual truth. You will be familiar with more than half of the readings and hymns in the ceremony, that come from her Christian heritage.

The initial Baha'i prayer announces that every place where God is praised, that place is blessed.

Prayer for the Departed concludes with a series of repeated verses, each of which explores a dimension of our relationship with God.

The final prayer, one of the Baha'i prayers for unity, was the first to be translated into the Norfolk language by Alice, a tribute to her skills as a translator as well as her refinement of the Norfolk orthography. Dids (David Evans) has kindly agreed to read this prayer for us. Unity does not necessarily mean uniformity and the unity of the Norfolk community was important to Alice regardless of the differences of opinion that we might have.

Conclusion - While we grieve for our loss, we should also rejoice for Alice, who is now relieved from the discomfort she has had to bear for many years and we remember the grace with which she bore those trials. In many ways she was an example for us all.

Appreciation - The family and friends of Alice would like to thank all of you for coming today but particularly those who dig the grave, prepare the flowers, assist with the readings and provide those services which help to weld this community together.

Committal - "God has created all, and all return to God."

Prayer - Soussan Stevenson, wife of Paul then said the following prayer - "Blessed is the spot, and the house, and the place, and the city, and the heart, and the mountain, and the refuge, and the cave, and the valley, and the land, and the sea, and the island, and the meadow where mention of God hath been made, and His praise glorified. - Baha'u'llah.

Prayer For The Departed - Colin Dibdin continued with the recitation of the following prayer:- "O my God! This is Thy handmaiden and the daughter of Thy handmaiden who hath believed in Thee and in Thy signs, and set her face towards Thee, wholly detached from all except Thee. Thou art, verily, of those who show mercy the most merciful.

Deal with Her, O Thou Who forgivest the sins of men and concealed their faults, as beseemeth the heaven of Thy bounty and the ocean of Thy grace. Grant her admission within the precincts of Thy transcendent mercy that was before the foundation of earth and heaven, There is no God but Thee, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Generous.

Let him, then, repeat six times the greeting "Allahu-Abha", and then repeat nineteen times each of the following verses.

We all, verily, worship God.

We all, verily, bow down before God.

We all, verily, are devoted unto God.

We all, verily, give praise unto God.

We all, verily, yield thanks unto God.

We all, verily, are patient in God.

Baha'u'llah

As advised by Paul Stevenson, more than half of the readings and hymns in the ceremony came from Alice's Christian heritage commencing with the singing of the Hymn "What a Friend we shine Jesus".

The Old Testament Reading - Isaiah 55:9-11 was read by Rachel Nebauer-Borg and the Unity Prayer in Norfolk was read by David "Dids" Evans.

Maureen King then delivered the following Eulogy - 'Tis Sunday afternoon, 7th May 2017 and we have gathered together here at the Norfolk Island cemetery to, in our own personal ways to remember the life of Alice Inez Buffett.

Alice's God-daughter Rachel Nebauer-Borg, her God-son Ronald Ward, her nieces, Lorraine, Kathleen, Colleen, Sandra, here home from Sydney, and Patricia and all their families, thank you for your presence here this afternoon. Thank you to others who have journeyed from Australia to share and to remember Alice in your personal way.

Thank you to you all for coming and sharing and remembering.

Alice requested this to be her funeral service and according to these her wishes we must honour her. A Bahai funeral service.

ALICE INEZ BUFFETT and many, many folk in the community affectionately knew her as "Maa" was born in Norfolk Island on 6th March 1931 to respected parents, Thomas Francis Buffett and Nellie Elva Quintal. Her elder sister OEnone Harriett Buffett was born in 1923 and passed away in 2000.

Alice was baptised in St. Barnabas Chapel and confirmed as a believer of Jesus Christ in All Saints Church Kingston in 1942 when she was eleven years old. In 1992, as a devout believer of the teachings of Jesus Christ, Alice declared her understanding and belief in the Baha'i Holy writings because, as Alice declared, and I quote, "they clearly fulfil the message given to us by Jesus Christ in the passage of the Bible in St John's Gospel Chapter 16."

Alice married Donald Robson in 1950, he died in 1957, David (Lass) Edward in 1959 and Fredrick (Pow) Snell in 1996.

Here today is a very special gentleman, Robert and his dear wife Barbara Hoare. It was when Alice and Don Robson lived in Sydney that they took-in to care

- continued overleaf

**Alice Inez Buffett, OAM - continued**

for young Robert when he was eight years of age. The years have passed and Robert and Barbara have visited Alice often, pausing to remember with much thankfulness. Thank you Robert and Barbara.

You had planned to visit Alice this weekend and give her a surprise. Well, Alice gave you and all of us, her surprise!

In 1945 Alice, a student at Norfolk Island Central School was awarded the Queen Victoria Scholarship and so continued her education at Burwood Girls High School, Sydney Australia. She completed Arts 1 at Sydney University but left mid-way through her Arts 2 studies when she realised that she would not be successful in obtaining a high school teaching position at Norfolk Island Central School.

Returning to Norfolk Island in 1954 with her husband Don, he built for Alice, what became known as her studio in Grassy Road. It was at this studio she encouraged many up and coming young artists on Norfolk Island setting them on their roads to successful careers.

In 1979 Alice was elected to the first Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island. Also, the first woman to be elected. Alice was re-elected to the second, third and fifth Legislative Assemblies. In 1986 she held the Ministerial portfolio of Minister of Social Services. Alice was the prime mover for Norfolk Island Health Services especially for the aged in our community.

Alice had a concern for the good of our community and for anyone suffering, grieving or struggling in some way. She also was generous in spirit and up until the late 1990's, unlimited energies, catering for such functions as the annual Foundation Day (her birth

date) ANZAC and Bounty Days. It was Alice who revitalised Foundation Day celebrations as we know it today. In 1999 it was Alice who was the 'foundation stone' of seeking fundings to formulate a Breast Mammogram machine for testings on Norfolk Island.

Her musical talents, piano playing and singing, kept many a toe tapping late and into the early morning hours at places like the Paradise Hotel, Kingston, the RSL and many other venues around Norfolk. Dem tull they were great times! Alice loved to party.

Alice, in the late 1950's and 1960's was a Member of the Norfolk Island Bowling Club and for three consecutive years was the Champion Ladies Bowler.

In 1986 Alice was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship which enabled her to further her research in the Norfolk Island language.

Alice Buffett is the author of "Speak Norfolk Today" which documents the Norfolk-Pitcairn Languages which provides a speaking system and a complete grammatical analysis of the Norfolk Island language. Don Laycock was the linguist. This book was published in 1988.

Alice is the author of "From Coconuts to Computers" published in 2004 which documents her knowledge and life-long experiences of Norfolk Island, its cultures and traditions as related to Alice and her forebears from Tahiti, Pitcairn and Norfolk Island. Alice was the first to recognise in documentation form, the role of the Tahitian women.

Alice has also recorded a thought-provoking poem titled "Baek T' Biesk's" (Back to Basics) and will continue to be heard, down through the years over our radio waves. Thank you Maa.

*(continued overleaf)*

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## Mariah's

*An Interesting Difference*

### *Alice Inez Buffett, OAM - continued*

The two most engaging powers of an author, a writer such as Alice are to make new things familiar and familiar things new. A legacy left to us to be passed down from generation to generation.

Alice Buffett has been honoured and recognised world-wide for her services to languages receiving numerous awards. In 1995 Alice was "Woman of the Year" from the American Biographical Institute of the United States of America. In 2002 Alice Buffett was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the American Biographical Institute USA.

Having published "Speak Norfolk Today" and the International Auxiliary Language. Alice was acclaimed by over 300 professors of languages. She gave lectures on "Orltork" All Talk, in Oxford England and San Francisco USA.

Alice Inez Buffett is recognised for her authorship of the language in the White House Library USA.

Alice Buffett was decorated with the award of the medal of the Oder of Australia (O.A.M.) in 1995.

The 1st of May 2017, just a few days ago, Lesley Edward, President of the Women's Auxiliary Norfolk Island RSL Sub-branch received the RSL Badge and Certificate to present to Alice Buffett. The certificate is of thanks and recognition to Alice in "appreciation of the 20 years of service to Alice Buffett of the Norfolk Island RSL Sub-branch of the Women's Auxiliary." The badge has been duly pinned on Alice's frock.

Life is not fair, but it is still good.

Alice faced many personal challenges as her years went by. Today, it is my honour to recognise and thank the day by day, week by week, month by month and for thirteen years, the care for Alice, her needs and wants from both Rachel Nebauer-Borg, Alice's God-daughter and Lorraine Boudan, Alice's oldest niece, gave to Alice. Thank you to you both. Thank you also to so many other folk in our community who cared for Alice in so many different ways, truly appreciated.

A life well lived is a legacy.

Alice Inez Buffett

A woman of substance. An extraordinary woman.  
"in coelo quies" ... there is peace in Heaven.

(Maureen King).

The New Testament Reading - John 16:5-7, 12-16 was then read by Alice's God-son Ron Ward.

This was followed by the Committal and the placing of Floral Tributes on the coffin and the service concluded with the singing of "Come Ye Blessed".

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## Thank You

What a privilege to be a part of this, our very special Norfolk Island community. The family of the late Alice (Maa) Inez Buffett OAM wishes to extend many thanks to all for the incredible love and care extended to Alice.

The doctors, nurses, carers, and staff at the Norfolk Island hospital. Thank you for your loving care and compassion. The amazing Care Norfolk team, and the selfless and generous people who do Meals on Wheels. The ambulance and airline staff who have been so supportive of Alice's needs over the years.

She was very fond and so proud of her many knights in shining armour Robbie, those at KCI, Brentt, George, Dom, and Glen who have met her many maintenance needs over the years.

Especial thanks to the wonderful ladies at 'The Usual Place' for the beautiful wreaths and all who so generously donated flowers. To Mike at the Works Depot for the coffin. The Grave Diggers and Shane for their love and support. The wonderful mound decorating team of Binky, Derek, Ada, George, Brentt, Brandon and Ella. Tardy for driving the hearse, and dear Thomas for being with her and beside her. Thank you Jodie for Alice's police escort. Thank you to Sim for the music, and Dennis and the Lions Club for the sound system. Thank you so much also to Toni for your obliging nature and loving attention to detail, and to Cynthia and Susie for handing out the service sheets. The pall bearers Yvan, Dustin, Jacob,

Dom, George and Brentt who looked after her so wonderfully. The generosity of Gary and Lynne at Parklands is most also much appreciated. The lovely people who helped at the wake, and the extra special acknowledgement and thoughtfulness from the RSL Women's Auxiliary. Thank you also to Vince for her cross. Darlene and her team at Radio Norfolk, and Jo and Jonno at The Norfolk Islander for all that they have done to support us.

Alice found great comfort in her faith and special thanks is extended to Paul, Soussan, and Colin for travelling to the Island to help Alice on her final journey, and the extended Baha'i community for their devotion and support. Heartfelt thanks goes to our dear Maureen who so magnificently encapsulated an extraordinary life, and to Diddles for the special Norf'k reading.

Thank you to all who came to share in Alice's final farewell. Special thanks to Derek for coming home to be with us, and also to Robert and Barbara for being here to say farewell to our beloved Alice.

Our sincere gratitude also goes out to the countless streams of people, extended family, friends, and perfect strangers near and far who have constantly reached out in love and support of Alice. Your many acts of kindness and generosity are sincerely appreciated and have not gone un-noticed. She remained ever so grateful to you all.

Thanks be to God for this wonderful corner of His incredible creation and thank you all for the many acts of kindness and words of condolence. We love you all. With sincere and grateful thanks.



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## **The Alice Buffett Breast Cancer Screening and Related Services Charitable Trust**

records with deep sadness the passing of its founder Alice Inez Buffett OAM.

Alice's goal to see mammography breast screening equipment installed at the Norfolk Island Hospital came to fruition just months before her passing. Alice was overjoyed that her vision had become a reality and this community owes a great deal to this amazing lady. Her passion and determination along with hours of tireless work in organising, fundraising and networking was ongoing and only slowed when poor health forced her to retire. Although no longer directly involved her enthusiasm continued and 19 years after she established the Trust her incredible vision was realised.

Photo shows the breast screening room at NIHRACS which will commence operation later this year.

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## **Thank You**

The family of the late Lorna (Gran) Christian would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped during our sad loss:

St John's Ambulance crew, Hospital staff and Doctors for all their professional and loving care, family and friends who travelled from overseas, Joss and Juliette for getting everyone here, Radio Norfolk, Shane and the grave diggers, coffin makers, wreath makers at dar usual side, Wayne Bedford for Pall Bearers' car, Tardy, Police escort, Simone for the music, Lions Club for the sound system, Rick & Ukulele Band, Dave Magri & Diddles for the flowers, Jodie Williams for the service sheets, Bucks Point kids for handing out the service sheets, Pall Bearers, David Buffett for officiating the service, Tet for reading the eulogy and his Jim Reeves rendition, and Tet again for hot food and venue for the wake, and anybody else we may have forgotten.

Thank-you to all the wonderful people that have offered their love, support, prayers and beautiful wettles.

You don't realise what a wonderful place this is with all the kindness and generosity from a small community, where else in the world!

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## **Thank You & Congratulations**

**NIEMA would like to thank the below participants for entering their designs into the 2017 Country Music T-shirt Design.**

**Conor O'Grady, Madeleine Ponini and Paul Anderson**

**The winner of the NIEMA 2017 T-Shirt Design was Mardi Ponini with the below design.**



**Once again thanks to all those participants and congratulations Mardi.**