



VALE.

Those who have been going to and fro from Norfolk to Lord Howe Island will have, no doubt, met up from time to time, with one of Lord Howe's most esteemed ladies - Aggie Christian.

We heard the sad news last week that Aggie (nee Fenton) born on Lord Howe on 29th July 1899, died at her home "Kentia" on Easter Sunday, 19th April, 1992.

We are indebted to Joyce Petherick of Lord Howe for details of Aggie's life and passing.

Agnes - always known as Aggie - was sent to a Catholic Boarding School in Sydney at the age of 8 and it was 3 years before her father brought her back home to brothers Stan, Carl and Norman and sister Minnie, who is the only surviving member of the Fenton family.

Aggie had the pleasure of a visit for Easter holidays of nephew Stan Fenton, wife Heather and their son and daughter who actually stayed with Glen Fenton, widow of Stan Snr.

Other nephews Peter and Esvan and wife Jan, also nieces Rosemary Sinclair and Robyn Curtin flew to Lord Howe for the funeral on 20th April, officiated by Rev. Ray Beckman, assisted by Mr. Bill Ritmock who read the eulogy, so emotionally, to the packed Christ Church congregation and at the graveside at Ned's Beach cemetery.

Agnes married, when very young, Norfolk Islander Mr. Ben Christian and lived for a short time on Norfolk. They divorced in 1947.

Following Aggie's return from Norfolk Island she worked in Sydney but when she inherited the family home "Kentia" in 1934 she returned to start a long life among family and friends. "Pinetrees" Guest Lodge employed her for some 35 years over all and she helped Ray and Allen Wilson as

Hospitality Hostess at "Ocean View". After World War II. Aggie was called on to housekeep for a short time for her brother Stan when his wife suddenly died in 1951.

Finally, Aggie decided to use her talent for entertaining and cooking when she opened "Aggie's Steak Bar" at her home and it became a favourite venue for private parties for both Islanders and tourists for over 15 years.

She had been in retirement for some years but her home was always Open House to the huge number of friends she made through her long and active life. She loved reading and watching cricket on TV. She loved sing-a-longs and as recently as 7th April was entertained in her home by young locals led by Michael Nobbs in a sing-a-long until 11 pm. Aggie loved every minute of it!

In his eulogy Bill Retmock sums up Aggie Christian in these words: She was the kind of person who, if you knew her for 40 years, 10 years or 5 minutes you knew you were meeting a genuine, friendly and loving lady - someone with whom you were immediately at ease".

To Aggie, nowhere was quite as perfect as Lord Howe Island. She was fiercely proud of her family and she was an example to all who knew her of good humour, forthrightness, friendship and graciousness as she grew older and older to nearly 93 years.

As Aggie had a brother killed in World War I, she involved herself in work in the Womens Auxiliary of the R.S.L. and was President for many years;

Praise God for the life of Aggie.

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(Editor's note:- We understand that Michael and the other Norfolk Island boys sang "The Beautiful Stream" at the funeral.

And more sad news from Lord Howe - Allen Wilson, proprietor of "Ocean View" passed away in Sydney on Thursday, 23rd April.

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