



Vale Don Taylor

5 May 1948 - 28 June 2018

On Tuesday 3 July 2018 Don Taylor was laid to rest. Don passed away in the early evening of 28 June with his family by his side. He'd not long celebrated his 70th birthday, a milestone he didn't expect to make. Don was diagnosed with a particularly aggressive form of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) – respiratory onset – in March 2017.

Don was a familiar sight on Norfolk, often in the middle of the road or on the pier, with his theodolite, survey legs and witches hat, giving a gentlemanly nod or wave, and always happy to have a chat. As the island's surveyor since 1982, he came to know much of the island like the back of his hand, and befriended just about everybody who crossed his path.

Donald Roderick Taylor was born in Gloucester NSW on 5 May 1948. He lived with his family in the nearby old gold mining town of Copeland for several years before his family moved to Sydney. He went to school at Pymble Public School and then to Asquith Boys High. In 1966 he started work with the Housing Commission of NSW as a survey draftsman, which led him to study Engineering (surveying) at University of NSW. Work later took him to northern NSW. If Don wasn't working, he was surfing with his mates; a Mini Cooper S laden with boys and their surfboards roared up and down the east coast of Australia.

A tale is told that he was inspired by the film 'Endless Summer' (the theme song by the same name being his favourite tune), but got as far as Norfolk Island, and fell in love with it: its surf, its natural environment and its people, and so he stayed. Don was working as the maintenance man at Castaway Hotel when he met the holidaying Allyson in 1979. Don's cheeky workmate and flatmate 'Painter' (Johnny O'Sullivan) encouraged the shy Don to ask Allyson out, and then encouraged him to ask her to consider returning to Norfolk to be with him. Don and Allyson married in 1983 on the ridge top overlooking Ball Bay, and Hannah, Nathan and Genevieve soon followed.

(continued overleaf)

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Don Taylor - continued

In his early days on Norfolk, Don built many houses and worked on environmental restoration and the ratlines in the National Park. Almost single handedly, Don built a beautiful home in Mountbatten Park Estate, featuring his exceptional craftsmanship including stonework, timber turning and paneling. On building sites, in the National Park and surveying on rugged terrain, Don earned himself a reputation for his strength and stamina, traits that served him well in his sporting pursuits. Those that worked with him have many a fond memory and funny anecdote to share of these times.

Don had become involved in the Norfolk Island community quickly, particularly through his encouragement of sport, including surfing, karate, athletics and triathlon. He was instrumental in the commencement of the Norfolk Island (Shotokan) Karate Club, the Triathlon Club and the Little Athletics Association. He represented Norfolk Island internationally on a number of occasions, competing in the World Triathlon Championships on the Gold Coast and in Muskoka Canada, Manchester England and Wellington New Zealand, as well as triathlons in Saipan, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and regional Australia. His addiction to triathlon resulted in him completing at least 11 Ironman triathlons. For training, he loved to swim the channel between Slaughter and Emily bays, often with kids in tow or following behind, ride up Country Road trying to achieve a personal best, and run with mates through the national park. He was hard to keep up with. Once, he even swam with two friends out to Nepean Island and back.

For someone who loved to point out risks and warn everyone to be careful, he was a bit of a daredevil, particularly when it came to riding his bicycle down steep descents. Inspired by the Tour de France and his love for the French language, at age 60, Don travelled to France in order to conquer almost all of those famous climbs. Hannah and Allyson accompanied him on two separate trips. He loved France, and in addition to our extended Norfolk family, welcomed many travellers from afar into his heart and home over many years, extracting as many French lessons as he could. Don also decided to learn how to snowboard in his mid-sixties, which he got the hang of quickly thanks to his surfing skills. He loved going to the lesser-known ski fields in Japan. He refused to cancel his January 2018 Japan snowboarding trip until the very last moment, holding on to hope.

Don's other major passion was music. He learnt guitar as a teenager and went on to play lead in a band, playing his favourite music – The Shadows. Don learned classical piano and quickly discovered that playing Mozart's *Rondo Alla Turca* was an effective way of waking up the entire household at 6am. He could also sing, dance Rock 'n Roll, and even yodel. More recently, Don performed as a regular guest of Matty Zarb at the Jolly Roger. When MND robbed him of the ability to play the guitar, Matty would always play some of Don's favourite songs especially for him: *Streets of London* and *Caledonia*.

While Don and his family had relocated to northern NSW in 1995, Don returned a number of times each year to fulfill his surveying commitments on Norfolk Island, often bringing Allyson, Hannah, Nathan or Genevieve with him to work as his 'chainman'. In the past few years, Don had found himself living almost all year round on Norfolk, surveying and building a house with and for his son Nathan. Come November he found, with great frustration, that he was no longer able to help Nathan build. He was however, still able to give guidance and witness Nathan's progress.

Don's love for Norfolk Island never waned. Don said Norfolk was the only place on earth he felt truly at home. The words of Graeme Connors, "*home is not where you're born...home is where a man is prepared to die*" (Sicilian Born) resonated with Don. His family and the community rallied around to make this happen and to care for him. Each week the progress of the disease further devastated Don. He wanted another 25 years to build, surf, swim, ride, run, play guitar and piano, sing, dance, snowboard, tinker, yarn, ameliorer son francais, learn new things and enjoy time with friends and family. We are however comforted by his peaceful passing, his beautiful resting place, and the community he loved so dearly.



Don's family, Allyson, Hannah, Jamie, Nathan, Rati, little Anoushka, Genevieve, Tyler and baby Lennon wish to thank the Norfolk Island community for the love and friendship they have shown them over the past 40 odd years and for sharing Norfolk with Don forever more. In particular, we will all be so extremely grateful for the love and support of the community in this time, and for helping us care for and farewell Don. With you, we will dearly miss those blue eyes, his broad smile and gentle presence. Thanks fe Don. Ours mate always; may he rest in peace.

Thank You from the Taylor Family

Words cannot begin express the depth of our gratitude to the community of Norfolk Island during the ill health and passing of Don Taylor.

During the 15 months since Don's diagnosis of MND we received so many gestures of kindness and support from so many people, too many to name, as tempting as it is to try.

Please accept this message as our heartfelt thanks.

We do wish to give particular thanks to the doctors, especially Dr Alex John, hospital staff, especially Cheryl, Phyllis and Kath, Jim and Lou of St John's Ambulance, Edie and all the lovely ladies who made the floral wreaths, Candice and Trish for leading the most magnificent mound decorating, Rev. David Fell for the graveside service, Sexton Shane and all those who helped with the grave digging, Milton and the Lions Club for the audio, Jodi and Norfolk Island Police for leading the procession, the pallbearers, Barbara for the photos, and those who dropped off cards, flowers, fruit, vegetables, baking and home cooked meals. Thanks fe ucklun, Allyson, Hannah, Jamie, Nathan, Rati, Anoushka, Genevieve, Tyler and baby Lennon.

“To All Myse Norfolk Family”

Wael I car side fe start? Moosa kill me but we se ya! Doctors had a look on myse latest x-ray photo and yorlye nor gwen belewe et but he had the cheek fe tull wuthing any yorlye would tull, “Ooney es horse se daed”. But he nort know the half. Ef wasn't fe the likes of all yorlye orn Norfolk, I gut no bout a doubt et, I se plunt et by now.

We like a thank all dem bin pray fe ucklun. We do belewe een God and he surely bin part of myse life da much time I car starn fe larn, es jus I nor high up ar ladder as plenty, but thank you gain fe yorlyes thoughts and prayers. And as for the many yorlye that 'se time had some manners', ketching Beck and me at uckluns weakest by shuwen a money lorngfa card een uckluns harn....we se jes lors fe words. En fact, dar thing f Shankie, “that's unbeleweable”.

Thank you jes nor cut et, fact I still ya poodlen...I did tulla Beck, fuddet, we'll beat de thing and keep gwen roun da werld! I nor mean et, but truly many, many thanks. We nor moosa deserwe dea. God bless en luw all yorlye from uckluns heart.

*Snobbles en Beck
In Tijuana*

CESC4NI Inc.

Convention, Entertainment & Sports Centre For Norfolk Island

Our group of community members' key objective is to achieve the development of an international standard purpose-built convention, entertainment, emergency and sports centre.

This will provide the island a great venue for conferences, an indoor sports centre, a place for community concerts, events and school use as well as a haven for the community in an emergency.

The rationale for the centre is to improve facilities and generate improved economic and financial performance outcomes for the visitor industry and related / downstream businesses in Norfolk Island. This will involve better utilisation of a significant proportion of the visitor infrastructure in Norfolk Island (e.g. the airport, much of the accommodation, transport providers, food and beverage suppliers, and tourism activity and attraction operators).

We are pleased to advise that the feasibility study for this project is now complete. We will now move to get council approval, land use approval, ownership established and funding for the plans to be done and costing ascertained we will be able to go for major funding to have the centre built.

Anyone who is interested in progressing this project can contact me on email gonorfolkisland@gmail.com

*Louise Tavener - President
CESC4NI INC.*

Thank You

Norfolk Island Girl Guides Ass. would like to warmly thank the Community Grants Program - Norfolk Island Regional Council for the grant fund of \$5,000.00.

This was gratefully received to help replace the kitchen at the Guide Hall. This kitchen is used by many local and visiting organisations and events.

The local Girl Guide committee would like to thank the support of the Grant program, committee members and local supporters for your support and generosity in this project. It was a great success.

Yours in guiding

Norfolk Island Girl Guide Leaders.

Norfolk Island County Music Ass. would like to warmly thank the Community Grants Program - Norfolk Island Regional Councils for the grant fund of \$5,000.00.

This was gratefully received for the purchase of new sound equipment for the festival. This new equipment has allowed the quality of the festival to reach another level and allow NICMA to have equipment for other festivals and events on Norfolk Island to benefit from. NICMA committee members thanks you for your support.