

VALE

We had some sad shocks between Christmas and New Year - 3 deaths of men well-known and respected on the Island.

John Albert Edward Sturgess died in Sydney on 27th December as we understand, while going through surgery at Kogarah Hospital. He was 76 years old.

Ted was born in London on 28th January 1902 and came to Australia with his father and sister Kate soon after his mother had died. They lived in Lidcombe and Ted went to sea at an early age serving later as Head Steward on big cruise vessels. His first wife Maisie Christian of Nova Scotia (whom he met in New Zealand) died a few years before he return to Norfolk in 1974. They had no children. His father and stepmother were then living on Norfolk (Ma and Pop Sturgess as they were known affectionately to everyone). Pop died some 12½ years ago and it was in 1974 that Ted came back to look after his mother and her sister Minnie Crooks (who, incidentally, had gone to school with Ted when they were children in England). Ted and Minnie were married on 17th April 1977 both of them caring for Ma until her death last May.

It was an occasion of great happiness for all the community when Ted and Minnie married and they had a very short but intensely happy two years together. They were both much loved by everyone.

A keen follower of soccer, Ted was also an avid reader, his Bible always at hand. He had a tremendous rapport with people and a smile for all.

To our dear Min (now receiving loving care and attention from our hospital staff) we convey our heartfelt sympathies in the loss of Ted.

Pastor Laurence Gilmore interred the ashes of Ted in the Kingston Cemetery last Tuesday and read Ted's favourite hymn "Abide with Me" during the service.