



Vale

Mary Elizabeth Horrocks

A valued member of the Norfolk Island community, Mary Horrocks, passed away on Sunday 23 December. A moving service took place for Mary's burial on Saturday 29 December. The service was attended by Mary's family and friends.

Mary's family would like to thank everyone who joined in the service on Saturday and who provided so much support over the past week as we mourned the loss of Mary.

The grave-side service was sad but also a truly beautiful Norfolk experience. All those who had the joy of knowing Mary will understand how the setting expressed so much about Mary and how central the island and its people were to her life.

Early life

Mary's parents were Herbert Figgis and Vera Parkinson. Along with her sister Elaine the family lived in Narrandera NSW until they moved to Sydney in the late 1940s. Elaine and Mary were always close and we know Elaine will miss Mary deeply.

The early years of Mary's Life in Narrandera in the 1930s, with the love that existed within a very close the family gave the free-spirited Mary the confidence to stand up for herself, to enjoy life and to make the most of whatever life delivered.

Elaine tells us that even then as a young girl Mary was very mischievous. She would pinch her Dad's strawberries before anyone else had a chance to eat them. She liked the farm animals, but not so much the snakes.

One day, Elaine has told us, Mary decided she would learn to swear like the boys next door. Unfortunately she also decided she would share this newly discovered talent with everyone around her. The result being Mary and Elaine both ending up in the bathtub where their mother Vera scrubbed their mouths with soap and a toothbrush. Mary declared she wished she was a boy – because then she could swear!

(continued overleaf)



Real Estate

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AT THE ROUNDABOUT

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FLATS WITH INCOME!!!

2 x 2 bedroom fully self-contained flats with each with a rental return. This property has a bore which is a valuable asset on Norfolk Island during the dry summer months. The flats are well maintained with separate laundries for each flat. Both have front and back verandahs and a shared back yard with a vegetable garden. Central to School, Beach and town. This is a great investment for little outlay. **\$250,000**

'HOT TIN FOOF' – NOW \$475,000

3-bedroom/2-bathroom home on approximately 3500m². Historic Norfolk Island property, built with Norfolk Pine. Complementary blend of old and new. Positioned close to the school on Cascade Road. Solar power and hot water.

'RED ROOF' – COLONIAL SPLENDOR

This 5 bedroom/3 bathroom two storey plus bottom floor 2 bay garage residence is absolute Wow factor!! It is built in a colonial style with verandahs encircling the house. The large open plan kitchen and breakfast nook is generous and living and dining is also very spacious. **\$495,000**

BEAUTIFUL VILLA PLUS INCOME

This property has a commercial shopfront with a beautifully appointed fully solar powered, 3 bedroom/3 bathroom villa behind. The shopfront is currently tenanted to the business 'Sweeties', an iconic tourism confectionary store and provides a good income. The house has been furnished with exquisite taste, and has 3 spacious bedrooms each with ensuites and living spaces. **\$495,000**

Mary Elizabeth Horrocks - continued

In the 1940s the family moved to Fairfield in Sydney's western suburbs. Getting through Parramatta High School and training as a nurse set Mary up for a career in nursing. In their teens Elaine, Mary and their circle of friends attended parties, local dances, concerts and outings. They were very outgoing and always enjoyed a good time.

In the 1950s Mary met Sandy. They met at a dance and we know they felt strongly about each other from the very beginning - even though Mary always told us cheekily she was only initially interested in Sandy as he had a car. We know there was more to it though. In the old photos you can see they were always a good-looking and adoring couple.

Starting a family

Mary and Sandy were soon engaged, married and started a family, eventually having four children, Stephen, Greg, Peter and Louise.

Mary worked hard as a nurse including a few years at Concord Repatriation Hospital and Elaine tells us she coped even though her outgoing nature was not to the liking of the severe Army nurses. Elaine says she could always defend herself. She always stood up for what she thought was right.

Mary was working hard in a demanding full-time job with lots of night shifts, and as a homemaker with four young and very energetic children, living in Hunters Hill.

As a family, Mary showed us the importance of being true to yourself, enjoying life for what it is and treasuring the bond of family and community. Mary supported whatever path we took in life.

Island life

In 1977 Mary, Sandy and Louise moved to Cascade on Norfolk Island. Peter and Greg finished their schooling in Sydney and in time also adopted the island as their home.

Mary immediately found work at the hospital and developed some very close, life-long friendships. The hospital staff took their role in caring for the community very seriously. Providing the best possible care in such a remote place was a challenging task and led to some very special bonds.

One of the friendships Mary made at the hospital was with Robin May. Mary remained close to Robin who became very much a part of the whole family.

Mary and Robin set up the day care in New Cascade Road and took care of dozens of young children over the years. They are of course grown-up now and many attended the service on Saturday, along with their own families. We all know Mary would help out children and families without hesitation. Her support and dedication to local families is something that will not be forgotten.

We also know that in typical Mary style this was done with joy and there was always time for a good laugh. Mary was able to thrive in the welcoming Norfolk environment, for her personality to shine.

Mary's zest for life and love of people meant there was a unique connection with every person in

her life. The island community and the unique and resilient island culture was very close to her heart and something she was very passionate about. We know that Sandy and Mary never once doubted they had made the right decision moving to the island.

Mary was also very close to her grandchildren Isaac, Heidi, Veronica, Hannah, Holly and James. She was also close to Louise's husband Simon and to Stephen's wife Catherine and to all her nieces and nephews and other family. Two nephews, Peter Dugan and David Irvin, travelled to the island to be with the family during this sad time.

Each of Mary's grandchildren knows how important Mary was in making them who they are today, and how proud Mary was of them. Mary encouraged each of them to lead their own lives, and to be individuals.

Mary loved catching up with her grandchildren and their friends to recount stories and unravel the daily intrigues of island life. We know how much Mary loved the regular visits she received at home from her family and friends. [Mary was always a great listener and excellent at retelling the stories, often with greater impact with each telling].

Later years

Eventually Mary and Sandy both retired and enjoyed just being on the island, taking each day as it came in their home at Cascade. Mary loved her garden and cooking meals. Although as a true rebel she only gave cursory attention to recipes.

Mary liked to tease, but only when she knew that the pot she was stirring was also full of love, generosity and compassion. Mary encouraged us not to be intimidated or even frightened in the face of adversity. Mary taught all of us to enjoy life to the fullest, to speak our minds, and to face life's challenges and hardships head on. One of the toughest challenges Mary faced was carrying on after losing her much-loved husband Sandy in June 2007.

There were many chapters to Mary's life. From the young country girl who liked strawberries and causing mischief, to the teenager getting out and enjoying herself, to the nurse and carer, the loving wife and all-giving mother, the revered grandmother. Mary was fulfilled in life, she fully embraced the cycle of life and was ready for its end.

In life Mary gave everyone she met a gift more important than anything material. She gave them a sense of joy and perspective on life.

On Saturday Mary completed her life's journey by being laid to rest next to her beloved Sandy.

Thank you.

Thank You

Our sincere thanks to the Doctors and Hospital Staff, the wreath makers, Tardy, Shane, the grave diggers, Trent, Milton and David Buffett. Thankyou also to everybody who dropped in food, flowers and who gave their condolences.

Stephen, Greg, Peter, Louise and Robyn.