

VALE.

Whenever we hear the Pitcairn Anthem come over the air at the commencement of the day's radio programme, we wait, with a feeling of sad anxiety for the announcement.

To hear, last Tuesday morning that one of the younger members of our community, Peter David Rutledge (affectionately known as Mort) was no longer with us, completely stunned the island. He was 34 years of age, husband of Jane (nee Evans) and father of two small children, Jessica and Beau.

We could not do better for the families concerned than quote the Rev. Les Thompson who conducted the graveside service on Wednesday afternoon, 25th April:

Rev. Les assured Jane and her family, Ronda Gardner and her family, and Dianne and her family (both girls being Mort's sisters) of the sincere sympathies of the people of Norfolk Island.

Jane and Peter were married at Chapel on 19th December, 1981. He was always a good provider (he was a builder), loved life and his family.

"Obviously, from the Guard of Honour" said Rev. Les, "he was a very good sportsman - firstly as a rower - he was a member of the Golf Club, played Football for the Reds- an all-round sportsman.

The Rutledge family have certainly been ravaged by sadness, firstly by the death of Peter, Ronda and Dianne's parents then brother Bruce. Bruce's ashes will be interred here with Peter at a later date.

Today, being Anzac Day, we have been remembering those who were placed on the sacrificial altar of war and also today we are here to remember a young man who has been placed on the sacrificial altar of society.

I have often been asked the question 'why does God allow war and the tremendous taking of life' and the answer to that is that God has given to us in His love, the ability to choose. If we choose war then that falls on our shoulders and as in war, so too in this tragic circumstance, there is nowhere else to go but to God, who still holds out, through his son Jesus Christ, outstretched arms of acceptance to those who choose to be His children - the choice is always ours.

May God bring to you, Jane and your family, to Ronda and Dianne and their families, the peace of God that passes all understanding".

Jane, on behalf of herself and her two children, Jessica and Beau would like to express her sincere thanks and appreciation to the dear and caring community of Norfolk Island for their love and support in the loss of her husband, who was a great father, friend and mate.

A special Thank You to Mum and Dad, Rev. Les Thompson - and all those too numerous to mention.

Ronda, Dianne and their families thank you all for your love and sympathy shown to them in this tragic loss of their dear brother Peter.

"Remember Pete as a lovely young man full of love and compassion for his family and friends. All he wanted and needed were his family and friends, nothing else was important to him.

Pete, you may not be in our room, you may not be in your home on the hill but you will never leave our hearts. Rest in heaven in your new-found peace.

The flowers will smell sweeter,  
the playing fields wider  
Go and wander through God's garden  
until you find your resting place.  
The Lord is your shepherd"

.....

THANK YOU.

...The Senior Citizens would like to record their sincere thanks to Zena, Colin King and the South Pacific Resort Hotel management and staff for the wonderful afternoon given to them last Monday.

They all had a terrific time and will always remember that special afternoon.

...Ken Christian, who was unfortunate enough to have a grass fire get out of control and go over the cliff, wishes to give a big Thank You to Bebs and his boys and the Airport Fire Service boys who all did a mighty job in putting it out.

...Thank you to Judy Jarvis, Management and staff of the Hillcrest Hotel and to our friends who have all made our stay on Norfolk Island so enjoyable. Lisa and Steve.

**'PHONE 2494 KAA WAA FLORIST NOW**  
**For your Mother's Day Flower**  
**arrangement.**

HERE AND THERE -

...It is with a sad heart that Zena goes back to Sydney today, where Casey is waiting for her.

Casey is not keeping good health these days and will have medical tests next week pending more heart surgery.

Zena would like to say Thank You to all her friends and relations and workmates who have made these past few weeks at home so enjoyable

And - remember that kid who used to stand at the school gate and scream and cry for months after he started school?? Well, he's stopped crying and turned 18 last Tuesday!

Happy Birthday Roger, with love from Mum, Dad and Bobbie.

...Norma Roberts is welcomed to the island for a holiday. Norma, a retired Home Economics Inspector is planning a visit to our school where she will be made most welcome. It is hoped that she will become a regular visit to Norfolk!