



VALE..

In what was described as the "end of a musical era", Norfolk Island was saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Daisy Buffett, affectionately known to all as "Aunt Dais" - wife of the late Thomas Buffett of Douglas Drive, on Tuesday morning, 10th July, (just 14 days away from her 89th Birthday) at the Norfolk Island Hospital.

Daisy was born on 24th July 1901 to Annie May Rossiter (nee Robinson) and Hardie Rossiter. Her maternal grandmother, Hannah Quintal was among the Pitcairners who settled on Norfolk Island in 1856 and who later married Isaac Robinson in 1865.

Her paternal grandfather, Thomas Rossiter, came to Norfolk Island with his wife and sister, in 1859 to teach the schoolchildren of the community.

Daisy's father was overseer of the Melanesian Mission farm and in fact their family life was very much involved with the Melanesian Mission activities. After early schooling on the island, she went to Sydney and completed her education at St. Gabriel's Church of England College, Waverley.

Her musical talents were outstanding and she graduated as pianoforte teacher in 1921. After completing her professional musical qualifications, Daisy went on to learn the techniques of playing the organ at St. Jude's Church of England, Randwick where she earned her place as one of the known and respected organists in Australia. She certainly was the most professional musician of her time on Norfolk Island. On her return here she taught piano and organ but her major contribution was in her long and loyal years as organist of the Church, principally on the pipe organ at St. Barnabas Chapel and periodically at All Saints.

She accompanied services and the various choirs both in Chapel and other places.

As mentioned earlier, Daisy's early home was in the precincts of the Melanesian Mission. They firstly lived in a house along Pine Avenue behind the present residence called Bishop's Court. This

house was burned down during her early years, and the family moved into the vacated Bishop's house across the road from the Chapel.

Daisy's brother William was also a gifted organist. It says something for the musical perception of their mother, that she could stand on the verandah of the house and determine whether it was her son Willie or her daughter Daisy, who was playing the organ!

"Roselawn" in Douglas Drive was the home of Daisy and her husband Tom who was killed in an unfortunate accident down in his valley some 10 years ago. They had no children.

Aunt Dais had been an inmate of the Hospital for a number of years but prior to that she had received a lot of love and care from many people on the island, more particularly Jean Mitchell-Bishop and Alice Buffett. She lived with Alice for some time prior to the need for full-time hospital care.

The funeral service was held at All Saints, Kingston on a beautiful, sunny Tuesday afternoon and to play their last respects, members of the Chapel Choir joined with the large gathering in singing "Be Still my Soul", "The Lord is my Shepherd" and "The Sweet Bye and Bye".

In his address, the Rev. Les Thompson said "This service today is not a service of gloom. It is a service of Hope. There is a real sense in which this service belongs to Daisy Buffett - it is her last word to us. Aunt Dais was one who lived by her faith; she believed that Jesus Christ died and rose again and that in God's House there are many rooms - or room for all who would believe.....and it was in the resurrected Jesus that Daisy had her hope. With Him there is no more pain, no more tears, no more sorrow. That is where she is, with all those who have gone before, who have believed in God's plan. Jesus still says to those who would receive Him into their lives 'because I live, you shall live also'.

On behalf of the other members of the family (all nephews and nieces) - Thomas and Peter Rossiter, Marion Lyons (nee Adams) and her sister Alice Nobbs (nee Adams), Harry, Charles (Chilla) and Norman (Slick) Buffett I would like to thank all who have shown such kindness to Aunt Dais over the years - Jeannie and Alice, to the doctors and members of the Hospital staff for all their years of devoted attention, the Administration workers, the wreath-makers from "the usual place", to Tim for her lovely musical programme, the members of the Chapel Choir who took the time to come down to make it a real "musical farewell" to Aunt Dais and to the Rev. Les Thompson for a meaningful service for such a dignified and very gracious aunt. Tom Lloyd.

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