



*Vale*  
**Ronda Vivien Gardner**

**21st April 1949 - 1st December 2023**

We are here today to say a final goodbye to our Mum, Nana, Sister, Auntie and dear friend Ronda.

All that knew Mum were well aware that 'grey' did not exist – she was very much a black and white, spades a spade person but it is this trait that made most truly love her – her true essence. There was a little something special about her – even those that feared her were somehow drawn to her. It may have had something to do with her colourful vocabulary – she had a talent for turning a simple sentence into a masterpiece of colourful expressive language - no sentence was complete without 'FAARRK' being featured along the way.

We had a very fortunate childhood growing up on Norfolk Island in the beautiful home that Mum and Dad built together at Bumboras. All the neighbours new when dinner was ready, when Jim was being beckoned or when the kids were 'in the shit'. Brendon seemed to be a name often echoing across the valley – of course always in a loving kind and gentle manner – never with profanity.

Mum was quite the hostess and we have many memories getting up late to visit the bathroom, sneaking out into the dining room and peering through the window to find a cohort of topless woman frolicking in our swimming pool! As parents ourselves now, Mum has frequently lectured all of us on drinking around our children – pot calling kettle black!

Ronda established and owned the hairdressing Salon 'The Cut Above' – most of you will know the endearing 'nickname' that we dare not speak of right now (See You Next Tuesday) but there are certainly some fond and funny memories had upstairs in Foodlands.

Mum was renowned for her baking skills, many mouths salivate at the mere thought of her Chocolate

Eclairs, Jelly Cakes, Pavalova and Lamingtons. She had quite the sweet tooth our dear mum, Auntie Di sent over some Easter Bunnies for us one year and in true Ronda style she was a little peckish and decided at midnight to carefully unwrap the alfoil of one bunny and eat one ear and then carefully mould the foil back. Consequently, a week later, there were four children in tears as their bunnies had no ears! Dad was furious as he had to now deal with four mortified children.

In 1991, the family decided to move to NZ for a period. This seemed to be the start of a backwards and forwards journey as Mum always considered Norfolk Island her true home and her heart often drew her back here.

As you all know mum was medevac'd to Australia, Anzac day 2022. Mum's wish was to be able to return to Norfolk Island as a resident on the Randa however this was not possible due to her level of care needed. She dearly loved the staff at the Norfolk Island Hospital, not only were they her clinicians, they were her friends. The family would like to sincerely thank the staff for their unwavering and compassionate care provided to mum over numerous occasions.

Mum has since been living at the Te Mana care facility close by to both Brooke and Dionne. Ironically,  
*(continued overleaf)*



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**In The Village - Open 6 day per week  
Thursday to Tuesday  
CLOSED WEDNESDAY**

Coffee Machine is ready at 6.30am with  
**Old Quarter Coffee Merchants Coffee**  
So is the kitchen with Bacon & Eggs, Rolls,  
Breaky Burgers & lots more breakfast items.

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**BREAKFAST 6.30-11AM**

Muffins and sandwiches and more in the  
Cake Cabinet every day for smoko!

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**LUNCH FROM 10AM – 2PM.**

Chicken, Beef Burgers, Chicken Sushi Salad  
with the special board to look on as well.

**PHONE 24406 TO PRE ORDER**

Coffee, Breakfast or Lunch  
for dine in or takeaway.

**OLQTR**  
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### ***Ronda - continued***

she had previously worked in the nursing home and was now a resident herself.

Even though she yearned to be back on Norfolk, it gave Brendon, Dionne, Brooke and their children, good quality time to spend with her which they will forever cherish.

We would like to make special mention to the wonderful, compassionate and genuine care that she received at Te Mana from the staff. Mum being Mum, all of the staff fell in love with her unique nature and were very saddened at her passing.

As heartbroken as we are, we all know Mum is in a better place now. She will have plenty of catching up to do with all of the fallen stars.

As you all know – there are many many more funny stories to be told and certainly not enough time right now so please join us at Khan and Mandy's after the ceremony to celebrate mums life with us.

We love you dearly Mum – you were one of a kind which made you the most special - rest easy.

### **Thank You**

Our family wish to thank Shane and the grave diggers, the airport ramp crew, Mal and Leonard for driving mum home and to her final resting place, Colleen and Robyn and the wreath makers, all those that supplied flowers and greenery, Simon for the eulogies, Chris and Simone for the sound system and music, Kev and Kieran for the footage, Joss for the sweet wettles, to Don and his group for singing and to the lovely supportive Nobbs and Christian-Baileys families that have once again supported us with accommodation and vehicles.

There has been so much love support and assistance, if we have missed anyone out we apologise.

### **Thank You**

On behalf of the Norfolk Island Netball Committee, Norfolk Island Solomons players and Officials, NI Touch players & Officials, we would all like to say how overwhelming it was to receive the honor from the Norfolk Island Fire Service water fountain over the planes as we arrived back to Norfolk Island from 2 weeks of representing Norfolk Island and its Community in the 39th Pacific Games.

This welcome home indeed gave us all the greatest pride to be acknowledged in this prestigious way as we made the final trek arriving back on Norfolk.

The athletes had dedicated 10 months of being away from their babies, siblings, and parents, for a lot of hours during every week and weekend. Some players and officials had to put birthdays on hold – Milestones ones-18 and 21, family, work or friend events and gatherings and a lot of personal time into training. 4:30am getting up to be at training at 5:00am – Every week not here and there, not getting home to have dinner till 7:00pm sometimes 8:00pm and all did this with smiles on their faces knowing they would be representing their home and people.

So thank you NI Fire Station for recognizing the sacrifices all involved athletes played in their roles at the Solomon Island Pacific Games.

Even the pilots and hostesses were beyond honored to be part of the plane's arrivals home and never in their airline careers had they been privileged enough to be part of this ceremony.

Many thanks,

*Naydene Murray*  
Secretary



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