



VALE

The island has had more than its fair share of sadness this last week, with the so very sudden death of a young man in the prime of life and the passing of an older member of the community,

It is only a matter of some 3 weeks back when we heard that Russell Kilbourne had gone to Sydney for treatment. We were all staggered to hear of his death last Monday afternoon, 16th December, at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick.

Russell Stephen Kilbourne was born on Norfolk Island on 6th August, 1961, elder son of Lorraine (nee Christian) and John Kilbourne known always as Turk.

He left Norfolk after completing Year 10 at N.I.C.S. to go to Sydney where he completed his Painting and Decorating Apprenticeship.

He married Tracey (nee Britton) on 29th November 1986 and spent a year touring Australia, where he spent time tuna-fishing in Ceduna and working with heavy machinery in Esperance, Western Australia. They returned to Norfolk to settle in 1987.

They quickly settled back into Russell's beloved Norfolk where his capable, reliable wide-range of skills were appreciated by his workmates at the crusher.

A very keen, all-round sportsman, Russell represented Norfolk in the Norfolk Football team which toured New Zealand; in 1988 he represented Norfolk Island at the Brisbane Expo as a member of the Norfolk Island Bodybuilding team and again in Auckland in 1989. He also won a bodybuilding trophy in a local competition.

Not only bodybuilding but football and riding were some of Russell's loves - as a loyal, staunch Greens supporter and player and last December was part of a 6-member equestrian team touring the North island of New Zealand, where they achieved third place at the Wellington event.

As will be seen, he was an all-round sportsman, a very gentle Norfolker, who loved his family and animals. He had a dog - a "Heinz" variety who was called "Khan" and a quarter horse called "Missco" - companions who are going to miss his tender care.

It is hard to realise that this young man, with his many sporting, loving and caring attributes, has been taken from us so suddenly and the packed Chapel and large graveside services were indicative of the tremendous respect and love for Russell which the community shared with the grieving family.

Our deepest sympathies are with Tracey, with Lorraine and Turk, and brother Jonathan, with grandmother Lorna Christian, the Britton family and all other relatives on Norfolk and in Australia in their devastating sadness.

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The families of the late Russell wish to record their grateful thanks to the wonderful people both here and in Australia who gave them so much help and kindness, to all who arranged for Russell to be brought home to Norfolk to rest, the pall bearers, Rev. Les Thompson for a comforting and uplifting service. For the many cards and messages while in Sydney and again on Norfolk, the wreath makers and the floral tributes, and the other many expressions of love and sympathy.

God Bless and thanks all yorlye.

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Operator Allan Boyer is on Norfolk staying at the Crest
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