



The Norfolk ISLANDER



FOUNDED 1965

- Successors to -

The Norfolk Island Weekly News c. 1932 *The Norfolk Island Monthly News* c. 1933
The N.I. Times c. 1935 *Norfolk Island Weekly* c. 1943 *N.I.E.* c. 1949 *W.I.N.* c. 1951
Norfolk News c. 1965

VOLUME 16. No. 9

SATURDAY, JULY 18th, 1981

Price 40-cents

VALE

It's been a sad old week for Norfolk Island.

Just as the sea washes away the coastline day by day, year by year, so is Norfolk Island having its way of life - the lifestyle of the Pitcairners who have had such a tremendous influence on the community - eroded in the loss of Norfolkers like Wilf Randall and Julia Buffett - each having a special niche in the community.

Wilf Randall was a man who gave his life to his family and to the community.

After several months of ill health, Wilf passed away in the Norfolk Island Hospital late last Sunday evening, 12th July. It was a great relief to all that after a recent long spell in Concord Repatriation Hospital, he was able to return to Norfolk to be laid to rest in his homeland.

He was one of twin boys born to Albert and Jane Randall on 4th December 1913, living all his life on the island, going to school and taking up farming afterwards. He was a member of the Norfolk Island Infantry Detachment during World War II.

Marrying Edith Christian at St. Barnabas Chapel, their family of Brenda, Franklin and Basil - and their families - have continued to be and are a church-going family with a high standard of living and most respected in the community.

Wilf's life has been one of service - to all. A member of the Norfolk Island Advisory Council from 1951 to 1975, President of the Council from 1956 to 1960 and President of Committees on the Council from 1966 to 1974.

He sandwiched in also, the offices of Vice-President of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, President of the Norfolk Island Historical Society, first President of the Museum Trust, President of the Rugby League and Magistrate of Norfolk Island for many years.

In his office as President of Council, he was very much involved in the Centenary celebrations in 1956 and was Chairman of the 1974 Bi-Centenary Committee and Leader of the community on that great day when Her Majesty the Queen and members of the Royal Family visited Norfolk.

Wilf received a well-deserved OBE for his services to the community in 1971 (I can well remember the announcement at the New Year's Ball and the tremendous ovation Wilf got from all present).

Then, on the occasion of the Bi-Centenary celebrations, as a further recognition of his services to the community, he was awarded a special Citizenship Award by the Australian Government.

A quiet man in every respect, quietly spoken and gentle. He was a man of great vision and foresight, his influence on the community has been such that he could be likened to an Elder Statesman of the highest integrity. He also had a tremendous sense of humour and could be heard to quietly air his witticisms at well chosen times. He was a friend to all and adored by his family - especially by his grand-children.

History - the whaling years, the flora and fauna, the cattle, all had their place in Wilf's life and love for his island. His Church had a special place. At the time of his death he had been the Rector's Warden at All Saints, Kingston for over 20 years.

Such was the respect held for him that while a patient in Concord, our Archbishop, the Rt Rev Sir Marcus Loane and Lady Loane visited him as did many of our previous Ministers, including Silas Horton, John Merriment and Colin Berriman to name a few.

To Edie and her family, to Mrs. Randall Snr. to Wilf's brother Ron (a Missionary in South America), other brothers Frank and Ian and sister June, and other members of the family, we extend our heartfelt sympathies. The whole community shares your grief and our mutual loss.