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BY MONICA HEARY
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A WOMAN'S romance with a Norfolk Islander led to her daughter's own photographic romance with the historic place.

Marissa Fleming, 26, who grew up in Gymea and is only a fortnight away from returning there to live, has visited the island about eight times.

"Mum had a boyfriend there, so I've been going there for the past 10 years," Ms Fleming said.

Her own flirtation with photography, that is began when she was about 13.

"I did one of my major works for the HSC on Norfolk Island," she said.

The result of her visits to the South Pacific is the soft-cover coffee table book, Norfolk Island Through My Eyes.

Ms Fleming said the book mainly showed landscapes of the island, which was once a notorious convict settlement.

"I'm donating \$1 from the sale of each book to the Sunshine Club for medical supplies on Norfolk Island," she said.

But what of her mother's romance with the man who lived on Norfolk Island?

Sad to relate, he died.

Ms Fleming plans to sell book her book, which costs \$29.95, at the Gymea Village Fair,

9am-5pm this Sunday, October 26.



Book's a boon: Marissa Fleming has used her camera to produce a coffee table book that will help buy medical supplies. **Picture: Jane Dyson**

"It started with a Dream"

...but like all dreams that you tend to forget about in the morning, Marissa Fleming remembered hers, and the book that she had dreamt about 12 months ago, became a reality last Saturday, 4th October, with the launch of "Norfolk Island - through my eyes".

Now there are any number of books that capture the beautiful scenery and the unique little idiosyncrasies of Norfolk, and like many others, they have been dedicated to family and loved ones.

Marissa's book is dedicated "in loving memory to Wayne 'Doggy' Adams, showcasing his beautiful Island home. He and Norfolk Island hold a special place in my thoughts and my heart. He was a great person who made my Mum's heart sing, for that I am grateful".

Long time residents will remember that her mother Anne and Wayne, who used to call her 'Annabelles', had just become engaged when he died suddenly on 22nd December 2000 at the age of 46. He was the second youngest child of Bill 'Pumper' Adams and the late Clara Adams. He was given the nickname 'Doggy' after being attacked by a dog when he was 2 years old.

Bill, together with members of his family and a goodly number of island residents, gathered at "The Golden Orb" for the occasion, and thoroughly enjoyed the wet's and drinks that were provided. It was Wayne's brother Joe, who introduced Marissa at the official launch.

Marissa and her mother had been coming to the Island for many years. "During these times" she said "I had taken 'heaps of photographs and I thought why not do a book with a modern feel? Showing not only the beauty of Norfolk, but a book that would appeal to both young and old who would appreciate the modern and old-style Norfolk where the old and the new mix so well together".

In her busy life as a graphic artist, it took Marissa 12 months of hard work to finish this 36-page pictorial book which contains a wide selection of colour photographs from around the Island. There are shots of favourite places, magnificent sunsets, cows, dogs, roosters and even a recipe for Coconut Pie.

At the conclusion of the book, Marissa writes "So that was Norfolk Island viewed through my eyes. Take the time to find out for yourself, immerse yourself in the beauty that surrounds us, and always remember how special the simplest things in life are".

The initial print run of the book is 1,000 and at a retail price of \$29.95, it is sure to become a favourite for visitors and locals alike, who, apart from the enjoyment of owning the book, will find it a great present to post to overseas friends.



One dollar from each book sold will go to the Sunshine Club, and Jan Reeves, on their behalf, thanked Marissa for this generous donation "and I think the book is gorgeous. It is something different for Norfolk and I wish her well with the book".

"Norfolk Island - through my eyes" is available from PineTrees Tours, the Trading Post, Tourist Bureau and Jendi. Jan Reeves is handling the distribution, and she can be contacted on 'phone 22322.

Our picture show Marissa with her family and friends who accompanied her to Norfolk. From l. to r. (front row) - Her mother Anne Dennis, Bill (Pumper) Adams, brother Dylan Wright, Marissa, Chantelle Buchler (a Swiss exchange student who is staying with the family) and back row Joe Adams and Michell Bull.

- Tom.