

**Peter Mühlhäusler**

## **History of writing Pitkern and Norfolk – Appendices**

### **1. Pitcairn (outsiders)**

#### **1.1. Shapiro (1936: 210) extract from wordlist**

*solen*: the last; *es (a) solen*, it is finished, there is no more. This word is probably derived from ‘sole one’.

*a little sullen*: a little child.

*illi-illi*: used to describe a rough sea. The derivation is obviously from *hilly*, and the intensifying reduplication is a common usage in Tahitian and Polynesian in general.

*tai-tai*: Tahitian word meaning tasteless and, by transference, without charm when applied to people. This word also survives among the Norfolk Islanders, but it has vanished from modern Tahitian.

*boney-boney*: ‘very thin’. This is a nice example of Pitcairn adaptations: an English word reduplicated in Polynesian fashion with a distinction all its own.

*I kawa*: I don’t know. *kauaka* = *kauraka*, meaning ‘do not’, occur in Tahitian. The loss of the second *k*, a phenomenon common in Polynesian, would produce a word like *kawa*. Another Tahitian word: *kaore*, a negative adverb, also suggest *kawa*.

*plan*: *banana*, *plantain*. Apparently a contraction of plantain.

*es stolly*: ‘It’s a story’, or in more brutal manner, ‘it’s a lie’. *You tallin’ stolly* is a similar usage.

a) *bout you bin*; ‘Where have you been?’ I assume that this is descended *from whereabouts have you been?*

b) *bout you gwan*: I sometimes seemed to hear this as *bout you gowin?* ‘Whereabouts are you going?’

*almos’ daid for tired*: This needs no explanation.

*lebbly*: ‘leave it alone, let it be’

#### **1.2. Extract from Maude’s Pitkern wordlist compiled around 1940**

<b>Pitkern Word</b>	<b>English translation</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>orkle-sullen</i>	little children	One of the many variants of <i>little</i> , <i>likkl</i> .

		Some possible connections to <i>acklan</i> .
<i>got</i>	goat	
<i>plun</i>	banana	
<i>wittle</i>	food	Norf'k <i>wettles</i> , <i>wekels</i> .
<i>nawe</i>	swim	
<i>foot</i>	Why not?	
<i>kawa</i>	I do not know	
<i>odde de balke</i>	to whip	
<i>larner me</i>	teach me	
<i>booms</i>	bloomers	Possibly abbreviation of 'bum bags, breeches'.
<i>do thar proud</i>	to be cheeky	
<i>fer</i>	for	
<i>about yer gwen</i>	Where are you going?	
<i>papahai</i>	to mash (anything)	
<i>mummy</i>	to break (anything)	Uncertain origin, not documented elsewhere.
<i>bolt</i>	fireplace	Also, iron bars for holding cooking pots, (origin uncertain)
<i>yourly</i>	you all	
<i>me-worn</i>	alone	
<i>acklun</i>	ours	
<i>gwen</i>	going	
<i>tala</i>	taro	
<i>unna</i>	to grate	From Tahitian <i>ana</i> , 'a rough grater'. Norf'k <i>ana</i> 'seat grater/husker'.
<i>yotta</i>	grated coconut	Waste from grated coconut after cream has been extracted.
<i>nor</i>	not	
<i>tulla dem</i>	tell them	
<i>wal</i>	well	
<i>omity</i>	kneading trough	Norf'k <i>amete</i> , 'feeding trough'.
<i>oppe</i>	shellfish	Ross & Moverley (1964) list <i>ope</i> ,

		'limpet'.
<i>cot</i>	coat	
<i>yenna</i>	over there	
<i>stabbe-out</i>	come and rest	

## 2. Pitcairn Islanders' writings

### 2.1. Letter written by Fred Christian in 1938

Fred Christian (1883-1971) was one of the most respected Pitcairners of his time. It is interesting to see that he did not master Standard English very well; the letter contains several 'incorrect' verbal forms, mis-spellings and other 'un-English' features.

Concerning the Pitcairnese words and expressions given in the letter, these do not seem to have changed much since 1938:

Dear Friend –

I receive your letter dated Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 1937 about a week ago and now we are expecting to have a ship soon, going to N.Z. I thought I'll write you a few lines. I see by your letter that you have been to Norfolk Island and have learned some of the words that the people there used among themselves. Now of what I have heard from those who have been there they use the same speech or dialect as we do. Now I don't know if I am able to help you in this, but I will try to do my best. I am sure if I can talk it out with you I can do it better than write it. Now for instance if I met a company of people on the road or even two, I will ask them 'Bout yorlly gwen? the word yorlly means more than one, and in English it means 'Where are you folks going? But if it is just one person I will ask 'Bout you gwen? here another one. If some one asked me to do a thing (a work or play or anything and I don't know how to do it, I'll say *I car whut er way* that means 'I don't know how'. Here's another one. If a child can cry very easy, I will say, *jo too my-a*, and if myself and another man is chasing a goat, and the goat go over a hill and down in a Valley, he will call me *way-set*. I will say *gone down daffy* – if I want my knife and don't know were to find it, I will ask my wife, '*Ways my Knife?*' she will say *I car wayset* or *I nor been take it*, that means in English, 'I don't know were it is and I have never taken it', here's another one, if I go to your home and I feel like

eating a banana, I will asked you in Pitcairn, *you gut any plun fer I eat?* That means  
'you have any banana for me to eat?'

Now there are many more sentence I can put together but I think this is enough for time  
and if you want more you can let me know. I hope that this finds you well and enjoying  
much of the blessings of God, as it leaves me and mine.

So Good bye and God bless you

Yours Sincerely

Fred M. Christian

## 2.2. Examples from Källgård 1989

Going for fish

This text was written in the Pitcairn Island school, in the 1940s. It was submitted by  
Pastor Fred Ward, who, along with his wife Myrtle Lewis, were Seventh-day  
Adventist missionaries on Pitcairn Island for two periods of service, from 1938 to  
1944, and from 1947 to 1951)

*Gwen fa fish*

*One day em un Pa un Mamma un Thelma go down Rope fa fish.*

*We cetch three little small un. Wun we get down suff ent a good un.*

*We nor stay lorng time down. We ona stay tull Virgin get down ha 'Meddle Place', den  
we come.*

*Wun we get down 'Big Fance' we too 'fraid some people see us 'cause we nor catch a  
meal.*

Thomas Christian

Rough translation into English:

Going for fish

One day I and daddy and mummy and Thelma went 'Down Rope' to fish.

We caught three small ones. When we got down the sea was rough.

We didn't stay long down there. We only stayed till Virgin got down to the 'Middle  
Place', then we left.

When we got down to 'Big Fence' we were very afraid that somebody would see us, because we didn't catch enough for a meal.

Going for guava

This text (from the Pitcairn Island school, 1940s; submitted by Pastor Fred Ward)

*Gwen fa guorwa*

*I bin fer guorwa yester'dy an' I fin' my basket moosa full **un** I fetch et home fa make some jam un some roly-poly fa ower dinner.*

*Wun we get out in hem **guorwa** we see about fifteen persons dare **pecken** hem guorwa we mean a go fa. Plenty people go so we nor full ower barsket full.*

*Wun we on ower way comen home we go up Big Cave fer see har side. Make we sa go up es cos Jenny want to go up.*

A composition on 'fishing' written by an Island school child at about the age of 14 years, in the vernacular of Pitcairn's everyday speech, (Sanders 1957:52- school teacher on Pitcairn):

*Fishing*

*Wen hem maon go fer fish dem use a go down de Landing teck dem's boat, den dem go ou-ut. Den dem gwen putt one a hem maen shore let dem look fa dem's bait. Dem's kin a bait es Catfish un a crab. Dem fin hem week, un a little bet a water. Wen dem sa get dem's bait dem go in a boat, dan dem go fet Nanwy, Upapa, un a red snapper. Some time dem get plenty and some time dem get none. Wen hem maon come home hem gail guna be up ha ege larfen fer dem, but dem maen ony al larf too.*

Fishing

When the men go for fish they usually go down to The Landing, take their boat, and the they go out. Then they let one of the men go ashore and let him look for bait. Their kind of bait is octopus, and crab. They find the octopus in small holes – which contain only some sand, some seaweed and a little bit of water. When they have got their bait, they go into the boat, then they go for the *nanwe*, the *upa'pa* and the 'red snapper'.

Sometimes they get plenty and sometimes they get none. When the men come home the women will be up on The Edge, laughing, but the men will only laugh too!

### 2.3. Examples from Chauvel

<i>stolley</i>	‘story’ or ‘lie’
<i>dars-et</i>	‘That’s it!’
<i>lub-be</i>	‘leave alone’
<i>morla</i>	‘tomorrow’
<i>sink suff</i>	‘low tide’
<i>bussup</i>	‘broken up’
<i>pi-ar-lee</i>	‘small’
<i>naaway</i>	‘to bathe or swim’
<i>rummer</i>	‘fishing at night’
<i>umer-u-lar</i>	‘clumsy’
<i>rahulla</i>	‘dead banana leaf’
<i>tai-tai</i>	‘tasteless’

### 3. Norfolk Island (outsiders)

#### 3.1. Extract of a transcribed text collected by Flint

This transcription was designed by Flint (n.d.) ‘in ordinary orthography endeavouring to suggest nearest English equivalents where these exist, while trying to preserve the phonetic values’:

A. *Well, darlin’, I dah ho’ fer ours said ‘I’m so glad for our family’. Dem tellin’ me, you der on’y Quintal down yanner win er prize!*

B. *Is true, I win ah prize! An’ is fer ugly ‘it was anything but pretty’. An’ I learn-er you, if you on’y could see dem men down dere, ah gut er heard! Well, dem look er sight! Dea’s ugly!*

A. *Ah, haha!*

B. *But, as you know, all dah homesick fer Pitcairn, dem dunnow wuthing fer do, cry, laugh, ala wha’ ‘or what’. But any way, we get off good!*

A. *Ah thing dem tellin' me too!*

B. *Real good! Well, firs' thing we do, we go down ah – we come here on ah pier. An' hotyey dem dere to greet uchlen 'us'. (Is this a development of 'our clan'?)*

A. *Ah!*

B. *Well, we walk up ah side – dem dere taking our's photo, an' hatyey uchlen dere. Is ol' fashion one, but, do' min', we good!*

A. *Do' min, ah spirit is dere!*

#### **4. Norfolk Islanders**

##### **4.1. Poem written by Gustav Quintal around 1900:**

###### *UCKLUN*

*I wish I'll sorn(?) youallye  
We little sullun find  
Fe talk un write er good English  
Un tull our ours mind.  
We come er school moos every day  
Un tryer larna thing  
We read un write un talk un play  
Un sometimes use er sing.  
But when we all go home again  
We na'wer try un do  
Der thing our teachers tull er us  
En nawa talket too.  
We might as well shet up ours  
mouth  
Un talk on ours hand*

*Cos youallye nawa halp uklun  
To practice what we larn.  
How can we learn ef dars de way  
All youallye gwenna do  
Cos youallye know before I larn  
De thing I tull es true.  
We bin examine et again  
We wussun first I b'lieve  
Cos youallye know  
Dem English man  
We nawa ell deceive.  
De queshton all es eaisy one  
But we thought oh der hard  
Wa dem examiners, I know,  
Thought uklun all quite mard.*

*Now I ser done, un now I know  
All youallye glades me  
Un tull dar thing how wa-wa-  
ha,*

*Un semis way es me.*

**A later undated version attributed to George Nobbs**

**Ucklun**

*I wish I ell larna yorlye  
How hard wi little sullun fine  
Fe read en write en talk good English  
En talk et out ou-wus mine.*

*Wi bin examine et again  
Wussun fuss ef yu bleawe  
Cos yorlye know-a dem English maen  
We nawa ell deceiwe.*

*Wi go-a de school moos evry daye  
Fe try en learn a thing  
Wi read, wi write, wi talk en playe  
En sometime use-a sing.*

*All ou-wus examiners es  
Peter, Tom en Jack  
Doo yorlye worry ef wi nor  
Gut any prize des tack.*

*En when we all goo hoo-um frum school  
Wi nawa try en doo  
Dem thing ou-wus teacher tulla ucklun  
We nawa talk et too.*

*Now I se dun en I bet  
All yorlye glaed es me  
Yu tull dar thing es 'Whawhaha'  
En semis waye es me.*

**We (Islanders)**

I wish I could tell you  
How hard we children find it  
To read, write and talk good English  
And talk it out of our mind.

We go to school almost every day  
To try to learn things  
We read, write, talk and play  
And sometimes we are singing.

Our examiners are  
Peter, Tom and Jack  
Do not worry if we do not  
Get any prize this time round.

Now I have finished and I bet  
All of you are as glad as me  
You say this thing is 'Stuck up'  
And like this am I.

And when we all go home from school  
We do not try to do  
The things our teachers told us  
We do not speak it either.

We were examined again  
Worse than first if you believe.  
For you know those foreigners  
We can never deceive.

**4.2 Extract from list of expressions collected by Audrey and Olga Robinson for Administrator Pinney in 1937**

<i>I gwen lornga you.</i>	I am going with you.
<i>I ell go lorng fey you?</i>	May I go with you?
<i>Doon't you stay lorng time.</i>	Don't be long.
<i>doen</i>	doing
<i>Dunna.</i>	Don't be.
<i>We sey lee-ate.</i>	We are late.
<i>You sey emmuns?</i>	Why are you away by yourself?
<i>Doont you bleewe it.</i>	Don't you believe it.
<i>I car wat away.</i>	I don't know how.
<i>clahy</i>	cry
<i>my-oh</i>	you cry baby

<i>nooah</i>	no
<i>ye ('e' as in yes)</i>	yes
<i>cayt ('ay' as in day)</i>	cat
<i>dorg</i>	dog
<i>ah or dar</i>	that
<i>useah</i>	used to
<i>gude</i>	good
<i>nacey</i>	nasty, horrible
<i>wusser</i>	worse
<i>Wathing doen?</i>	What is she doing or what are you doing?
<i>Wathing you tull?</i>	What did you say?
<i>I larna you or I tulla you.</i>	I tell you. I told you. let me tell you.
<i>I tull yea.</i>	Too right. You bet.
<i>now</i>	You bet.
<i>Kimmie or gimme.</i>	Give it to me.
<i>Lebbee.</i>	Leave it.
<i>Lebbee jes now.</i>	Leave it at once.
<i>I wal thanks.</i>	I am well thanks.
<i>I starten.</i>	I am going.
<i>We start.</i>	Let us go.
<i>Foot?</i>	Why?
<i>Foo-ah?</i>	What for – why?
<i>Car foot – car fooah.</i>	I don't know why.
<i>He tull something?</i>	He said something – did he say anything?
<i>I car wats et.</i>	I don't know what it is.
<i>I putt out.</i>	I was annoyed. I hurried.
<i>nadah-one</i>	another one
<i>shet</i>	shut
<i>oopen it</i>	open it
<i>You wussun awah.</i>	You're worse than ever.

#### **4.3 Inscription on an ash-tray in the office of His Honour the Administrator, Norfolk Island (1950s):**

*Dey es fer ar boy fer Maude Mallet's Sonny, cos he nawer awer gut e ash tray fer I use when me en tadder sullun gu se hem.*

'This is for Maude Mallett's boy Sonny, because he never ever had an ashtray for me to use when I and other people went to see him'.

Maude Mallet's (nee Quintal) son was Douglas Evelyn Mallett (1887 - 1976).

#### **4.4 Script composed by Mr. Percy William Quintal (1910 – 1985):**

The following text, given to Flint around 1960, illustrates a traditional approach that spells words inherited from both Tahitian (*pe ar lee* 'tiny', *boo hoo* 'bump', *narway* 'swim') and English (*down, fall out, tree, long time, come back and home*) in traditional spelling.

*I gwen down Farder's morler fa see dar Pe ar lee boy fa dems; he fall out one tree and he sa boo hoo both his shin and dem tull he sa Hute Hute his ballay. I wish I gut some gothy fa carlay down fa hem; semes thing he gwen ar car go narway fa long time; but I gwen ar come back and larnar yorlya what a way home.*

I am going down to Father's place the tomorrow to see his little boy. He fell out of a tree and bumped both his shins and it is said that he scraped his stomach badly. I wish I had some young mutton bird to carry down to him; it looks like he won't be able to go swimming for a long time but I will come back and let you know how things are at home.

#### **4.5. Extract of a poem by Ena Ette Christian (1983)**

*Satan ell fine a mischief, yet  
I sore whun I 50, car bear f be idle,  
Moosa mard me No hoape o denyin'  
Em thought keep comen, tormenten  
me.*

*Bout a thing I could maek, ell do ulla  
be,  
I had a full life, bin ed wife en a  
mother,  
Breadwinner, frien, nurse en luwer.*

*En now car do nothing! I hawt t  
create,  
Nort f faem ulla wealth. F do nothing  
I haet!*

**Satan finds some mischief still**  
Convalescent at 50, impatiently idle,  
Refusing suppression or denial  
Thoughts tangle round tormenting  
me.

Of things I could make, could do or  
could be,  
I've had a full life. Been wife and  
mother,  
Breadwinner, nurse, friend and lover.  
Now all this time on my hands. I want  
to create,  
Not for fame or wealth. To do  
nothing I hate!

#### 4.6. Extract from Faye Bataille's Norfolk language lesson plans (ca 1986):

*When we es little sullen]dem bin use-a maek uklun work hard. I use-a carly d wort a fe wash a clorth an dem clorth dar dorty. Myse mum bin use-d maek ucklun g fe bacca stuff leaf an hew et in ar coppa so ell care-mare an den shi gwen tulla ucklun fe scrub dar randah en a table. Before wi g orn a baed ours dad bin use-a maek ucklun fraid cos dem use-a larn bout a ghose an plenty other fraidy thing. Ef wi do goode sometime dem e bin let ucklun g narwe an half ucklun nawa had a costume and use-a narwe in ours undies. Wi nawa had much fee eet but always had a poo-oo plun mudda, fry flour and a pi'llihi but wi all bin es healthy un. All em ole sullun use-a thort wi gael hawa wait about orn em maen but thing se chaeng. Lettle sullun bin use-a be seen but not heard an ef yo tark y gwen cetch et an ef y cly dem tull y es mio un.*

When we were little children they used to make us work hard. I used to carry the water for washing the clothes and the clothes were so dirty. My mother used to make us go to (gather) wild tobacco leaves and throw them in the cauldron so they could soften, and then she would tell us to scrub the veranda and the table. Before we went to bed our dad used to frighten us because he told us about ghosts and many other frightening things.

If we were good, sometimes they let us go swimming and half of us didn't have a costume and used to swim in our undies. We never had much to eat but always had banana dumplings, fry flour and pi'llihi but we were all healthy. All the old people used to think we girls had to wait about on the men, but things have changed.

Children used to be seen but not heard and if you talked I got a hiding and if you cried they called you a cry-baby.

**4.7. Examples of Shirley Harrison's spelling (from her unpublished field notes). Shirley was Morsby Buffett's daughter, the first Norfolk Islander to write an academic thesis on the language (1972):**

Transcript by Shirley Harrison

An example of Broad Norfolk

I tull "No, I car go des day, cos I too busy. Weather bin dar baid fe dar lorng, sullun bin car get een a fance fe do dems work. So I gwena haw'a work des day."

So he tull, "You mus be se mard. Morler el do. Nawer do anything des day when you el do et Morler. Besides, weather bin dar nasey fe dar lorng bin car do fe fishen, en sullen like a it a fish.

I said, "No, I can't go to-day because I am too busy. The weather has been so bad for so long people have been unable to get into their gardens to do their work. So I'm going to have to work (this) day."

***guid***

*I guid thanks.* – 'I am well thanks'.

*Hour guid fe si you.* – 'How nice to see you'.

*You how guid fe si et.* – 'How pretty, handsome you are'.

*Oh, de guid!* – 'Oh how nice'.

*Good suff.* – a calm sea; good surf;

*Suff how guid.* – 'How calm the sea is'.

*He do guid fe me.* – 'He treated me nicely (well)'.

*Suff se come guid.* – 'The sea has improved (calmed)'.

***mard***

*Dunna mard* – 'Stop being a fool'.

*Yer mardy.* – 'You simpleton'.

*marden* – to show off; *He marden fe her.* 'He is showing off to impress her'.

*mardes* – mad as; *You mardes a got.* 'You're as mad as a goat'.

*du mard* – 'act a fool'

*make mard* – 'pretend'

*big mard* – a fool; *Look out fe big mard.* 'Beware of the fool'.

*mard fe aingry* – 'mad with anger'

*You se mard me.* – 'You have infatuated me'.

**4.8. Extract from undated letter to Moresby Buffett around 1970 (writer unknown)**

*Wal I orna a baed sore en Jean dar for Aunt Ems come down en she tull she had one letter from Rob en also dar book for Karls. En I tulla her “Wal I send hem one book en I nor bin hear ef he get et”. Now Moss, did you get dar I send gen dar hospital? Anyway, do mind, lorng es you gut one, but I how wish I know whose dem sullun een. I know whose Pa Fart,’ cos I ell remember hem. One of my’s birthday he tulla me go or see hem en fetch one bag-en when I get there he tull dar bag too small cos he want to put one kitten in et.*

Well, I am in bed sick and Jean, Aunt Em’s daughter, came and she told me she had a letter from Rob and also Karl’s book. I told her ‘Well, I sent him a book and I have not heard whether he got it’. Now, Moresby, did you get the one I sent to the hospital? Anyway, never mind, as long as you have one, but I wish I knew who are the people in (the hospital). I know who Pa Fart is, because I remember him. On one of my birthdays he told me to come over and see him and bring a bag - when I got there he told me the bag was too small, because he wanted to put a kitten in it.

**4.9. Extract from Don Christian-Reynolds prize winning song *Norfook es ouwus hoo-um* (1984) - the spelling was subsequently changed to *Norfolk es auwas hoem*.**

*Hey! Yorlye cum narwi down-a town?  
Tek ar buggy down orn-e-sean  
Dem warta bin es coo-ulun en es sink suff out-a sight  
En sullun orn Norfook cah fraed een a night.*

**CHORUS**

*Norfook es ouwus hoo-um all ucklun lowe lewen orn ouwus oawen,  
Frum Tahiti en ar Bounty to Pitcairn  
En after dar een fifty six  
Wi saeleen down-a town.*

Hey are all of you coming swimming at Kingston  
We take the buggy down on the sand  
The water has been cold and the tide is low  
And Norfolk people can’t be frightened in the night.

## CHORUS

Norfolk is our home  
All of us love living here on our own  
From Tahiti and the Bounty to Pitcairn  
And after that in 1856  
All of us sailed in to Kingston.

### 4.10. From Alice Buffett & Don Laycock's 1988 *Speak Norfolk Today*.

A final word from Alice:

*Waal, das d' sistem en sam*

*Eksaampl f' gu lorng faret.*

*Boeth Norfukas en a' Pi'kernas*

*el yuus et w'laut.*

*f' du et.*

*Norfuk es nau 'a written language'.*

*To Gohd bii d' Gloere!*

*Em letl salan in Praimri Skuul*

*Tek twenty menets f' nowet*

*En em bigan iin Hai Skuul*

*Spaelen from et in ten menets.*

Well, that's the system and some  
examples to go with it.

Both Norfolk and Pitcairn Islanders

Can use the system with ease.

*Gieh wraiten et iin faiw menets.*

*Nau yorlye let em Ieta en em*

*Poetre en em sohng en em*

*Stoere haewet t' yorlyis haats*

*content.*

The Primary school children were able  
To use the system within twenty minutes  
Of our showing them, and the High School  
pupils could use it in ten minutes.

Gai was writing it in five minutes.

You can all now go ahead and write

Your letters, poetry, songs and  
stories in Norfolk to your hearts'  
content.

*Aafta twenti ohd iyas a' thinken*

*Baut et, hetieith f' orl haens*

*Lorngf' mais law, en lornga*

*Sinsiya graetiyuud d' Dohn*

*Leikik f' shoewen mii watawieh*

After over twenty years of thinking  
about it, here the system is for  
everyone, along with my love and my  
gratitude to Don Laycock  
for showing me how to go

about it.

Norfolk is now a written language.

To God be the Glory.

#### **4.11. From a personal letter dated 1 April 1992**

*Dear Vanessa en all dem little sullun in 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> class,*

*De fus thing I wunt yorlye know es dar card Vanessa fetch down fe me from all yorlye make me dar happy I moosa wawaha. Thanks fe me!*

*I hopen before lorng I gwen learn all yorlye's second name as well. You know foot? Cos when we es small-un, dar much Quental, McCoy, Chreschen, Young en e Adams beside Evans, Buffett en Nobbs, we car use ours surname. Myse father's name was Nash Christian, so dem usa call me Jean Nash ... jes like Tommy Snar was Snar Buffett's son ...*

*By de time deye letter get up e school, li gwen be se hooum. All dem hiah – doctors, nurses, cooks, dar one usa wash e clorth – all ell doo dar goode fe sullun. Even dar ell make you fell batter. But when you se really batter, nothing goode es when you ell go hooum.*

#### 4.12. Norfolk Island Central School (NICS) song

Composed by the schoolchildren with the help of Archie Bigg

Ode to NICS

*NICS dars ours name,  
Ours motto es fer 'Play dar Game',  
Learn fe be the best we ell,  
En haw respect fe maen en gael.*

*We starn agaddar all es one,  
We play agaddar en haw fun,  
All ucklen hu feel goode fe be,  
One piece of NICS society.*

*We're proud fe tull dat we belorn,  
So all join een en sing day song,  
NICS dars ours name,  
Ours motto e fer 'Play dar Game'.*

NICS that's our name,  
Our motto is to 'Play the Game',  
Learn to be the best we can,  
With great respect for fellow man.

We stand together all as one,  
We play together and have fun,  
Each one of us is proud to be,  
A part of NICS society.

We're proud to say that we belong,  
So all join in and sing this song,  
NICS that's our name,  
Our motto is to 'Play the Game'

#### 4.13. Examples of Norf'k displayed on NICS website May 2002:

*We gwen rama morla night.* 'Let's go fishing tomorrow night'.

*Yorlye hau waawaha.* 'You are stuck up'.

*Ai se slai saf tuu big.* 'No the sea is too rough'.

*He ell garet welaut.* 'He gets angry easily'/'

*Yu hau amaula.* 'You are clumsy'.

*Yu gut a hili.* 'You are lazy'.

*Da nufka se tow in em moo-oo.* 'That kingfisher has settled in the flax'.

*Lubii said es.* 'Leave it where it is'.

*Da little sullen se wylie up in ar pine.* 'That little child is stuck up in the pine'.

*El duu f'mada.* 'They'll do for dumplings won't they'.

#### 4.14. Extracts from a poem by Jackie Ralph (H.A.J. Quintal)

*Wal, hetai two yu sweet taiti*

*En one harn a full green plun*

*Jack, dare catten a firewood*

*He el cut some fey u when he dun.*

*Wal mus be right orn half pars three*

*afternoon musa gorn*

*I wunt a get dare when dem come shore*

*So I batta jog alorng.*

*Ha, dar boat musaa up ar pier*

*Batta timen I car wish,*

*Hey, yorley come down ya gen ucklun*

*En tek some yorley fish.*

*Cos I tull ye we gut plenty*

*Werry near full ay boat*

*All es em yalla cheek un*

*Noan es em White Oak.*

Well, here are two sweet potatoes for you  
And one hand full of green bananas  
Jack, there cuts the firewood  
He can cut some for you when he is finished

Well it must be just about half past three  
The afternoon is almost over  
I want to get there when they come ashore  
So I better make a move  
Ha, the boat is almost at the pier  
I can't wish for better timing  
Hey, you all come down to us  
And take some fish for you  
Because I tell you we got plenty  
They nearly fill the boat  
They are all yellow cheeked one  
None of them is a white Oak.

#### **4.15. Coconut Song (extract) – George Edward Le Cren (Steggles) 1937 – 2002**

*We gut a palmtree, we gut a pine  
We gut wahines and never you mind  
We gut everything Tahiti gut  
We only nor gut a coconut.*

*We gut Ilene singen a hula tune  
We gut Marina swayen underneath the moon  
We gut everything Tahiti gut  
We oony nor gut a cononut.*

#### **4.16. Keepers of the fire alight (extract) – Karlene Christian**

*Duu dieh, duu daa, giw orl yu gat. Yas*

*mais haat en den samor.  
Teket, moeldet, basetap, nor  
gwen chienj wathing we gat.  
Es ya en nau d'taim es rait f'  
wi digiin en hoelorn tait t'  
d'tenyuas threds of auwas berthrait.*

*Oe kakm t'mii orn wan fain nait  
Ornaa byuutiful krimsn Norfuk flait  
Kiipas ofaa faiya alait.*

#### **4.17. Teach me how fer lew (extract) – Kath King**

*Turtle turtle down Black Bank  
Cum roun ya sim me  
I down ya waiten me worn  
Wall me en dem Oafie.*

*Larn bout how bin usa be  
When whalen was about  
En dem maen bin usa row  
Till 'Dere she blows' dem would shout.*

#### **4.18. Three little sucken pig (Norfolk Island style) – Archie Bigg**

*Hettay one storey  
Bout three little pigg  
En one ugly grey wolf  
Who was naisy en big.*

*En da moos thing he wunt  
Dar hungry grey dorg  
Es fe chew up en swallow  
Dem three little horg.*

*One day mother pig  
Send dem three far en wide  
'Se time yorlie three  
Build yours very own side'.*

## **5. The KAVHA (Kingston and Arthurs Valley Historical Area) Brochure Text (about 2010).**

### **English**

Norfolk Island holds a unique place in British and Australian history, beginning with the discovery and naming by James Cook in 1774. He recommended that the island's resources of pine trees and flax could be utilised for the Royal Navy. Consequently a British settlement was established in 1788 as an adjunct to the newly formed colony at Sydney Cove and used free settlers, Marine guards and convicts as labourers. In the area known as Kingston and Arthur's Vale, grain and meat were produced and shipped to Sydney but in 1814 the island was deliberately abandoned, the pines and flax being unsuitable and the severity and vagrancies of the weather made servicing extremely difficulty.

In 1825, another British settlement was begun as a penal institution for convicts, originally transported from Britain but later to contain repeat offenders from New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land. It became a terrible place of punishment and, due to appalling conditions of imprisonment and cruel, sadistic treatment by some Commandants, was closed down in 1855.

The next period of settlement began in 1856 when the entire population of Pitcairn Island was transported from their homeland to begin a new life on Norfolk Island. They were the descendants of sailors who mutinied on the Bounty, made Pitcairn their home with their Tahitian wives but, after nearly 70 years, had outgrown their small island. The Pitcairn settlers inhabited the usable buildings in the Kingston area, quarried the abandoned gaol and other prison structures for use as building materials for their homes but turned their backs on the convict past as it was not of their making.

## Version 1: Alice Buffett's spelling system (as printed in the KAVHA brochure)

*Norf'k Ailen gat ets oen said ina English salan's histri, staaten lorngfe d'taim Jiems Kuk fain et en giw wan niem en 1774. Hi tal dems shep gwen el yuus Norf'ks pain ena flaeks f' maas ena siel, soe jes aafta dem setl Sidni, dem kam u'ya. Dem fech 'salan en f' short taim dem werk Daun'Taun en groe d' grien ena miit f' senet baek. Bat dem liiw Norf'k en 1814 kos dem pain enem flaeks kaaduu en saf el stadap welait.*

*Dem trai et gien en 1825 yuusen aa jiel f' dem conwik jes senet aut fram Inglan, den dem tan dorg en yuus et f' dem wasesan dem haed. Dieh said kam wan 'd' nehsies en kruweles said yu el fain tal dem shet et daun gien en 1855.*

*D' neks salan f' yuuset es wen orlem kam krors fram Petkern en 1856. Dem kam ya f' staat gien. Dem's kamfram esem mien orf aa Baunti enem gehl dem tek from Taahiiti se'mte yias for daa, wen dem setl orn Petkern aafta daa myuutene. Sens den, gat tuu mach dem f' sti deya soe dem kaum uya. Dem lewiin em haus daun'taun en tekem stoen en eni taeda thing framem jiel dem el yuus f' miek dems nyuu hoem, den tan dems baek orn' Taun ko tuu kruwel en ent dems kamfram eniwieh.*

## Version 2: KAVHA brochure as corrected by Alice Buffett

*Norf'k Ailen gat ets oen said ina English salan's histri, staaten lorngfe d'taim Jiems Kuk fain et en giw wan niem en 1774. Hi tal dems shep gwen el yuus Norf'ks pain ena flaeks f' maas ena siel, soe jes aafta dem setl Sidni, dem kam u'ya. Dem fech 'salan en f' short taim dem werk Daun'Taun en groe d' grien ena miit f' senet baek. Bat dem liiw Norf'k **iin** 1814 kos dem pain enem flaeks kaaduu en saf el stadap **welaut**.*

*Dem trai et gien **iin** 1825 yuusen aa jiel f' dem **konwik** jes senet aut fram Inglan, den dem tan dorg en yuus et f' dem wasesan dem haed. Dieh said kam wan 'd' nehsies en **kruuweles** said yu el fain tal dem shet et daun gien en 1855.*

*D' neks salan f' yuuset es wen **orlde**m kam krors fram **Pitkern** en 1856. Dem kam ya f' staat gien. Dem's kamfram esem mien orf aa Baunti enem gehl dem tek from Taahiiti **semnte** yias for daa, wen dem setl orn Petkern aafta daa myuutene. Sens den, **haed** tuu*

*mach dem f' sti deya soe dem kaum uya. Dem lewiin em haus daun'taun en tekem stoen en eni taeda thing framem jiel dem el yuus f' miek dems nyuu hoem, den tan dems baek orn Taun ko tuu **kruuwel** en ent dems kamfram eniwieh.*

### **Version 3: Nobbs Palmer's spelling system**

*Norfolk I'len gut ets oon-a side in-a English sulluns histori, starten lorng fe de time James Cook fine et en giwe et un naem in 1774. Hi tull dems shep gwen ell use Norfolks pine en flax fe mars en-a sael, soo-u jes arfta dem settle Sydney, dem come oo-yiah. Dem fetch a sullun en fe short time dem werk doun-a-toun en groo-u d' graen en a mit fe senet back. But(t) dem leaw Norfolk en 1814 cos dem pine en dem flax cardoo en suff ell studup(p) will-out.*

*Dem tri et gaen en 1825 yoosen ar jial fe dem kornwik jes senet out from England. Den dem tun dorg en use et fe dem wussas-un dem haed. Deye side come un-a de naseyes en crueles side yu ell fine tull dem shet-et doun gaen en 1855.*

*D'nex sullun fe use et es wen all dem come craws frum Pitcairn en 1856. Dem come yiah fe start gaen. Dems come frum es em maen orf a Bounty en em gael dem teck frum Tahiti. 70 yiahs fe dar, wen dem settle om Pitcairn arfta de mutiny. Sens den gudd/gut too much a dem fe sti dere soo dem come oo-yiah. Dem lewe in em house doun-Toun en teck em stoo-un en eny tadda thing frum em jial dem ell yoos fe maek dems new (?) hoo-um, dem tun dems baek orn a toun cos too crooel en ent dems come frum eni waye.*

### **Norf'k version 3: Buffett spelling system I modified by Mühlhäusler**

This is what the KAVHA text would look like:

*Norf'k Ailen gut ets oen said in ar English suluns histeri, starten lorng fe de taim James Cook fain et en giw wan niem en 1774. Hi tul dems shep gwen el yoos Norf'k pain en ar flaeks fe mars en ar siel, soe jes arfta dem setel Sydney, dem kam ooyar. Dem fech a sulun en fe a short taim dem werk Doun ar Toun en groe de grien en a miit fe senet baek.*

*But dem liiw Norf`k en 1814 kos dem pain en em flaeks kar doo en suf el studup welout. Dem trai et gien en 1825 yoosen ar jiel fe dem konwik jes senet out frum England, den dem tun dorg en yoos et fe dem wusesun dem haed. Dieh said kum wun a da nehsies en krooweles said yoo el fain tul dem shet et doun gien en 1855.*

*Dar neks sulun fe yooset es wen orl dem kum krors frum Pitcairn en 1856. Dem kum ya fe start gien. Dems kumfrum es em mien orf aa Bounty en em gehl dem tek from Tahiti semnte yias bifor dar wen dem setel orn Pitcairn arfta dar myootini. Sense den gut too much ov dem fe stie deya soe dem kam oo yar. Dem lew in em hous doun ar toun en tekem stoen em eni taeda thing frum em jiel dem el yoos fe miek dems nyoo hoem. Dem tun dems baek orn toun ko too kroowel en ent dems kumfrum eniwieh.*

The reasons for modification include:

- Existing norms - an examination of a large body of data on written Norf`k from a variety of sources suggest that there are a number of norms for representing the sounds of Norf`k.

These include:

short [a] is usually written 'u' as in *bus(s)* 'burst';

long [u:] and at times short [u] are usually written 'oo' as in *moosa* 'almost'; *cardoo* 'unacceptable'; *loosi* 'to cry', *Toon* 'a personal name';

long [a:] is usually written 'ar' as in *mard* 'mad, fooling around';

the diphthong [a<sup>u</sup>] is usually written 'ou' as in *doun* 'down'.

Consequently, Buffett's 'a' has been changed to 'u', 'uu' to 'oo', 'aa' to 'ar', and 'au' to 'ou'. As the symbols selected to represent a particular sound are arbitrary, this change does not undermine Buffett's principle that sounds should be represented in a systematic fashion. With the four changes, Norf`k will look more similar to English.

A second change, suggested by many people, is that names of places or people are spelled as they are in English – thus *Petkern* becomes Pitcairn, *Kuk* becomes Cook, and so on. The

exception is *Norf'k* and other exceptions for very common Norf'k names may also be acceptable.

A third change concerns the apostrophe/ '/, which in Buffett's orthography signals either an unstressed reduced vowel {schwa}, or a glottal stop, as in *mama' ap* 'cause one to screw up the face' or, in the text passage, introduces the possessive '-s' (in *salan's*). Many Norfolk Islanders find the apostrophe confusing and it is used inconsistently by Islanders who employ it in the Buffett system. It is suggested that it is not needed for the possessive, that it could be useful to represent the pause or glottal stop, and that it should be replaced by the vowel symbol of the vowel that has become reduced in unstressed position. The actual vowel chosen is 'e' in most instances.

There is one additional change which could greatly increase the systematicity of the orthography. Whereas the original Buffett system can be used to represent any Norf'k sound, be it as encountered in carefully pronounced individual words, be it in fast, connected speech, the modified system represents words only as they are carefully pronounced in isolation. This is common practice in most orthographies; it dramatically reduces the spelling variants without psychological disadvantages. Fast pronunciation is based on slow pronunciation – the differences can be accounted for by simple rules which speakers subconsciously apply.

Another consequence is that this convention increases the transparency of written texts by avoiding complex long words that can be heard in fast delivery. Again, what is pronounced as one word may be psychologically more than one. Entries from Buffett's dictionary such as:

<i>safeldu</i>	→	<i>suf el(l) doo</i>
<i>simisyorlye</i>	→	<i>simis yorlye</i>
<i>raepetguud</i>	→	<i>raep et good</i>

The actual pronunciation of individual words of Norf'k has been documented in great detail in an unpublished phonetic analysis by Flint (*Form-meaning relationship* MS, undated) which has been consulted for the present exercise.

**Version 4 – Modified Buffett II with further modifications by Mühlhäusler**

*Norf'k Ailen gut ets oen side in ar English sulluns histeri, starten lorng fe de time James Cook fine et en giw et wan niem en 1774. Hi tull dems shep gwen ell use Norf'k pine en ar flaeks fe mars en ar siel, soe jes arfta dem setel Sydney dem cum ooyar. Dem fech a sullun en fe a short time dem werk doun ar toun en groe de grien en ar miit fe senet baek. But dem liiw Norf'k en 1814 cos dem pine en dem flaeks cardoo en suff ell studup waelout.*

*Dem trai gien en 1825 yusen ar jiel fe dem konwik jes senet out frum England. Den dem tun dorg en use et fe dem wusses-un dem haed. Dieh side cum wun a dar nesies en krooweles yu ell fine tull dem shut et doun gien en 1855.*

*Dar neks sullun fe use es wen orl dem cum krors frum Pitcairn en 1856. Dem cum ya fe start gien. Dems cumfrum es em maen orf ar Bounty en em gehl dem tek frum Tahiti seventi yias bifer dar wen dem setel orn Pitcairn arfta daa mutiny. Sens den gut too much ow dem fe stie deya soe dem cum oo yar. Dem lew en em hous doun ar toun en tek em stoen en eni taeda thing frum em jiel dem ell use fe miek dems nyoo hoem. Den tun dems baek orn ar toun cos too kroowel en ent dems cumfrum eniwieh.*

The additional modifications are based on the following considerations:

A large-scale analysis of how Norfolk Islanders spell their language in all kinds of texts suggests:

- a) many words are spelt in a number of different ways;
- b) the most frequent words (*yorlye, sullen*) tend to have the greatest number of spelling variants;
- c) where there are many variants, there is usually a clear norm (in the sense of 50% plus of the writers prefer this spelling) with frequent words;
- d) less frequent or difficult words than (*bembaya, bembraer, bebae, beya*) also show many spelling variants, but there is no clear trend as to which of the spellings is favoured.

It is suggested consequently that those frequent words for which Norfolk Islanders have developed an informal norm should follow majority use. This means of course that they will

be spelled unsystematically and that at times their pronunciation cannot necessarily be guessed from their spelling. However, this is not a great drawback, because:

- 1) The most frequent words tend to be recognised as whole shapes, not as individual segments;
- 2) the fact that the most frequent words of English and many other languages typically do not follow any spelling rules does not greatly impact on readability.

In Modified Buffett Spelling Version II, I have identified the following irregular spelled words in this text:

<i>cardoo</i>	‘insufficient’
<i>cumfrum</i>	‘provenance’
<i>cum</i>	‘come’
<i>ell</i>	‘can’
<i>cos</i>	‘because’
<i>pine</i>	‘pine-tree’
<i>sullun</i>	‘people’
<i>side</i>	‘side, place’
<i>myse</i>	‘mine’
<i>use</i>	‘use’
<i>time</i>	‘time’
<i>suff</i>	‘sea, surf’
<i>maen</i>	‘man’
<i>tull</i>	‘tell’
<i>mutiny</i>	‘mutiny’
<i>fine</i>	‘find’
<i>wusses un</i>	‘worst one’

### **What further modifications could there be?**

One of the issues not addressed is how to decide whether a word is a word of the Norfolk language and thus should follow Norfolk orthographic conventions, or whether it is an English word. Given the amount of mixing and borrowing, this is not an easy question to answer. In

the original text sample, we have mixed orthographic forms such as *conwik* and integrated forms such as *kruweles*, *myuutene* and *eniwieh*. And further, in subsequent paragraphs:

<i>bai stiebelaisen</i>	‘by stabilising’
<i>tuuls</i>	‘tools’
<i>wordhi</i>	‘worthy’
<i>rejesta</i>	‘register’
<i>aedmenestrieshan</i>	‘administration’

If Norf’k is going to be used in more contexts, these issues are likely to become more important.

### 5. Norf’k Orthography in the Norfolk Islander

Most common usage in the Norfolk Islander 2003 - 2006	Beryl Nobbs Palmer	Alice Inez Buffett
<i>yorlye</i>	<i>yorlye</i>	<i>yorli, yorlye</i>
<i>sullun</i>	<i>sullun</i>	<i>salan</i>
<i>ucklun</i>	<i>ucklun</i>	<i>aklan</i>
<i>moosa</i>	<i>moosa</i>	<i>musa</i>
<i>watawieh</i>	<i>whutta-waye</i>	<i>watawieh</i>
<i>hilli</i>	<i>hilly</i>	<i>hili</i>
<i>guud / gude</i>	<i>gude</i>	<i>guud</i>
<i>Jaero</i>	<i>Jarroo</i>	<i>Jaero</i>
<i>look orn</i>	<i>look-orn</i>	<i>lukorn</i>
<i>lettle</i>	<i>lettle</i>	<i>letl</i>
<i>daa</i>	<i>dar</i>	<i>daa</i>
<i>Norfuk</i>		<i>Norfuk</i>

#### ***Spelling variants found in the Norfolk Islander 2003 – 2006***

*yorlye*

Variations: *yorlyi, yorly, yorley, yourley, yorlyeh, yorli, yorlie, yorle, yawli*

Comment: *yorlye* is used regularly from 2003 to 2006, so often partly due to a regular almost weekly column that begins *Watawieh yorlye*, though at least once begins *Watawieh yorlyi* (03/06/06). Laycock- Buffett's *yorli* is used rarely, and only more recently. In 2005 and 2006, *yorlyi* is the second most common spelling .

*yorly* 22/11/03

*yorley* 22/11/03, 25/09/04 (thank), 04/12/04 (thank), 08/10/05 (ad)

*yourley* 06/11/04, 16/04/05 (minister's fraternal), 27/08/05,

*yorlyeh* 20/05/06 (thank)

*yorli* 02/10/05, 03/05/06

*yorlie* 03/06/06

*yorle* 13/05/06

*yawli* 28/01/06

*yorlyi* 17/05/03, 30/08/03, 14/08/04, 28/08/04, 21/08/04, 28/08/04, 22/10/05, 25/02/06, 11/03/06, 13/05/06, 03/06/06

*yorlye* 22/11/03, 13/12/03, 20/12/03, 10/01/04, 17/01/04, 24/01/04, 31/01/04, 07/02/04, 28/02/04, 06/03/04, 20/03/04, 03/04/04, 10/04/04, 17/04/04, 15/05/04, 22/05/04, 12/06/04, 19/06/04, 07/08/04, 28/08/04, 04/09/04, 11/09/04, 18/09/04, 02/10/04, 09/10/04, 06/11/04, 20/11/04, 27/11/04, 11/12/04, 18/12/04, 08/01/05, 15/01/05, 08/01/05, 29/01/05, 05/02/05, 12/02/05, 19/02/05, 05/03/05, 19/03/05, 16/04/05, 18/06/05, 27/08/05, 12/11/05, 19/11/05, 26/11/05, 03/12/05, 17/12/05, 28/01/06, 05/03/06, 11/03/06, 25/03/06, 06/05/06, 13/05/06, 20/05/06, 27/05/06, 03/06/06, 10/06/06, 17/06/06, 24/06/06, 01/07/06, 12/08/06, 19/08/06, 02/09/06, 09/09/06, 30/09/06, 07/10/06, 18/11/06.

### ***sullun***

Variations: *salan*, *sullen*

Comment: rise in use of *salan* as the book *Awas Salan* gets mentioned several times:

*sullen* 13/12/03, 17/01/04, 06/11/04, 15/01/05, 29/01/05, 02/10/05

*salan* 21/08/04, 13/05/06, 03/06/06, 12/08/06, 02/09/06, 16/09/06, 25/11/06

*sullun* 06/11/04, 22/01/05, 20/08/05, 17/12/05, 25/03/06, 27/05/06, 03/06/06, 17/06/06, 16/09/06.

### ***ucklun***

Variations: *aklan, ucklan, uklun, ukland, uklun*

Comment: Both *aklan* and *ucklun* is used regularly from 2003 to 2006, though *ucklun* is more common.

*ucklan* 10/11/01, 20/03/04, 29/04/04, 11/09/04, 06/11/04, 29/01/05, 12/02/05

*uklun* 19/11/05

*ukland* 30/10/04

*uclun* 16/09/06

*aklan* 20/12/03, 26/06/04, 28/08/04, 04/06/05, 07/08/05, 22/10/05, 25/02/06, 06/05/06, 13/05/06, 03/06/06, 07/08/06, 12/08/06, 23/09/06, 07/10/06,

*ucklun* 20/12/03, 17/01/04, 31/01/04, 20/03/04, 03/04/04, 10/04/04, 08/05/04, 25/09/04, 23/10/04, 06/11/04, 22/01/05, 26/02/05, 10/04/05, 18/06/05, 20/08/05, 08/10/05, 22/10/05, 10/12/05, 17/12/05, 25/02/06, 13/05/06, 20/05/06, 27/05/06, 03/06/06, 24/06/06, 01/07/06

### ***moosa***

Variations: *musa, morsa*

*musa* 29/04/05

*moosa* 22/11/03, 22/01/05, 15/10/05, 22/11/05, 20/05/06, 14/10/06

*morsa* 22/11/03

### ***watawieh***

Variations: *wata wieh, whataway, whutawai, whatawieh, wataway, whataweih, watawie, wataweih*

Comment: *watawieh* is used regularly from 2003 to 2006, partly due to a regular column that begins *watawieh yorlye*.

*whutawai* 02/10/05

*wata wieh* 04/09/04 (photo of tourism sign)

*whataway* 09/10/04, 18/11/06

*wataway* 09/10/04, 22/01/06

*whataweih* 06/11/04, 27/08/05 (thank),

*wataweih* 17/06/06

*watawie* 19/11/05,

*watawieh* 22/11/03, 31/01/04, 07/02/04, 28/02/04, 06/03/04, 03/04/04, 17/04/04,  
21/08/04, 20/11/04, 08/01/05, 05/02/05, 12/02/05, 19/02/05, 05/03/05, 19/03/05,  
16/04/05, 27/08/05, 19/11/05, 26/11/05, 25/02/06, 06/05/06, 03/06/06, 01/07/06,  
19/08/06, 09/09/06, 30/09/06

### ***hilli***

Variations: *hili*

Comment: one restaurant/bar uses *Hillies*, *Hilli*, *Hillis* and *Hilli's* when spelling its name in advertisements.

*hili* 07/08/05

*hilli* 20/12/03, 27/05/06

*Hillies* 13/03/04, 22/01/05, 16/09/06

*Hillis* 27/08/06

*Hilli's* 20/12/03, 06/03/04, 15/05/04, 09/10/04, 18/03/06)

### ***guud / gude***

Variations: *goode*, *gude*, *gud*, *good*, *guid*

Comment: Not a word used very often so has less data, but *guud* and *gude* seem to be used most commonly from 2003 to 2006.

*goode* 18/09/04, 18/11/06, 19/11/05

*good* 10/11/01, 10/06/06

*gud* 20/12/03, 25/02/06, 20/05/06

*guud* 17/05/03, 29/05/04, 26/04/05, 28/01/06, 13/05/06

*gude* 30/10/04, 11/12/04, 20/08/05, 27/05/06, 03/06/06

*guid* 02/10/05

### ***Jaero***

Variations: *Jarro*, *Jarroo*

*Jarro* 10/04/04, 28/08/04

*Jaero* 15/05/03, 17/04/04, 01/05/04, 01/05/04, 26/06/04, 16/10/04, 30/10/04, 13/11/04,  
20/11/04, 11/12/04, 15/01/05, 22/01/05, 29/01/05, 12/02/05, 19/02/05, 20/08/05,  
12/08/06, 23/09/06  
*Jarroo* 18/11/06

### ***lettle***

Variations: *letl*

*letl* 22/01/05, 21/08/04

*lettle* 20/03/04, 15/01/05, 20/08/05, 17/06/06, 18/11/06

### ***Norfuk***

Variations: *Nohfook, Norf`k, Nohf`k, Norfolk*

Comment: *Norfolk* is counted as *Norf`k*, the language, when used in a text string that is otherwise only using *Norf`k*. The abundance is partly from an ad saying ‘*es so Norfolk!*’. *Norf`k* replaces the previous *Norfuk* as a less offensive alternative (presumably), but the usage of *Norfuk* still continues .

*Nohfook* 02/10/05

*Nohf`k* 25/02/06

*Norfolk* 27/11/04, 04/12/04, 18/12/04, 28/01/06, **13/05/06, 17/06/06, 18/11/06**, 25/11/06,

*Norfuk* 31/07/04, 14/08/04, 21/08/04, 28/08/04, 11/09/04, 18/09/04, 25/09/04, 02/10/04,  
20/08/05, 28/01/06, 20/05/06, 23/09/06

*Norf`k* 07/08/05, 20/08/05, 13/05/06, 03/06/06

### ***daa***

Variations: *dar*

Comment: partly due to *Daa Side Fe Ucklun* (29/01/05) column and *Daa Skull Kaentin* menu.

*daa* 17/05/03, 31/01/04, 03/04/04, 21/08/04, 11/09/04, 25/09/04, 23/10/04, 06/11/04,  
20/11/04, 29/01/05, 08/10/05, 10/12/05, 17/12/05, 15/07/06, 25/11/06

*dar* 10/11/01, 19/07/04, 20/08/05, 02/10/05, 22/10/05, 10/06/06

***look orn***

Variations: *luuk orn, luk orn*

Comment: *Look orn*, partly due to an ad *Es Himii – Yorlye walcum fe cum look orn*.

*luuk orn* 30/08/03

*luk orn* 21/08/04

*look orn* 07/02/04, 06/05/05, 13/05/06, 03/06/06, 01/07/06, 12/08/06

7. List of 100 most commonly used Norf'k words and their spelling in the Norfolk internet forum. Bold forms represent the Laycock-Buffett writing system. The most commonly encountered spelling comes first:

1. <i>arter/aaya artha orn</i>	admire
2. <i>baali/baeli</i>	stomach
3. <i>baird/bierd</i>	bird
4. <i>bun pine/ban pain/ bunn pine</i>	burnt pine
5. <i>bus/bas/bass</i>	bust, damaged
6. <i>caerk</i>	shit
7. <i>carwaar/cahwah/kawa/kahwah/kawhaa</i>	don't know
8. <i>comen/cum/kamen</i>	coming
9. <i>crabs uuoo</i>	intestines of crab
10. <i>croes</i>	across
11. <i>cushu/ cooshoo/cootoo/cushooe/cussoo/gooshoo/kussoo</i>	comfortable
12. <i>dafi/ daffie/daffy/daefi/daefi</i>	that way
13. <i>dare/dea/deya</i>	there
14. <i>des dei/dess dae/des daey/des day</i>	today
15. <i>dorg/dawg/dog</i>	dog
16. <i>down a town/doen a toe/doen a tuwn/ doewn'a toewn/doewn'a tuwn/dowun a town</i>	Kingston
17. <i>dumien/domine/dumine/domain/doomine/do mind</i>	never mind
18. <i>ent</i> (this is the same in traditional spelling)	is not

19. <i>estolley/stolly/stolley/stolli/stoli</i>	it's just a story
20. <i>foot/fut/fuut</i>	why
21. <i>fraedie/friyed/fraed</i>	scary
22. <i>g'/go/guu</i>	go
23. <i>gael/geil/gehl</i>	woman, girl
24. <i>glaed/gleard/glaid/glehd</i>	glad
25. <i>good/gudde/goode/gude/gude</i>	good
26. <i>grarbalaeg/grab a laeg/graab'lieg</i>	bindy
27. <i>guddet/guddett</i>	angry
28. <i>haends (plural)/haan/harn</i>	hand, arm
29. <i>hatta</i>	had to
30. <i>hettae/huttae/hetieh</i>	voila
31. <i>hiji/hee-hee</i>	periwinkle
32. <i>hilli/hili/hillie/hilly</i>	lethargy
33. <i>ho yar</i>	exclamation of resignation
34. <i>hooey hooey/huehue/hoowi-hoowi/huihui/hoowe-hoowe</i>	dirty, spooky
35. <i>hutt/hutten</i>	hurt
36. <i>huwa huwa/howa howa/hawa hawa</i>	soiled
37. <i>iwwi/iwi/iwie</i>	tiny
38. <i>kardoo</i>	not good enough

39. <i>knoew</i>	know
40. <i>larn/laan</i>	learn, inform
41. <b><i>loen</i></b>	lonely, alone
42. <i>looken orn/look orn</i>	look at
43. <b><i>lorngfe</i></b>	with, next to
44. <i>lubbee/lubbe/labi</i>	let be
45. <b><i>maad/mard</i></b>	mad, angry
46. <i>maek/mek/miek</i>	make
47. <b><i>mauth</i></b> /mouth	mouth
48. <i>mine/main</i>	mind
49. <i>moo moo</i>	big monster
50. <i>moosa/muusa</i>	almost
51. <b><i>morla</i></b>	<b>tomorrow</b>
52. <i>mys/myse/mais</i>	my
53. <b><i>nada/nadda/naeda</i></b>	another
54. <i>naersy/nesy/nairsy</i>	nasty
55. <i>name/niem</i>	name
56. <i>Narwi/nawi/naawi</i>	swim
57. <i>normatta</i>	no matter
58. <b><i>nort/nought</i></b>	not
59. <i>onie/oonie/oody/oony/uni/oode</i>	only
60. <i>oo dae</i>	out there

61. <i>ooya</i>	over there
62. <i>pili/pilli/pilly/philly</i>	stuck
63. <i>plenti/plenty/plente/plen-teh</i>	plenty, many
64. <i>plet/plett/plate</i>	plate
65. <i>poet/poewt/poat/poo-utt</i>	posterior
66. <i>porpae</i>	cherry guava
67. <i>potagee</i>	unreliable
68. <i>randa/raenda/randah</i>	veranda
69. <i>say/seh</i>	say
70. <i>se/ser</i>	completion marker
71. <i>shep/shepp</i> (this is the same in traditional spelling)	ship
72. <i>side/sied/said</i>	place
73. <i>simes/semes/semis/semmes</i>	like
74. <i>simmisa'thing/semes'thing/simmis'thing/semis-thing/simisthing</i>	just like
75. <i>starn/staan</i>	stand
76. <i>stick/stik/in a stick</i>	wooded area, scrub
77. <i>suff/saf</i>	sea, surf
78. <i>sullun/sullen/salan</i>	people
79. <i>sum/sam</i>	some

80. <i>sumbodie/sambodie</i>	somebody, anybody
81. <i>tek/tekk/tekken</i>	take
82. <i>thaenks/thaensk/thenk/thenks</i>	thanks
83. <i>thawt/thort/thorts</i>	think
84. <i>throt</i> (this is the same in traditional spelling)	throat
85. <i>tork/toerken/talk</i>	talk
86. <i>tull/tulla/tullen/tal</i>	tell
87. <i>ucklun/ucklan/acklan</i>	we
88. <i>ulla/ala/uller/ullu</i>	or
89. <i>ummaoolla/ama'ula</i>	clumsy
90. <i>unnai/unnae/anieh/unay</i>	question tag
91. <i>use/usea</i>	habitual marker
92. <i>uwa/uwas/ouwa/ouwas</i>	we, our
93. <i>waal /well/wal</i>	well,
94. <i>waay/weigh/way/waey/wieh</i>	way
95. <i>wataway/whut a weih/watawieh</i>	how are you
96. <i>wathing/wuthing/whathing/wuthen/whuthing/whatthing</i>	what
97. <i>wettles/wetls/whettles</i>	food
98. <i>ya/yah</i>	hear
99. <i>yorlye/yorlyi/yoorlie/yorley/yolli</i>	you all
100. <i>youen</i>	yours

# Yu el Tork Norfuk?: a writing system for Norfolk Island

If you know 'Watawieh?' means 'Hello, how are you?' in the language of Norfolk Island you are on your way to becoming fluent. If you can not only reply 'Wael, thaenk yu, watawieh yuu?' but can also write that down, then the chances are you have had a pre-publication peek at *Speak Norfolk Today*, by Dr Donald C. Laycock and Alice Buffet. Dr Laycock is a Senior Fellow in the Department of Linguistics, Research School of Pacific Studies (RSPacS), and Miss Buffet is a former Minister of Primary Industries and Social Services in the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, and a descendent from both a Bristol schoolteacher who settled on Pitcairn in 1833 and, through his wife, of the *Bounty* mutineers.

Their book, which will be available this year, is a result of a joint collaboration between Dr Laycock and Miss Buffet to devise a writing system for the Norfolk Island language.

Norfolk, as a form of speech, derives from Pitcairn, which evolved from the speech of the *Bounty* mutineers and their Tahitian wives and companions.

There have been attempts on the part of educational authorities to eliminate the Norfolk speech, and even some modern-day mainland teachers living on Norfolk appear to think the regular use of Norfolk outside the classroom is a drawback to the children's progress; but Norfolk has survived, and thinking Norfolk Islanders believe the time has

come to devise a writing system so that the language will not be lost.

In a paper on *The writing of Norfolk*, Dr Laycock explained that although Norfolk Island is a territory of the Commonwealth of Australia, Norfolk and Australian English have had very different histories for most of their existence. It is because of this independent development that Dr Laycock decided not to base a writing system for Norfolk directly on the spelling of Australian English. Instead, he chose an integrated approach similar to the writing system used for Pacific pidgin and creole languages, since Norfolk possesses sounds that cannot be represented easily in English orthography. Also, English spelling is itself so erratic that its irregularities are simply carried over into Norfolk, with compounded results.

Take the words 'pane' and 'pain', for example. In English, as in Norfolk, these two are pronounced exactly alike. Which should be taken as the model Norfolk spelling? The Norfolk sound in these words is not the same as in English; in the Laycock-Buffet orthography these words would be written *pien*. The same sound occurs in the Norfolk words for 'edge' and 'age', which are also pronounced identically. The new spelling writes *ief*. These sounds could not be spelt adequately in an English-based system.

Dr Laycock and Miss Buffet have applied their written system to their grammar and phrase book, *Speak Norfolk Today*, which will be privately published. Dr Laycock claims that all the words of Norfolk can be written in his proposed system, and that it can be learned within an hour. Both he and Miss Buffet hope that their writing system will be used by all Norfolk Islanders, and that the book will be purchased by visiting tourists as well as interested academics.

Dr Laycock will be speaking on the status of Norfolk at an ANU seminar on May 28 (2pm, Seminar Room C Coombs Building). He hopes to challenge some of the traditional assumptions about the origin of the language,

## 9. Some recent examples of written Norf'k in the public domain

Most of these are written in the traditional orthography, but there are many examples of a mix between traditional and Laycock-Buffett spelling (marked bold). There are very few examples of consistent use of the latter.

The Bounty Committee (2 June 2007) reminded the islanders to attend the Bounty Day Celebrations as follows : *Cum orn yorlye, es uckluns day!*

- A series of stamps issued around 2004 was called '*werken dar shep*'
- The Norfolk Blue Restaurant, opened in 2009 invites its guests '*welcum tu awas world*'
- New names business names since 2000 include *Big Suff* (Big Surf), *Hillis* Restaurant, *Car beat ett* 'car hire firm', *Se Moosa Bus*. a mobile food outlet

The official (until 2016) Norfolk Island Departure Form contains the sentence: *All yorlye kum bak see ucklan soon*'

*-du wii giw up* (N.I.15th July 2017)

*from all ucklun up in a stick* (N.I. 1 April 2018)

*Thanks f' awa* (N.I. 21 April 2018) (Buffett 1999 :6 'Note that **awa** refers to the clock and **auwa** refers to the person')

*We nawa gwen forget dem* (N.I. 27 April 2019)

*Foot I luw lewen orn Norf'k-* Cultural Focus Competition *fe Young Salan orn Norfolk* (N.I. 27 April 2019)

*Thaenks fer uckun awl yorley* (N.I. 22 June 2019)

*The first home fe aklan, the people of the Bounty .Dar de side wii come from* (N.I 4 May 2019)

*Time to step up and protect awa hoem yorlye* (N.I. 13 July 2019)

*Wetls on wheels* (N.I. 13 July 2019)

*Well done all yorlye* (N.I. 20 July 2019)

*Lions Wettls*

*You se do gud fe me*

*Love fe myse Norfolk hoem es unfathomable*

*Thanks for me*

***In a' Stik***

***Letl Pliegruup*** (all the above 27 July 2019)

*The Norfolk Islander* has begun to feature a column titled *Norf'k Werd of the Wee*. The words and the sentences illustrating them are taken from both Alice Buffett's encyclopedia and Berlyl Nobbs-Palmer's Glossary. Both spelling approaches are presented, e.g. taitai and tye-tye 'insipid'.

*Bun Pine Alley* (2019)

*Nuffka* (2019) –name of passenger transfer vessel

*Tevarua Lane* (2008)

*Ama Ula Lane Road.*(2008)

*Moo-oo Bay* (Phillip Island 1990)

## 10                    **Norfolk on the internet**

There are several anonymous websites on the internet, which represent all words of English provenance represented in the Buffett- Laycock (or is it *Bafet-Liekok* or *Bafett-Liekok*) ‘system’. An example is the following entry in ‘Wikkapedia4

*“Norfolk esa creole laenghwij spoken i' Norfolk Ailen, an es disended from t' Pitkern laenghwij a' t' setlars from Pitkern Ailen. Es a' miks a' oel English en Tahityan laenghwij, wi' English maeken mor enfluens. Mani word i' Norfolk a' f' English, liik "ailen" an "tiemsoen.”*

*Norfolk es t' ofishol laenghwij, with English, a' Norfolk Ailen sens 2005.[2 T' orthografii dewelaped bei Aelis Baffett an Dr. Dohnal Liekok es aksepted bei t' Norfolk Ailen gawanment an ets aplekaeshan es enkriisin.*

*Riilaeshenshep t' Pitkern*

*Norfolk es ekposed t' graeta kontakt an enfluens from English than Pitkern, alla serias komparison a' t' tu laenghwijes has nort biin dan.”* <<https://pih.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norfolk>>

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