

The first thing you should all know about Eva Margaret Nancy Payne is that she was born a Lindsay – and into a line of Lindsays that had proven themselves to be leaders, dreamers and explorers. Nancy's grandfather, George Lindsay was a potato farmer who went to America in search of fame and fortune. His son, also George was born in America. He was Nancy's father. He became a pharmacist and, in the days when it was a new science that would never catch on, a photographer. Her Great Uncle, James Lindsay was an engineer, employed by the Turks to build a bridge and dock in Constantinople – in the 1850s! They liked his work so much that they asked him to build an arsenal for them off Souda Bay in Crete. He loved Crete so much that, in 1869 he built Lindsay House and moved his family there. He and his wife were an older, childless, couple, but two nieces, including Jessie Lindsay – Nancy's aunt if

you are following all of this - joined them to make up the Cretan household. Jessie's daughter and Nancy's cousin, Marie Karioti lives in Chania today as a proud 93 year old Cretan Lindsay and sends her love and condolences to Ted and John and their families today. They lived through war and revolution – chronicled by the other niece, Maggie Montgomery. Into this environment, James and his wife, Bertha, I think, adopted a local village girl, left fatherless, according to Nancy through the exigencies of those harsh times. Her name was Evanthea Themaki. As the adopted Eva Lindsay, she inherited James Lindsay's estate and moved to Dundee, where she completed her nursing qualifications, serving throughout the first world war in Glasgow and Dundee, whilst being gently courted by the pharmacist – remember him?, George Lindsay. This Cretan woman married George and was

Nancy's mum. I'll let Nancy take up the story for you: "On a mid winter evening at 8.15pm (31 19January, 1926) this scrawny squawking baby girl, with hair resembling a black toilet brush, so I'm told, made an impatient entry into the world, beating the doctor by two hours. She was impatient for all the adventures, many of them happy, some sad and tragic, that her life was to bring to her. She was warmly greeted by her mother Eva, an ex. nurse who hailed from the Island of Crete, and delivered by her father George, a Pharmaceutical Chemist. Waiting in the downstairs living room were her brothers, Nicol, age 7, Bruce age 6 and Bill aged 4 years. They were pretty disgusted with the whole affair as they would rather have had a dog, but all through my tender years they were to become my teachers, friends, playmates and bodyguards. No one dare lift a hand to their baby

*sister who tagged along behind them at all times.*“ The sons and daughters of Nancy’s brothers live in Scotland today, all with fond memories of their beloved Aunt Nancy, and in recent days have collectively sent to Ted, John and I their love and sympathies. Their thoughts and prayers are with us today. If you want to know more about these early days, you can read all about it Nancy’s autobiography – The Life Story of Eva Margaret Nancy Payne. Just google it and you will find it. If you do read it you will discover a feisty, adventurous woman who loved life, she was a party animal long before the term had been invented and never short of suitors, but also someone with purpose and wanderlust. Hence her emigration to New Zealand in 1951 as a maternity nurse, training others in Auckland. Hence her active participation in convincing her father to take up his wife’s last wishes and travel

with Nancy for three months on a grand tour and to scatter her ashes on Souda Bay. Hence her service as Lieutenant Eva Margaret Nancy Lindsay 448414, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corp in Nairobi. Hence her resignation from the army – despite an offer of a Captaincy – in order to work as a Nursing Sister at the Roan Antelope Copper mine hospital in Luanshya, Zambia. Hence her fierce protection of her new family, especially new born John in, I think, 1963, as they fled a racially torn country that was in flames. Hence the entrepreneurship required for she and husband Aubrey Payne to create and build their own company, *Te Avamutu Insurance Brokers*. Hence what Nancy, for heavens sake described as a retirement plan, their decision to buy and operate a general store in Hokianga in 1978. You will also read in her book of her great love for her

husband Aubrey, her pride and love for her sons Ted and John. You will read of her JOY when her first son, Simon James Lindsay, put out for adoption in 1955, found her in 1998. You will be left with a strong sense of a woman who went though many tribulations in life but was never, ever, defeated. But there are stories you won't read about in that book. Such as the story she told my daughters, Alice and Kathleen when she first met them of how to play the netball and swimming teachers off against each other so you can play hookey and go to the movies with your best friend Margot instead. Or the innumerable stories of mischief, dangerous driving, over consumption of lollies and appalling joke telling that Ted and any of Nancy's friends delight in sharing. It is for others to tell the story of Nancy's life in Tauranga, by all accounts it is a notable story. But Nancy, you will know that I am tremendously proud to

be able call myself your son and Ted and John my brothers. You gave me life, opportunity in life and, above all else, you gave me you. In knowing you, I have learnt so much more about myself, but what I will always cherish is the tremendous privilege of having known you. Your life is one to be proud of and an example to us all. Certainly, all in my family, Judith, Kathleen, Alice and Mike will tell you that we are all the richer for having known and loved you.