



MAEV THRILLED BY 2008 AWARD

When Maev was chosen to receive the Customer Service Person of the Year Award at last year's Tourism Awards ceremony it was "...a thrill to know I've done the right thing..." She sees the award as appreciation for her past involvement with entertaining tourists, as well as for her current role with Norfolk Touring at The Pitcairners Dinner and Show.

Maev has been committed to sharing Norfolk's history and culture with visitors for many years. From the 1960s she has been actively involved with the arts, especially painting, plaiting and dancing, on Norfolk Island. She believes people like Ned Lenthal put a lot into the development of Community Arts on the Island, and she remembers those days fondly. Maev enjoys acting the part of Pitcairn pioneer, Maria Quintal, at the 1856-style dinner. She dresses in period costume, wears a traditional hand-plaited wreath on her head and has thoroughly researched Maria's extraordinary life. Using Norfolk language, story, snatches of song and dance Maev strives to totally involve visitors with Maria's history and the Island's heritage.

The award was sponsored by Norfolk and Pacific Holidays and Mat Christian-Bailey, speaking on their Behalf, said:

"I think there are so many great people, like Maev, involved in the Island's tourist industry, and their work often goes unnoticed or unrecognised. Unfortunately, we can't honour them all, but this award lets us create an awareness of the importance of customer service and acknowledges those people who have done so much, over so many years. Friendliness is part of our culture, but travellers have increasing expectations of service and Norfolk's industry must meet that need."

(Jenny Jauczius)