

Centennial Celebrations

ROYAL PAPUA YACHT CLUB

LIFE MEMBERS

ROBERT AFFLECK ROBERTSON



Robert Affleck Robertson AKA 'Robbo' was born on the 10th of April 1947 in London and moved with his family to Albury NSW Australia in 1957. After 2 years there they moved to Southport Queensland and Robbo attended The Southport School for 5 years as a boarder.

He arrived in PNG in 1969 to work for SP Brewery in a number of regional sales positions in Goroka; Mount Hagen in the Highlands and Rabaul in the New Guinea Islands. Robbo moved to Lae in the early 1970's and was a fixture at the Lae Club in those early days. He also accompanied Jumbo the Elephant up the Highlands Highway to Mt Hagen for the 1973 Mt Hagen Show which SP Brewery sponsored.

He didn't sail at that point however when the Lae Club closed in 1980 Robbo and his mates migrated to the Lae Yacht Club where his connection with all things boating commenced and he became heavily involved in the Lae Yacht Club. Robbo even bought a boat called "Venus" that a certain artist decided to change the "V" to a "P" on one day. Notwithstanding that Robbo served as Commodore in 1981, 1982, 1983 and was awarded Life Membership #7 for his efforts.

He moved to Port Moresby in 1984 to take up a position in the Corporate Affairs division of the Brewery and his association with the RPYC commenced. Robbo's entire working life in PNG was at the Brewery and his support for many community sponsorships was exemplary. Between 1984 and 1993 he was heavily involved and at times on the Committee of the "old" Yachty.

In 1993 he was elected Rear Commodore and together with Graeme Dunnage, among others, worked tirelessly fundraising and securing loans to enable the opening of the RPYC on the site it now stands.

Working for the Brewery was an easy bridge for his other great passion in life, rugby league and he served on the PNGRFL Board for many years with his great friend Dr Jim Jacobi and together with the committee they helped rugby league navigate through the difficult super league period.

Robbo was a champion patron for many social clubs in Port Moresby and PNG and his love of sport and social intercourse made him a welcome member of numerous networks in PNG. Robbo was awarded an MBE in 1993 for his services to sport and the community.

He returned to Australia in 1997 to live permanently. Robbo spent years and years at the RPYC and loved every minute of it.

Unfortunately Robbo passed away in July 2019. The Club is forever indebted to him for his tireless work developing the Royal Papua Yacht Club.

We thank Lois Robertson; Michael Quinn; Stan Joyce and Graeme Dunnage for assisting with Robbo's profile.

