



*Vale*

## James Gary Robertson

**29 May 1938 - 20 September 2019**

James Gary Robertson was born in Auckland, New Zealand on the 29th May 1938. His father James Stuart, a New Zealander of Scottish Heritage and his mother Adeline, née Head, from Niue Island.

He had one sister, Carol, who passed away 2 years ago. James is a family name and everyone knew him as Gary.

Gary spent his youth in Remuera, Auckland where his father was a banker. He attended Auckland Boys Grammar School. Always a very keen and able sportsman he became Captain of the school Hockey Team and represented the school in gymnastics. On leaving school his first job was working for a scrap metal merchant, travelling around the Pacific locating and buying discarded World War 2 machinery and arranging it to be sent back to New Zealand.

When the firm went broke he became an apprentice baker with Findlays Gold Krust Bakeries.

At 16 he met Janice Davison at a dance class. He was always a very keen dancer. They married 4 years later. In 1960 their first child, James Richard was born, followed by Kerry Janet and Steven Mark in the following 2 years.

Stuart Leslie, who we all know as Bugs, came along 7 years later.

During his 20's apart from buying and renovating a home for his growing family, Gary played Hockey for St Lukes Hockey Club and was captain of the A Grade team for a period. There were often after match functions at the club rooms and at home where he was the life of the party singing and playing guitar.

At one of these events he was doing one of his gymnastic party trick routines and lost his front teeth when his mate wasn't there to catch him.

He also coached Junior teams one of which I was in. He made me play Goalie. No fun at all. I remember one Saturday morning it was cold and raining and I

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### BRAND NEW LISTING - UNSURPASSED SEA VIEW BEAUTY - EXCLUSIVE AGENT - \$1,050,000

This brand new listing is one of only a few properties that enjoy full coastal views on Norfolk Island. This property looks over our beautiful swimming beaches and historic Kingston! This home has been built in a beautiful villa style with large open plan lounge and dining area with a walk through to the kitchen. This home also features a two bay garage and a separate one bedroom self-contained flat that is perfect for visitors.



 3  2

### BRAND NEW LISTING - EXCLUSIVE AGENT - MEDITERRANEAN BEAUTY - \$600,000

A European inspired, masterbuilt two storey house set on 1.801ha of stunning land with majestic views of the mountains. The unique gardens are designed with the combination of dry stone walls, tiered parterres, pergolas, exotic plants and trees giving a truly mediterranean inspired result. The newly built outdoor gazebo is the perfect entertainment area for family and friends to keep cool on summer afternoons. There is plenty of room in the two bay garage and carport for an art studio or workroom.



 4  2

### RED ROOF - EXCLUSIVE AGENT - \$495,000

This home is built in colonial style with verandahs encircling the house. The gardens are tropical and peaceful and feature many spaces to sit and enjoy the surroundings. This family home features a large open plan kitchen and dining area as well as 5 main bedrooms. The upstairs area of this home is currently a large spacious bedroom with an ensuite but could easily be transformed into an art studio. The house faces North-East with beautiful valley and mountain views.

 5  3

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### ***James Gary Robertson - continued***

was standing in goal shivering. Our team was so good all the play was at the other end of the field.

He came and stood with me in goal and put his arm around me to keep me warm.

There was family trips too. I remember a camping trip to Cape Reinga and Tapotupotu Bay where Dad took us spear fishing, and visiting Rotorua and swimming in the hot pools.

At Findlays Gold Krust Bakeries, Gary excelled and over a period of 10 years had gained the position of Sales Manger. He was head hunted by Klisser's Farmhouse Bakeries and became general manager. Around this time Gary took a little trip with a mate to Norfolk Island. He had honeymooned on Norfolk 10 years before, but this trip really turned his head. He decided that it was time to get out of the "big smoke" and move his family to Norfolk Island for a couple of years.

Aunty Janie was moving to Vanuatu and offered our family her house. She was going to be away for 2 years. After 6 months Aunty Janie wanted to come home.

That was long enough for Dad to fall in love with Norfolk and decided to stay. Mum, being a Norfolk Islander meant that we could. These were good times with Dad, he embraced the Norfolk way of life and he loved to take us fishing. Crystal Pool, Hundred Acres and Headstone were his favourite spots. We newa skunk.

Uncle Les (Short) gave us a block of land at Rocky Point and plans were drawn up for the family house that Dad convinced Uncle Roy to build for us. It was Roy's first big job. The house still stands. It was a great family home and was always filled with lots of sullen. Dad bought a pool table and as teenagers we all became sharks. Especially Kerry.

There was never enough petrol for us to mow the lawn and Dads car was always on E. Just enough to get into town. Sometimes not. Somehow it ended up in our motorbikes. At one stage Dad loosened the pipes in the cattle stop so that he could hear us sneaking out at night. Never worked. It still rattles.

Friends and family were always welcome. At one stage we had the whole Kiernan family living with us. Us boys were out in the shed. All good fun. Mum and Dad were incredibly patient, would get pissed off occasionally but put up with all our antics with aplomb. We crashed cars, destroyed motorbikes, invited all and sundry home for parties and had a lot of fun. Girlfriends, boyfriends, school friends home for the holidays were all welcome around our dinner table.

The parties were awesome.

Gary first job on Norfolk was as a salesman at Max's with Thelma Diegelman and Eddie Lloyd. Norfolk was a tax free haven and retail was growing rapidly. Uncle Ken at Cameralines was his next employer. During this time he invested in a new startup printing and photo business run by Pat Lush. When Pat left the island Dad bought his and Kens share and became a printer. Renaming the business Photopress he set out to make it successful. He also worked at Milton's and

the Seiko shop which became more and more part time as Photopress expanded.

Mum was busy with her sewing business Jan's Sew and Sew. Always a very keen and able sportsman Gary played Cricket for the Kingfisher Cricket Club. His club blazer was his only formal Jacket which he wore with pride for many years until he served a term on the Legislative Assembly and had to front up to Canberra on official business. I took him shopping in Sydney and we went the Armani store where he tried on a fabulous suit. He looked just like Paul Keating. It was \$2500. We decided that Gowings was a better option, we got one for \$500 that included 2 shirts and 2 ties. He still looked great.

Squash was also a passion and Gary played often and was very competitive. He took over the lease on the Squash Courts for a few years and encouraged lots of islanders to play. He also became pretty good himself and represented Norfolk Island at the South Pacific games numerous times, firstly in Fiji in 1979 and then in New Caledonia 8 years later. Around this time he got the nickname Pops as he was by far the oldest competitor. The team, which included Bugs, 29 years his junior, won a Bronze medal at the New Caledonia games. Gary went on to become a coach and spent many hours mentoring young players. He also competed in the senior games in New Zealand winning a Bronze Medal in his age category.

Gary had a very strong sense of community service and was a lifelong Rotary Club Member. He was a past president and enthusiastically worked at almost every B B Q and fund raiser for over 40 years. He served on the P&C committee at the Norfolk island Central School for years helping to organise school fetes and carnivals, was a member of the Hospital Board for over 15 years, Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Amateur Sports Association and a driving force for many years.

Gary was very supportive of his family too. He helped us all through school, boarding school and University. Came to our graduations and celebrated our successes.

Gary married Ber Lackey in 1987 and went about building a new life with her and her 2 children Zoe and Willa. They built a new designer house and kept developing Photopress together. Ber trained as a yoga teacher and they built a Yoga studio at the rear of Photopress.

Tragically Ber passed away from breast cancer in 2007.

Photopress International was Gary's business from 1973. He put a lot of time and energy into it and built it from a little part time jobbing shop into a business capable of handling most of Norfolk's printing needs. He supported local writers who wanted to write and publish books spending many hours editing. No job was too big or too small. The business is still operating. Big thanks to Toni and Steven for making this happen.

In the early eighties he produced a News Paper called Dem Tul. Which ran for a couple of years and was politically motivated. He was always keen

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### **James Gary Robertson - continued**

on discussing the politics on the island and ran successfully for the Legislative assembly on which he served as an executive member for a term. During his term tourist numbers were at an all time high.

After Beryl passed away Gary lived alone but was often visited by family and friends. Bugs and Margie lived with him for a time and Kerry and Steven were regular dinner guests. He cooked and mowed lawns and had a very keen interest in his carp pond. Eventually he found love again meeting Dale Howe. They became good friends and companions, enjoying family and friends and travelled together to New Zealand and Tasmania. Even as an older man Gary was incredibly fit. Well into his 70's he could dance all the young women in the room to a stand still. The last time I played him at

Squash he smashed me 9 nil 9 nil and was keen to go best of 5.

Gary suffered a massive stroke in May 2015. He was medivaced to Sydney, operated on and survived but although he battled hard he never fully recovered. The Norfolk Island hospital embraced his condition and looked after him with

most loving care any family could hope for. Many thanks to all at the hospital especially dem Orn ar Randa.

Gary was an honest, caring, hard working, thoughtful and generous man who gave so much to his family and community. We will miss him forever.

He is survived by his four children, Rick, Kerry, Steven and Bugs. His two step daughters Zoe and Willa and grandchildren Benjamin, Bryce, Dante, Jack, Tom, Raina and Tayanita. He also has a great grandchild Ryan and another Great Grandchild about to be born in NZ.

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## **Grant Applicants Skills Development Workshops**

Council welcomes support from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, for provision of workshop style mentoring to build local confidence and capacity for individuals and groups involved or wanting to pursue fundraising opportunities.

Mr. Tim Cotter, Regional Manager from the AusIndustry – Support for Business division, has kindly agreed to facilitate two open sessions as well as provide follow up one-on-one meetings with project proponents after workshop participation.

Tim has worked across AusIndustry for over 15 years and some 100+ assistance programs. This is Tim's third visit to Norfolk Island and he can help direct you towards information, assistance, support and networking opportunities in the region and beyond.

In this interactive grants information workshop Tim will focus on current Government program opportunities including the Building Better Regions Fund and the Energy Efficient Communities Program and alternative source of funding such as equity funding, crowdfunding and philanthropy. The workshop will focus on the best way to present your

project and provide advice on your proposed projects eligibility and likely competitiveness.

Workshop times are;

Individuals: Monday 07 October: 3:00pm - 5:00pm  
Governor's Lodge conference room

Groups/ NFP: Tuesday 08 October: 3:00pm - 5:00pm  
Governor's Lodge conference room

Please direct any enquiries to Grants Officer Anita French phone 22001 ext 103 or by email Anita.French@nirc.gov.nf.

*Anita French  
GRANTS OFFICER  
3 October 2019*



## **MUSEUMS AND RESEARCH CENTRE Community Cultural Satisfaction Survey**

A reminder that the Community Cultural Satisfaction Survey is currently open for submissions.

The purpose of the Community Cultural Satisfaction Survey is to provide a measure on how we as a community, together with Council, are resourcing, supporting and or delivering on the Community Strategic Plan 2016-2026, "Strategic direction 2, A proud, diverse and inclusive community. We showcase our unique, histories, cultures and people, Objective 3 – Cultural expression is maintained - How we will get there 3.1 to 3.4."

The survey is accessible through the Survey Monkey link on the Norfolk Island Regional Council website <http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/community-cultural-satisfaction-survey>. Additionally, submissions are able to be accessed in hardcopy from Customer Care.

The deadline for submissions has been extended to 4.00pm Friday 11 October 2018 and can be completed online, or please return paper copies to either Customer Care, via post to PO Box 95, or email to [regionalcouncil@nirc.gov.nf](mailto:regionalcouncil@nirc.gov.nf).

### **SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

The school holiday program is on again these school holidays! Come down to the Museums to learn more about Norfolk's history and culture, and take part in fun, interactive activities.

The program commences Monday 30 September 2019 and runs the duration of the school holidays.

*Helen Brackin  
TEAM LEADER HERITAGE*

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