



Vale

John Henry Bergagnin

20th October 1945 – 2nd July 2016

Although the heavy southerly showers of rain drenched those who had gathered at the Kingston Cemetery last Sunday, 10th July 2016 to say farewell to John Henry Bergagnin, not a soul moved to seek shelter from the down pour.

David Buffett conducted the service and after his words of welcome and Bible readings we had just finished singing "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" when it began to rain.

Terence Grube, who had been taught the joys of surf board riding by John, Hussa Harris, Brian Adams and Steve Ryves, the young men who started surfing as we know it on Norfolk Island, then read the following Eulogy.

"John Henry Bergagnin was born in Sydney on the 20th day of October 1945. The first and only son of Mirto Giovanni "Bert" Bergagnin and Gwendoline Helen Crystal (nee Menzies) Bergagnin. A grandson of George (Simon) and Helen "Titta" (nee Quintal) Menzies. First cousin to Yvonne Grube, Yvette Quintal, Odette Houghton (deceased), Tessa Watson, Brian Adams, Matthew Donlevy, Gabrielle Donlevy, and Peter Donlevy.

John was always going to be a tall man because when he was a toddler he apparently grew so fast he nearly caught up in height with his Aunty Rosemary who was only seven years older than him. At 5 years of age John was diagnosed with severe asthma and he was prescribed Molasses in those days for the breathing condition. Aunty Rosemary mentioned that she enjoyed growing up with John and he was like a little brother. Aunty Rose can remember trying to sneak some of the Molasses because it tasted really nice. A Sydney Doctor suggested that John take up swimming to see if that would help him to combat the asthma.

Well there is a whole story to tell about John and his swimming and surfing successes from that very moment.

(continued overleaf)



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on Norfolk Island

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4 bdrm, 2 bthrm, deck, view, garage, secluded	\$280p/w

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John Henry Bergagnin - continued

John was a Maroubra Bay Public school boy and he began swimming and surfing at Maroubra during all of his spare time. Not long after that John was joined by his first cousin Brian Adams who had left Norfolk Island with Mum/Dad who had work in Sydney, and then, Ian (Hussa) Harris who had left West Ryde to live in the eastern suburbs. Cousin Brian went to South Sydney High but always wondered out to Maroubra whenever he could. They surfed just about every day. John and his new surfer mates became legends of the surf and some years later they were known as the BRA Club which included North Maroubra, The Stormies, The Clubs, The Sheds, and The Souths. They had other mates such as Dennis Clifton and Radcliffe who formed a very close bond with John. Later they formed the Maroubra Surfers Association. Husa and Brian can still remember the days at Maroubra when the fad back then was to own a FJ Holden sedan or panel van etc. but not John. He had a hand painted 4 cylinder Vauxhall Wyvern which according to his cohorts didn't bring in the Chics.

John worked in Sydney for a little while before going home with his parents in 1965. In Sydney John worked with his dad in the Tailor business and then he worked with Husa's dad who was a Manager in a Rail Freight Company. Husa had moved to Norfolk to work with Bruce McKenzie as an electrician and when John got home he and John began surfing every chance they could. At this time John had begun working at Hopkins which is where The Bounty Centre is located now. John also worked at Irvine's, Elva's, BJ Jewellers, South Pac, plus others, and he had his own business doing fencing and building. During most of his last 30 years or more; John was a crane driver and Stevedore for the shipping companies and he was the Stevedore Supervisor for many years. This profession has continued in his family.

As you could imagine surfing was so much of their lives back then and that passion lasted for most of John's life and he probably had his last surf when he was 61 years of age when he and his mates went over for the Maroubra Board Riders reunion in 2006. In 1968 John and Husa went to New Zealand to surf and even entered a couple of friendly competitions. Well guess who came home in 1969/1970? BRA boy Brian Adams. Notably John, Brian, Husa, and in later years with Steve Ryves basically started the surfing as we know it on Norfolk today. The surfies loved their 8'9" long boards and they loved Bumboras. They occasioned outside the reef and Anson Bay but just loved Bumboras. John also surfed in Hawaii and in Queensland. Tet and Raymond were taught by these boys to surf at Bumboras and when the boards appeared "broken" when they next visited Bumbie for a surf – wutz dar thing fe Archie Bigg – Ent me! Tet and Ray can remember the strenuous efforts to grow the Board Bumps on the top of the feet, walking like Daffy Duck, and just being with these legends of surfing.

John was a Reds footballer. Along with his surfer mates and many others he probably was a foundation member of the New Reds Football Club. John played predominantly in the centres and 'dem tul' he had a

long fend. From all accounts John was a fair player unlike many other players on another coloured team. Brian and Husa can recall one particular match when Blues was leading by 2 points, Stu Mowatt in a tackle pulled John's shorts and jocks down around his ankle, and instead of getting up and putting the ball across the line for a winning try, John shielded himself around his player mates to avoid embarrassment and then the final whistle blew. John was a good football player and a devoted Reds player and his absolute passion in the NRL was his Balmain Tigers team.

During this period John had met and fell in love with Margaret (Maggie) Cynthia Robinson. Maggie was working at the Kingfisher Hotel at Anson Bay. John's mum Gwen was the cook and dad Bert was the bartender and Maggie was the waitress. They began their courtship in 1966 and were married in 1974 the same year that son Brett was born. Maggie and John were blessed with the arrival of daughter Cindy in 1977. John was said to have stopped playing for his Red's team when his children came along but kept up his love of surfing.

John built their family home at Anson Bay for their growing family and it wasn't too long when John had his children surfing the waves around Norfolk Island. Both Brett and Cindy grew up with salt water running through their veins like many other children in Norfolk but it can be said that these two children had the master teacher and their own skills was soon evident. Both Brett and Cindy will be ever grateful for this privilege and bond from their Dad.

Some years later in 1987 John met Narelle Phipps and they were married on the Gold Coast two years later.

John and Narelle were able to plan their residence both on Norfolk and later in the Sunshine Coast of Australia. John and Narelle planned trips and visits to John's dad's home town in Italy and went to trips around Europe etc. and had many great memories together. John became close to Narelle's children Andrew and Cassie and their children and enjoyed the precious times they had together in Queensland.

When Bert passed away in 1994 John gave Mum Gwen a little dog who she absolutely adored and she named her dog "Pup". Gwennie loved her little Pup and so did John. Pup used to share Gwen and John and it would not be unusual to find John and Pup laying on John's lounge room floor with Pup all cuddled up in John's Reds jersey. Pup would travel with John when not with Gwennie and occasionally joined John at Bumboras. A little whistle from John and Pup would swim out to join him on the way in after a surf.

In 2010 John joined Narelle in the Sunshine Coast because John began to have health problems. At the same time Gwen was in full time care in a Sunshine Coast nursing home. John's health deteriorated over the next few years and Narelle and Cindy and Brett were tremendous in supporting both Gwen and John.

The extended families were ever thankful for their love and devotion during these years of support for Gwen and John.

(continued overleaf)

John Henry Bergagnin - conitnued

In 2013 John experienced being a grandfather for the only time when young Jack Bergagnin was born to Brett and Sarah. This was a great part of John's life and Jack brought out emotions in John that provided tears of joy for Brett and Sarah, Aunty Cindy, and Narelle. Later on in 2013 John was moved in to a high care nursing home to treat his Parkinson's condition and Dementia.

Sadly Gwen passed away exactly one year to the day when John passed away on the 2nd July 2016. This date will be forever present with Brett and Cindy and Narelle.

John was a devoted son to Bert and Gwen, a loving husband, a beautiful father, and a grateful Poppy to Jack. John was a great mate to his friends and family. Thoughts and love go out to Narelle, Brett and Sarah and Jack, Cindy, and Maggie at this time of loss.

Rest in Peace John".

The service continued in the still falling rain with the Lord's Prayer, the placing of Floral Tributes and the Committal.

The Pitcairn Anthem - "Come Ye Blessed"- led by Terence, was our farewell hymn to John.

Vale John Eden

Many of you will remember John and Kath Eden, who came to the island about 23 years ago, and for some years ran the Palm Court Cafe where "Little Singapore" is now.

Those who knew them will be sad to learn that John passed away on Monday afternoon, after a fairly extended period of ill health. He is survived by his wife Kath, and their three sons Kelvin, Graham and Shaun.

John's funeral will be held this Saturday at the Buderim Anglican Church. Messages and cards can be sent to Kath at

Unit 526/10 Akinja Rd
Alexandra Headland
Qld 4572

Mining will destroy marine environment

The following is a letter from the "Sunshine Coast Daily" printed on 14th July 2016:- "ON MONDAY, July 11th there was a very informative segment on the ABC Radio National breakfast program about deep seabed mining which is predicted to commence within five years.

Mining will operate much like a vacuum cleaner sucking up minerals such as zinc, cobalt, lithium and other rare earth elements then return the sludge back to the sea floor.

It seems mining companies will soon be able to destroy the marine environment just like our farmland.

The prospect of doing this type of mining in a remote part of the Pacific Ocean with a nice little island complete with international airport in the middle of a 400,000 square kilometre economic exclusion zone was just too much for the greedy Australian Government to resist, so they have invaded and occupied the smallest Commonwealth Nation, Norfolk Island.

When the Australian Government sacked the democratically elected Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly last year there followed two to three months of aircraft 'mapping' around the island and about a month ago a high-profile mining magnate spent time on Norfolk - all this may be coincidental but I think not.

Clive Plater, Eudlo.

Deep seabed mining likely to happen within five years, report finds

Monday 11 July 2016 7:52AM

Over the past 20 years, the International Seabed Authority (ISA) has been paving the way for deep seabed mining in the world's oceans.

Operating in darkness, at extreme pressure and depths of more than 4,000 metres, it's predicted that within five years, global corporations and state-controlled companies will be mining the seabed for minerals such as zinc, cobalt, lithium and other rare earth elements.

But a recent independent review found that the ISA is under-resourced, not transparent and in need of a significant boost to its institutional capacity to properly regulate mining when it starts.

Listen to the interesting full episode - <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/deep-seabed-mining-likely-within-five-years/7585330>

