



Vale

Mervyn Ernest Webb (Cob)

17th August 1923 - 29th October 2015

“The old order changeth yielding place to new” and goodness we are now seeing this happening with regular monotony on Norfolk Island over the last 12 months.

On Sunday, 1st November 2015 the island said farewell to Mervyn (Cob) Webb who had died on Thursday, 29th October and who was pictured on the Service Sheet with his old black dog “Cosby”. Prior to the service, “Cob” was fare welled by ‘guards of honour’ from members of the R.S.L., Norfolk Island Bowling Club and the Lions Club of Norfolk Island.

The service was officiated by Tim Sheridan and after his welcome the first Hymn “In the Sweet Bye and Bye” was sung and then the following Eulogy was read by Max Hobbins:- “Mervyn Ernest Webb (affectionally known as Cob) was born in Sydney on the 17th August 1923. Born to Arthur and Lucy and the youngest of six children- Harry, Cecil, Sylvia, Neil and Allan - now all deceased.

Cob grew up in Kirribilli, his Mother died when he was an infant. His initial schooling was at Naremburn Catholic School and as a 7 year old he attended the opening and walked across the new Sydney Harbour Bridge.

During the depression years Cob with his Dad and brother Allan moved to Kempsey to live with his Uncle Walter who had a small tailoring business. Rabbit and fish was the diet during these difficult years and Cob returned to Sydney as a 13 year old to a job as a Page Boy at the Orpheum Theatre at Crows Nest.

On his 15th birthday he gave tickets to his Dad and Stepmother Grace to the movies at the Theatre - tragically that night his Dad was run over and died. Cob then went to live with his sister Sylvia in St. Leonards.

Cob’s next job was in a soldering room working for National Robertson in Rosebury and he would ride his push bike on the coat hanger every day.

As many young men did he joined the Army as a 17 year old in 1941 serving with the 58-59th Division.

Being 1 of only 3 New South Welshman in a Victorian outfit it was easy to understand his dislike for Victorians as they gave him heaps. His first overseas posting was in P.N.G. Cob was a driver in the transport section. He became ill with Hepatitis, convalesced in hospital in Brisbane, close to death, but his time wasn’t up yet. Pulling through after dropping to 40 kgs he was nursed back to good health on a diet of tripe and tapioca.

Cob’s next mission was a posting in the Solomon Islands where 2 days before the war officially ended, the jeep he was driving struck a land mine killing the other two occupants but once again Cob’s time wasn’t up. Returning to Sydney he spent the next 6 months driving vehicles every week from Sydney to Albury- this would take from Monday to Thursday then he would catch the train back to Sydney, have the weekend off and do it all again. Cob was discharged from the Army in 1946.

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Mervyn Ernest Webb (Cob) - continued

Cob was given an Adult apprenticeship with Lancaster Glass in Crow's Nest, a job he loved and continued up to his retirement in 1983.

He met the love of his life in 1946 - Cathleen Joyce Smoother and they wed in January 1947 at Naremburn Catholic Church. Cob and Joyce had three children from this union- Helen in March 1949 who died tragically at 9 months, Ian (Spider) in November 1950 and Anita in January 1956. After the birth of Anita the family moved to Herne Bay. In 1959 they moved to Five Dock where Cob began his long Association with the Five Dock Abbots-ford/Habberfield R.S.L. Club. He served as Vice President of the sub-branch until his wife's illness necessitated him to step down and care for Joyce.

Joyce died from kidney disease in 1967 and after her passing Cob renewed his association with sub branch and was awarded life membership for his efforts.

In 1969 Cob remarried a lady called Nell Sullivan and continued to live in the Five Dock area. Cob had his own small Glass and Glazing business - working from home until his retirement.

Cob's passion in his early days was Cricket but later in life he played and loved Lawn Bowls.

Cob first came to Norfolk Island to play in the Bounty Bowls with son Spider, Willie Sanders and Warner Vincent and they qualified top in their section. He continued to come for Bounty Tournaments and came to live permanently on Norfolk Island in 1995 where he remained with his family in Douglas Drive.

He was a proud member of the Norfolk Island Bowling Club and the Lions Club of Norfolk Island.

In his inimitable fashion, Max, who has a wonderful way of adding humour said "I like this part. Cob, during the Bounty Bowls in 1990 had a little too much to drink at the Bolo - he disappeared to the Men's room for a 'watchunda' in the toilet bowl. Unfortunately he discharged his teeth in the porcelain without knowing and he flushed the contents!! Later he asked Goofy to search for his 'choppers' - Goofy replied "We may have to some to some arrangement" which of course never happened. Cob returned to Sydney with no teeth!"

Cob was a quiet, kind and generous man who enjoyed a beer with his mates, loved to share a yarn with anyone who would lend an ear. A generous man who would do anything for anybody.

Cob is survived by his son Ian and his partner Deb, his daughter Anita and her husband Rick, 6 grandchildren- Leanne, Gary, Greg, Melanie, David and Nicholas and great grandchildren- James, Cheyenne, Pierce, Laura, Izzy, Owen and Stacey.

Cob was a loving and proud Great Grandfather,

Grandfather, Father and Mate and will be sadly missed."

There then followed the R.S.L. Tribute; the placing of the floral tributes; a recital of the Lord's Prayer; the Committal and the singing of the Pitcairn Anthem, led by Terence Grube brought the service to its conclusion.

Dear Sir,

Recently my husband and I attended the funeral of my father Mervyn Ernest Webb - Cob to those who knew him. Please find my Eulogy as spoken by me at the funeral

"Just to share a bit more about my father and your friend Cob

Dad had hard times during his life but he always managed to provide for his family and give us a good life. I have many fond memories growing up even with loosing my mum at age 11. Dad and Spider looked after me extremely well making sure my life at that time was as normal as possible.

When Spider moved to the Island, dad would visit quite regularly and eventually deciding to stay some 20 years ago. Since that time we have enjoyed visiting the Island, while getting to know many of Dad's friends. We looked forward to speaking with Dad every Sunday morning and we think he did too as the phone barely rang before he would pick up.

Dad grew to love the Island and the people and was obviously loved in return. He went on to be with the local Lions club and took his responsibilities very seriously especially when he was in charge of the "Tables and Chairs".

Dad's spirit of helping of helping and being involved with other people has I think passed through to Spider and me with Spider's involvement with Lions and myself with Rotary. I hope Dad's spirit will continue through the following generations of our families

Dad and Mum also instilled in us a love of sport. Rugby league for mum and cricket for dad although dad never accepted the "hit and miss" as he called it of the new 20/20 version, and this love of sport has been also instilled in Spider and me.

Dad rest in peace in this beautiful place, I will miss our weekly chats about the weather, sport and life in general, but more importantly I will miss you in my life

Your loving daughter Anita

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Island Eggs Since 1978

Good for you, naturally

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(continued oveleaf)



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Mervyn Ernest Webb (Cob) - continued

I would also like to add on a personal note and a way to say thank you:-

Dear Editor,

I would personally like to thank the community of Norfolk Island for coming together in their totally unique way of fare welling my dad "Cob"

The drive through town on the way to the cemetery was an experience I will never forget, with local people showing their kindness and respect, a special moment for us was when a young girl 'P' plater completely stopped her car, alighted and stood next to the car.

At the graveside I was overwhelmed with the feeling of love and support being expressed to us by the local community.

A heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed with the arrangements on the day.

With possible changes on the horizon for the good people of Norfolk Island, my husband and I would like to think that the island's community traditions continue to endure, such traditions and respect are sadly lacking back on the mainland

With Thanks

Anita Robinson - proud daughter of "Cob" Webb.

Thank You

Spider, Deb and family wish to thank everyone who assisted, provided love and support, phoned, sent cards or just asked how we were when lost Spider's Dad- Cob

Special thanks to the staff at the hospital, the Police, Matt & Delwyn (Ambulance), Shane, Tardy, the Pallbearers- Gary, Greg, Chris, Gavin, Wes and Kevin, the Lovely Ladies at the usual place for the wreaths, Tim for conducting a lovely service, Max for delivering the Eulogy, The Lions Clubs, The RSL and the Bowling Club for the Guard of Honour, Margaret & John Smith (such beautiful flowers), the girls at the Post Office, Toni at Photopress, Lou Tavener and those that travelled from away to be with us.

Thank you so much!!!!

Vale

Thelma Spencer

14/6/1907 - 5/11/2015 - Aged 108

Sadly Mum passed away following complications from surgical procedures at Belmont Hospital, NSW on 5th November 2015.

Tina Anderson

In Memoriam

Loving Memory of
Ernie Christian

1994 - 2015, now 21 years still missed and loved by Marjie and families.

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