



Vale

Richard John Deadman

24 January 1943 - 3 September 2023

Today we honour and celebrate the life of Richard John Deadman was affectionately known as “John” and “J.D.”

John was born on 24th January 1943 in Matamata, New Zealand.

He was raised in a family with six sisters and three brothers. Sadly, one of his siblings, Robbie died as a baby in hospital from pneumonia.

John was close to Graham, the youngest of his brothers. When John was born his oldest sister was 28 years old. His older sisters and brothers were like aunts and uncles and their children, John’s nephews and nieces were older in age than he and Graham.

John’s love for the earth and the ocean began in New Zealand at a young age.

John started his vocation in carpentry and boat building in his teenage years. At 15, he saved up to purchase a kitset boat and his brother, Graham purchased the motor. Once their boat was assembled, they were soon off on fishing adventures as they sailed the New Zealand coastline.

John and Graham started working for Neil Housing, a new building and construction company located in Auckland City, New Zealand. With this firm, John and Graham built many private homes.

In 1961 at the age of 18 years, John met Cynthia Nobbs through work in New Zealand. They became engaged and later married in October 1962. Theirs was a happy and enduring marriage of over 60 years fully honouring the vow, ‘Til death do us part’.

After training at the New Zealand Police College at Trentham, Wellington, John celebrated his day of attainment with the Police Force on 24th April 1963. After his training was completed, John lived and worked in Auckland.

There are unconfirmed rumours that while on mobile patrol in Auckland as a constable he might have intercepted the occasional brother-in-law trying to drive home the worse for wear. After interrogating them from behind the police car spotlight he allegedly then guided them safely home.

However, in April 1965 John was awarded a Certificate of Merit for extreme bravery for his part, when as an unarmed Constable supporting his Sergeant, in disarming and arresting an escapee from a psychiatric hospital who had escaped, armed with a loaded shotgun, into a busy shopping area. He was then 22. In his lifetime John told very few people about this event.

In February 1964, John and Cynthia became parents and welcomed Sheryl into the world. A little while later in 1968, Barry joined the family and in 1970, the family of four left New Zealand and moved to Norfolk Island which, as we are well aware is home and birthplace of Cynthia.

The 1970s were a new start for the family and a new island home for John where he formed new connections and friendships.

John and Cyn started work on their house on Bumbora Road just down from Brancker House. Clearing the land with help from Dudley Hudson on bulldozer, they eventually built their family home.

Rows of vegetable gardens were created by John on the family land and were accompanied by Cynthia’s flower gardens. These were challenging times as back then there were few fences keeping out free roaming cattle, horses and poultry.

John started a building career on Norfolk. He originally went to work on a motorbike carrying his
(continued overleaf)



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Richard John Deadman - continued

tools. Later he bought a green jeep then a truck. He built a few private houses on Grassy Road and up in The Village, trading as RJ Deadman Construction.

In later years he worked with Gerry Aafjes and formed many friends and connections with people living on Norfolk Island during his active building years.

In 1982, John built Anzcan out aa' station alongside Nobby Bruce and Nick Jorgensen. The building stands strong to this day!

The brothers Bob Richards and Gary Richards were good mates of John's and they were also his brothers-in-law. Just down the road from John and Cyn was Juney & Bob near the Stables and further down Eileen & Gary. Down Hundred Acres way were Herbert and Dawn. Their children grew up together as siblings and cousins, they went to school together and Bumbora beach was their playground.

John was a keen fisherman and always came home with the catch of the day!

He kept up boat building. One boat he crafted, saved the lives of Peter Nicolai and Glenn McNamara, when Pedro and Macca, after being missing for a few days at sea amongst bad weather conditions eventually drifted ashore into Anson Bay.

In 1994, John became a grandfather to Sheryl's children Claudia, then Liam in 1999 and later in the 2000s to Barry's children born in Singapore, Harley in 2007 and Zandar in 2010.

John worked 23 years in the Lighterage undertaking and for many years was Lighterage Manager. Working alongside Peter Ely, they created ropes and built lighters and oars by hand. They worked the ship with a team of stevedors.

The safety of his workers was John's paramount concern and he upheld a good and consistent record in the workplace.

John was proud of the fact that there were no accidents during his 23 years of service while working and unloading the ships. Many of the lighters and oars that John built can be found in various places and private homes around the island today. In 2010, at the age 67 John retired.

Gardening had always been a passion and he then devoted his time to his house garden and vegetable garden. He loved the outdoors, breathing fresh air and being immersed with nature. He had rows and rows of vegetables planted neatly in his garden and loved the process of watching his garden grow.

John was also a keen lawn bowler and an active and dedicated member of the Norfolk Island Bowling Club. His achievements included winning a Bronze Medal with Norm LeCren and Gavin Snell in the 2001 Pacific Championships; attending the Commonwealth Games; winning various tournaments including Bounty Bowls - Men's Fours and TAB Triples. John also travelled to Lord Howe Island, Australia and New Zealand for lawn bowls competitions and was a selector.

John was honoured as a Life Member of the Norfolk Island Bowling Club. He was a mentor to some of the younger players and some of those people are away representing Team Norfolk at the World Bowls currently being held on the Gold Coast. He will always be remembered as a member, along with his good mates, of

the Table of Knowledge at the Club House!

In 2012, John was nominated for an Australia Day award and received an award for his services to the community.

John was a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a grandfather, an uncle and a friend. He was a good one.

John said to granddaughter Claudia on their last care flight home to Norfolk Island, he would like to thank the people of Norfolk who have accepted him as one of their own and always came to him for carpentry and building needs.

When you walk away today, we hope it is, as we do, with the warm memory of a good and kind and caring man.

Thank You

The family of the late "Richard John Deadman" would like to express their sincere thanks for the support and sympathy they received after the sad loss of losing someone they cared for and loved so much.

Thank you to:

Shane Quintal and the grave diggers team

Glen Evans, Hearse Driver

Pallbearers – Brancker, Tardy, Sam, Snoop, Simon and Benny

Lighterage and Bowling Club members

Kath Boman, Phyllis Evans, Dr Jodie McCoy, Dr Peter Hopcroft and the wonderful team at NIHRACS

St John Ambulance Jodie Williams

Milton and Jan Bradley Simone James

Norfolk Island Police

Wayne and Colleen Derby

Donald Reynolds and the band

David Bu e

Wreath Makers

Robyn Butterfield and Naydene Murray

Lizzie Randall

Sybil, Brancker, Kaye and Billy Nobbs, Simon Peapells Wayne and Lisa Richards

Will and Liam Peapells, Jack Richards and Zandar

Shelley LeCren

Julia and Bronte Hudson

Jenny Gow

Raymond Grube

Kaye Evans

Tosca Quintal

Karenne Gatehouse

Sam and Jake Sheridan

Dids Evans

Derek Macrae

Toni Wilson

Thank you to the caring community who has donated food, made phone calls and delivered the beautiful flowers.

Family members who have travelled – Barry, Zandar, Liam, Di, Lynda, Carey and Selina, Dr Susan Petrie, Dr Holly Brand, the Medical teams and Sta at Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital

Patient transfer service by air

The family is overwhelmed by the support from the Norfolk Island Community at this sad time.
