



Vale
Robert George Templeton
1947-2022

Dr Bob was born Robert George Templeton at Hurstville, N.S.W. on 13th October, 1947. He was the post war, second child and son and heir of Harry and Aleda Templeton. His sister, Heather Ann, was born 10 years earlier.

The family lived at 27 Ponyara Road, Beverly Hills. Bob attended the Beverly Hills Methodist Pre School before commencing school at Beverly Hills North Primary School and completing Year 5 at this school. The final year of Primary School was spent at Lakemba Opportunity School.

Bob commenced secondary school in 1960 at Hurlstone Agricultural High School at Glenfield. He travelled every day from Beverly Hills until becoming a boarder in 1964.

After completing the Leaving Certificate in 1964 Bob chose to follow his sister into the field of Veterinary Science at Sydney University.

In 1959 the Adams family of Norfolk Island moved to live initially in 71 Ponyara Road and then to 66 Ponyara Road. Guess you could say the rest is history.

The Ponyara Road gang led a very carefree life roaming the neighbourhood. Glynn has known Bob since this time as part of this group. The group attended Methodist Sunday School and Youth groups.

A story from the Ponyara Road days Glynn's mother often told was of Bob riding his pogo stick from 27 Ponyara Road to 71 Ponyara Road with a matchbox full of skink lizards to exchange to prevent inter breeding.

Following both Glynn and Bob completing secondary school daily train trips to Redfern became a regular occurrence. Bob to Sydney University and Glynn to Sydney Teacher's college. Sandra Bennett (Hames) joining them as she and Glynn had attended Beverly Hills Girl's High School together.

During these train trips, the need for partners for social events occurred and the subsequent courtship, engagement and marriage ensued. Glynn and Bob were married on 8th January, 1970 at Beverly Hills Uniting Church.

On arrival at Beverly Hills Glynn's father, Charlie and brother Robert found themselves drawn to Bexley Kingsgrove Rugby Union Club. Bob's father Harry being the president of the club at the time. Bob played Rugby union with this club from the age of 6. A life time love of Rugby Union resulted.

Attending Hurlstone Agricultural High School meant playing Rugby Union. Bob was a very proud member of the Hurlstone First XV which won the Waratah Shield for Secondary Schools in 1964. Bob went on to play Grade Rugby for St. George and later Shield level for Canterbury Rugby Club.

Following completing University Studies in 1971 Bob was employed by a Vet from Murwillumbah to manage a branch practice at Tweed Heads and Mullumbimby. Bob went on to establish his own Veterinary practice at Mullumbimby later in that year at 146 Stuart Street. He continued to operate this practice for 28 years.

Entering Bob's life with the establishment of the practice at Mullumbimby was the Pfizer Vet. Drug rep based at Ballina, John Moore. Many happy Friday nights with Uncle Tom's Pies followed when John finished his rounds of the Vet practices on Far North Coast, arriving in time for dinner at 146 Stuart Street. Lots of happy memories including John's travels to Europe and then to UK and him meeting Heather and attending their family weddings and them coming to visit us on Norfolk are recalled.

(continued overleaf)



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Robert George Templeton - continued

On 16th April, 1972, son Robert John was welcomed into the Templeton family and On 8th October 1974 Rachel Sara made her early entry into the world.

The family flourished in their life during the ensuing years in Mullumbimby. Both Rob and Rachel consider Mullumbimby to be their home and are particularly attached to the family of Mary and Ted Williams. They consider the Williams children as their siblings and were both initially terrified of Ted till they were old enough to call his bluff. Rachel cannot to this day work out how Debbie knew Rachel had got out of bed when Debbie was babysitting her. I think that Ted and Mary were happy when both Rob and Rachel turned 16 and they did not have to have them as their responsibility.

Not long after establishing the Vet practice at Mullumbimby a German Shepherd called "Shelley" was presented by her owners with Tick Paralysis, the owners being Janice and Peter Roger. Peter and Bob recognized one another from University Days, Peter doing Medicine and Bob Vet. Science. A lifelong friendship was rekindled and Glynn was delighted to become their son, Tom's, Godmother. Many combined family occasions followed and especially Christmas dinners where the antics of the children are fondly remembered.

During time at Mullumbimby Bob's inherited sense of Community Involvement further developed, Bob's father having been a member of a Lions International for many years. Initially he joined the local Lions Club but with work and family pressure he resigned.

Bob then joined the Mullumbimby Agricultural Society initially as Vet. Surgeon. He later joined the Committee and became President of the Show Society from 1978 until 1983. During his Presidency he introduced Western horse events and the Western arena was constructed.

Rugby interests were re-awakened with Bob helping to establish the Mullumbimby Moonshiner Rugby Club. The year he coached the team he had the same results as his namesake, Bob Templeton, did with the Wallabies – no wins.

As the children became more involved in town activities Rachel joined Little Athletics and Bob's interest in distance running was rekindled which saw him accompanying Rachel on training runs. The Mullumbimby Professional group evolved, being the Vet, the Doctors and the Pharmacist, John Dickinson and the team took place in a Chincogan Charge. The running continued with runs from Mullumbimby to Byron regularly then Gold Coast Marathons followed. The men left early and the women going later for coffee and breakfast.

After Rob and Rachel went to boarding school in Armidale, Bob found time to return to community activities joining the Mullumbimby Music Makers and Drama Society. He starred in many productions the most notable being to sing "Sweet Transvestite" from the "Rocky Horror Show" which bought the house down on Opening Night. The word spread around town and the next performance was a sell out,

unfortunately Bob had a prior engagement and Bruce Robinson performed the song. The audience booed as they were expecting Bob again.

During this period Rev. Bob Richardson enticed Bob to join the Rotary Club of Mullumbimby, which he did in 1991 becoming President in 1994-95. He later went on to be Chairperson of the District 9640 RYLA committee.

When Rob finished his Secondary Education at The Armidale School he gained a Rugby Union scholarship to attend Kindi University in Osaka, Japan. He was "adopted" as a son by Shigeru and Michiko Nakajima and their daughters Megu and Mai. A family friendship followed and Nakajimas visited the Templetons' at Mullumbimby with the Kindi Rugby team and later Glynn and Bob visited Nakajimas in Osaka twice when visiting Japan to the watch Wallabies play against the All Blacks.

Bob and Rob spent time enjoying Nakajima's hospitality when they travelled to Japan for World Cup Rugby in 2019.

In 1998 the lure of increased Superannuation and both Rob and Rachel being destined to follow their chosen careers, Bob and Glynn made the decision to move south to Bungendore. Bob worked as a Public Servant in Canberra for AQIS. He was responsibility being an advisor on Animal Export and Import.

After 18 months Bob missed the hands on Veterinary work and he then became Rural Lands Protection Board District Veterinary Surgeon based at Braidwood where he stayed until his retirement in 2014.

Both Glynn and Bob enjoyed experiencing the 4 seasons in Bungendore and set about establishing a cold climate country garden on their ¾ of acre block at 2 Ashby Drive. By the time they left Bungendore there were 350 rose bushes and an extensive orchard and vegetable garden.

When Bob initially moved to Bungendore, he joined Canberra City Rotary Club and he later became Charter President of The Rotary Club of Bungendore on 29th January, 2003. The Rotary Club of Bungendore was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Canberra City. There was a tricky moment before Bob was sworn in as Charter President where he had to resign from the Canberra City Club.

The move south saw Bob and Glynn become members of the Brumbies Rugby family following the team to many games around Australia. Bob was also a member of the Brumbies Rugby Choir for several months.

Yet the formation of another Rugby Club occurred – this time the Bungendore Mud Chooks in 2003.

The life long interest in Rugby saw Bob and Glynn take their first overseas rugby trip to attend the World Cup games in 2011 in France. They met other like-minded travellers and joined with them in other trips. They travelled twice to Hong Kong, South America once, New Zealand once, United Kingdom once and Bob's final Rugby trip was to Japan with son, Rob, in 2019.

On 23rd September, 2000, Natalie was welcomed

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Robert George Templeton - continued

into the Templeton family when she and Rob were married at South West Rocks.

In 2003 Bob entered what he called his "It doesn't get any better than this" stage. This followed the birth of his darling Bronte Sarah Louise on 10th September. Sasha Rose completed the family on Rob's birthday, 16th April, 2005. Bob very much adored these two precious Grand daughters.

Following Bob's retirement he and Glynn were enticed back to the Far North Coast and the salt air. They moved to 63 Newcastle Drive, Pottsville where more gardens were built. He joined the Rotary Club of Tweed Coast.

Being retired and with the help of our Norfolk connection, Rod Craig, who looked after the garden, we were able to spend longer periods in our Norfolk Island home eventually moving there permanently 4 years ago. More gardens followed plus the clearing of 5 acres of weeds.

Bob joined the Norfolk Island Probus Club, was a foundation member of The Norfolk Island Men's Shed group and enjoyed a round or two of golf with the Veterans Golf group particularly with his new golf stick he purchased when in Japan.

Throughout Bob's life he and Glynn regularly attended Church. Firstly, at Beverly Hills Methodist Church, then Mullumbimby Uniting Church and while living in Bungendore attending the Queanbeyan Uniting Church. On moving back to Norfolk Island Bob returned to his original religion when he and Glynn became members of the Church of England family. The prayers, love and support shown to the Templeton family by this Congregation enabled them to cope with the happenings of the last few months.

Unfortunately Bob's years of playing Rugby caught up with him and he was diagnosed two and half years ago with Incognitive Amnesic Disorder and Dementia.

A very much loved husband, father, father in law, Pop, uncle and friend succumbed to the disorder on Tuesday, 8th November peacefully with his son, Rob, with him.

Rest in Peace Dr Bob and thank you for the many happy memories.

Sincere Thanks

Glynn, Rob, Rachel, Natalie, Bronte and Sasha wish to thank all those who kept us in their prayers and who sent flowers, messages and cards following the death of Bob. These were a great comfort to us and helped us to cope with a very difficult time in our lives.

We would like to express our thanks to the Staff of Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service for their care of Bob, especially Maria McCann for her support and advice after Bob's dementia diagnosis.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Leigh and Wayne for all they did looking after 159 and to Ken, Alan and Irene for assisting with the garden and yard maintenance.

Bob will be very much missed by the family but he will never be forgotten.



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