



Vale

Richard Walter Douran

Affectionately Known as Uckoo or Cat

27 August 1933 to 04 August 2019

Richard Walter Douran affectionally known as Uckoo or Cat, was born on Norfolk Island on the 27th August 1933, to Richard and Alice (Nornie) Douran and Brother to Gordi, Prail and Kerry.

He married Ngaire Francis on the 14th July 1958 and they went on to have 5 children – Malcolm (Sputt) Carolyn (George), Ritchie (Dads), Vickie and Cindy. He has 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Uckoo's love of the sea took him on his first journey as a deck hand on a Whale oil tanker "MV Forso" based at Ballina in July 1958 and the "MV Norfolk Whaler" through to 1960. He then moved on to become Coxswain of a whale chaser during whaling season on Norfolk Island.

In 1962 he temporarily put down the oars and commenced employment with the Commonwealth Department of Works as a plant operator and then later with the NI Administration in 1964 right through to his retirement in 1998.

The works depot was always one happy side for him. He enjoyed nothing more than working alongside his mates and causing havoc when away he had the chance.

Uckoo's mischievous character and numerous antics often required careful negotiating skills and we have one example to share with you today called: Uckoo's Lesson to senior management.

It goes like this:

One letter from the Chief Administrative Officer at the time, Ron Malcolm, was sent to Uckoo stating that he was seen assisting Tardy with work on Tardy's land without any approval or authority during working hours.

From that, one disciplinary offence under the PSA 1979 Act was issued.

(continued overleaf)

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Phone Pip 55099 or Les 50414

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PRIVATE OASIS - EXCLUSIVE LISTING - \$475,000

This home is close to town and the beach but is hidden away up a sealed and leafy driveway. The internal timber cladding of this home is rich and warm, and gives the home a Scandinavian inspired feel. The super sized living areas, and high vaulted ceiling allow air flow and light in this beautiful family home.



 **3**  **1**

BALL BAY BEAUTY - EXCLUSIVE LISTING - \$475,000

This exceptional property is situated in the beautiful Ball Bay area out to the East of the Island. This 3 bedroom home plus separate sleep out is perfect for a family with spacious living areas both outside and in. The home features an attic bedroom, and a large cathedral window that floods the kitchen/ dining with gorgeous light. Large glass doors capture the sea view. Every space in this house has outstanding features and it is an exciting listing for potential buyers in this price range.



 **4**
 **2**

NORFOLK EMPORIUM - P.O.A -

This high yielding business is offered up for sale for the first time. It has been a family owned business since 1954 and has been the most consistent and most profitable performer in our business sector. It has long established exclusive international suppliers with its clothing stock and repeat clientele with both tourists and locals (It is the local school's uniform supplier). The business comes with a large set of embroidery machines to set logos to everything from your clothes to towels etc. The shop is outfitted in quality fixtures and fittings and latest point of sale function. This business is situated in the best location in town - right in the centre and visible to all.



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Richard Walter Douran - continued

Ron Malcolm requested that Uckoo reply within 48 hours to which he did. Huttie one highlight from his written response "I was in fact working in that area, and apart from that I did spend some time in his presence which should only be seen as loafing on the job"

He further stated: "Without wishing to make excuses for my actions, I consider it important to say that my being able to use Administration time so easily stems from a lack of proper guidance. I have noticed over recent years that from day to day I have not been clearly directed in my work. I do not wish to be too critical of my superiors, but if the workers were to have a program of work and clear direction, there would be no free time in which these things could occur"

Ron Malcolm responded to Uckoo's letter advising that all charges had been dropped.

With his extensive experience and passion for the sea, it seemed a perfect match that he took on the operation of the government launches used for the island's lighterage operations and on occasions have been called on for sea rescue missions.

Some would give him a right arm full "brush with fame" and in February 1974, Uckoo did just that, being responsible for the transportation of the Queen, The Duke, Princess Anne, Capt Mark Philips and Lord Mountbatten from the *Royal Britannia* to Kingston Jetty.

Sea conditions on the day were very treacherous and Uckoo and others successfully brought the party ashore for the day and returned safely back to the *Britannia* that afternoon. When interviewed by the media, Uckoo was asked what would be the chances of the Queen coming ashore, to which he replied "fifty fifty".

When further questioned as to the difficulty he swiftly replied, "it's a piece a cake". From that day on his title became "The Royal Cat"

Without a doubt Uckoo's two greatest passions in life were his self-taught music and sporting abilities.

As a gifted sportsman he excelled at tennis, bowls, cricket and even participating as a jockey in local horse racing. He achieved his NRL referee badge in Manly and was commonly referred to as the "Green Eyed Cat",

When away he refereed the Greens United team, apparently for some he made many unfavourable calls against the opposition.

No doubt you'll get plenty of different memories of the Cat as we do, and have been touched by his infectious wit, laughter and kindness.

As the cat would tell you his CB radio – Manchester One, Over an out!!!

Thank You

The family would like to sincerely thank:

- The Norfolk Island Hospital Doctors, nurses and staff and very big special thank you to The Veranda staff who have cared and look after Uckoo for many years. There are no words to express our appreciation.
- The ladies and their helpers at the "Usual Place", the wreaths were beautiful.
- Tardy for driving him to his final resting place
- Shane and the Grave diggers
- Pallbearers
- Jodie for her valuable time and artistic creativity with the service pamphlets and Kyran, Tiana and Mitch for handing them out
- David for conducting the service
- Milton and Sim for providing the sound
- The Leagues Club for providing the venue and staff and Trent and Roy for providing the amazing duo music and your selfless thought of just tuning up and doing within you do best

And to all who helped to celebrate Uckoo's life and all who sent their condolences, flowers and food, these gestures are all greatly appreciated.

And last but not least all of his Mates who have supported, worked and laughed with him over the years, we really appreciate you sharing all these great memories, "he really did love it".

If we've forgotten any one please accept our sincere thanks.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
**Stephen Roy Nobbs -
"Snobbles"**

27 November 1957 - 18 August 2018

A man with a big heart.

It had to be to hold all those he loved,

And all those who loved him.

Missed every minute, Loved forever ~

Becky, and Adam, Sam, Joseph and families

In Memoriam

Adele Faye Buffett (nee McCoy)

22 years long gone Del, not a day goes by we don't think of you.

Love always from your family.
