



Vale
Robert Eric Adams
‘Chinny’

Robert Eric Adams, known to many as Chinny - was born on 20 September 1958, the only son of Eric and Kath Adams.

Growing up on Norfolk Island, Chinny enjoyed the typical island childhood. Days were spent fishing, riding motorbikes with his mates and making the most of the freedom that Norfolk offered.

A story he once shared was the time he set off from his mum after missing the Queen's visit to Norfolk Island in 1974. While everyone else had gathered to welcome The Queen, Chinny decided to spend the day riding motorbikes with his mates.

That pretty much summed him up.

In 1976, Chinny joined the Royal Australian Air Force as an Airframe Fitter, serving with 5 Squadron in Canberra before later posting to 77 Squadron at Williamstown.

While he worked hard, it's fair to say Chinny brought his own Norfolk style to his time at the RAAF. There were plenty of stories involving wild weekends and long nights out, many of them with people who are here today, or watching online. Many of these stories may not be suitable to go into now.

Chinny was immensely proud of his Air Force service. It shaped his work ethic, his love of aviation and, in many ways, the man he became.

It was while serving in Canberra that he met Joanne in 1979 at the old Canberra Inn.

He was a 20-year-old Air Force mechanic who rode motorbikes. She was the 18-year-old daughter of a Vietnam veteran Army officer.

When Chinny first asked Joanne out, she said no. Thankfully for all of us, he didn't give up. A year later they were married.

Motorbikes remained one of Chinny's great passions.

While living in Canberra and later Newcastle, he became involved in competitive motorcycle racing. Many weekends were spent at the track chasing speed and burning rubber.

That passion almost came to an end after a spectacular crash where he came off his bike and the rider behind ran straight over him, leaving tyre marks across the back of his racing leathers.

That was enough for Joanne, who was eight months pregnant with their third child. She put her foot down, and Chinny's racing career was over.

After twelve years of service, Chinny left the Air Force in June 1988, the same day his youngest son, Brent, was born. Soon after, they moved back home to Norfolk to raise their young family.

However, not long after arriving back home, another door opened with an opportunity to join British Aerospace in Saudi Arabia.

In true Chinny fashion, his timing wasn't exactly perfect. He arrived in the Middle East only a week before the Gulf War began. What originally was intended to be an aircraft engineering instructor role, quickly changed to fitting armaments on military aircraft during a war.

Joanne has often told the story of watching the news back on Norfolk Island. On one occasion, she remembers seeing reports of an Iraqi Scud missile attack on Saudi air bases - but as Chinny bin tull et - he heard the air raid sirens, got out of bed, looked outside to see everyone running around, assumed it was a drill, made himself a coffee and then went back to bed.

That was Chinny.

Chinny also loved surprises. During one unannounced visit home, he decided to surprise

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Chinny- continued

Joanne by walking into Favourites Restaurant, where she was working at the time. He'd dressed head to toe in full traditional Arab clothing, and at first, Joanne nawa recognised him. Later, Joanne se ketch et from her boss for kissing a strange Arab man in the restaurant.

His love for Norfolk Island led him into public service once he had returned home from the Middle East.

In 1994 he was elected to the 7th Legislative Assembly, serving as Minister for Industry and Forests, before being re-elected to the 8th Legislative Assembly in 1997, serving until 1999.

Given his Air Force background and lifelong passion for aviation, it came as little surprise that he also spent many years working at Norfolk Island Airport. He served as Deputy Airport Manager before later becoming Manager for a number of years, a role he thoroughly enjoyed.

For all the places he travelled and worked, Norfolk Island was always home.

Steeles Point wasn't just where Chinny lived—it was where he was happiest. It was a place of love and support from when it was Julia and Bobbie Dick's, to Eric's and Kath's to his and Joanne's. He loved the peace, the space and the quiet satisfaction of making the place his own.

He spent years clearing lantana, planting trees, growing vegetables, tending to his grapes and always finding another project to tackle.

He never really needed much. A bit of land to work on, something growing in the garden, his mates and family. He loved having people around to share a beer, tell a few stories, solve the world's problems — and simply enjoy each other's company.

Above all else, Chinny was a family man. Joanne and Rob were both incredibly young when they met and, in many ways, they grew up together. They travelled the world, built a family and when they returned to Norfolk Island they created the life they wanted.

Family gatherings, shared meals and getting everyone together were always important to Chinny. He was proud of his family, and he loved nothing

more than seeing everyone around the same table.

Most people knew him simply as Chinny. To Joanne, he was a devoted husband. To Boyd, Dayna and Brent, he was Dad or Raze. To Charlie, he was Pop.

He was proud of his family, and he loved nothing more than seeing everyone around the same table.

One of Chinny's greatest joys later in life was becoming a grandfather. From Charlie's earliest days to family holidays in Townsville and back on Norfolk Island, Chinny embraced every moment of being Pop. Whether teaching Charlie how to fish, riding motorbikes or simply spending time out on the land, those were moments he genuinely treasured. He loved watching Charlie grow, and he couldn't have been prouder of the young man he was becoming.

He lived a life full of adventure. He loved this island and cherished his family. And he never stopped caring about either.

His legacy isn't measured by the positions he held or the places he travelled. It's measured by the family he loved, the friendships he built, the community he served, and the memories he leaves with all of us.

So whenever the suff se' guud, and the sun is shining over his little slice of God's country, there will always be a little part of Chinny there.

Rest in peace Chin.

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A thank you from the family

Any loss of a loved one is hard, and these past few days since Chinny's passing have truly been heartbreaking. But in the moments of grief and despair, there has been a renewed appreciation for the love and support that a small community like awas provides.

Many who call Norfolk home know the love and support this community can offer, but it is different when you're the ones experiencing it.

The outpouring of love and support has been overwhelming, and we're so blessed to be surrounded by family, friends, or just people who wanted to share their condolences and offer support. To the countless people who called out to Steeles Point with flowers and condolence cards, the plenty salan who brought food, and those who simply came to spend time with the family, we can't thank you all by name, as there were simply too many, but please know how deeply we appreciate your kindness and support.

Our deep and profound thanks go to the hospital staff, who gave such excellent care to Chinny and did everything they could for him.

We'd also like to thank everyone who helped prepare for the funeral, from Shane, Mal and Milton, to the countless grave diggers who generously gave their time to help.

To the pallbearers, who were either in Chinny's school class or were lifelong friends—Raymond, Sput, Adam, Skeeters and Grinnel—thank you. Every one of you was truly amazing, giving so much of your time to support our family and help honour Chinny's memory.

To Jan, Colleen, Chelsea, Gaye, and all the wonderful wreath makers who came together in a true sense of community to create so many beautiful wreaths and floral tributes, thank you.

Our thanks also go to Trent Christian for the audio, and to Kevin and Keiran from KaaWaa Streaming for livestreaming the service, allowing so many family and friends across Australia and around the world to be part of the farewell.

Thank you to the RSL Sub-Branch members who came to offer their condolences and lay poppies of remembrance.

We would also like to say a special thank you to Tim Sheridan for conducting the service, and to Tet Grube for reading the eulogy. It was no easy task, but your help gave Chinny the send-off he would've wanted.

There are so many others who have offered their support, and we remain forever grateful. It's people like you who make this island such a special place to call home.

From our entire family, we offer our heartfelt thanks and love to you all.

Joanne, Boyd, Dayna, Brent and Charlie



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