



*Legacy of*  
**Mr Robert Tofts**

**12th October 1945 - 20th August 2019**

The funeral for Robert Tofts was held on the 8th September after a procession from the hospital at the graveside at the cemetery at 3pm .

We are so thankful for the people who knew and loved Dad to pay their respects and love & share the stories over the last few weeks after Dads passing ...

Robert Graham Tofts, was born to Roy and June Tofts in 1945 in St Helens hospital Wellington, New Zealand. He was one of fifteen children who would go fishing on a Sunday afternoon on the wharfs catching spotties.

Bob worked as a butcher after school, but he left school at 14 and would give some of his earnings to help his family at home. As a youth, he fished with commercial Italian fishermen on the weekends and also worked in a quarry during the week driving and operating heavy machinery.

In 1963 at the age of 18, Bob met Brian Cawley who was going out on the streets as part of the Teen Challenge ministry in Wellington. Bob was very independent and had left home at an early age and got involved with some wayward youths and a street gang which led him into a rebellious life and a downward spiral. He even spent a night in goal.

Brian Cawley lead Bob to know Jesus after a meeting him on the streets while Brian was going street ministry with Youth With A Mission and Teen Challenge.

Bob had a born-again conversion to Christianity which in turn took Bob to Great Barrier Island in 1968. Great Barrier is an island in the Hauraki Gulf on the North Island of NZ where he was in charge of fishing for a rehabilitation centre for youths and young adults. It was called Orama Christian Fellowship. He worked as a butcher and was also a part of the community helping out with youth that had drug problems and various issues .

Bob met Heather Hemus on Great Barrier Island and were married in 1969 .They both worked on staff and in the early 70s moved to Norfolk Island. Heather was raised on Norfolk since 1952 and still had family living there.

They had three children Helen and Delphine (now named Allison ) who were born born in New Zealand and Sam who was born on Norfolk Island .

*(continued overleaf)*

**Sunday  
Sesh**



**Grand  
Final**

**LIVE  
UFC**

**BAND NIGHT**

**FROM 4pm**

**BBQ  
from 1pm!**

**243**

**Leagues Club**

**Sunday 6th Oct**

### **Mr Robert Tofts - continued**

Throughout the years on Norfolk Bob had a great interest in history and the whaling days on Norfolk. He used to enjoy catching sharks off the wharf and became very handy at filleting sharks and preparing the Jaws to be displayed. Due to his butcher experience this became second nature. He was always available to help fillet the fish with the local fisherman .

He was actively involved across the Church community & sharing his faith .

He became a St John's Ambulance Officer. He loved his St Johns ambulance work and was awarded the Churchill Scholarship to go to Sydney to complete his training in being a Volunteer Paramedic.

He loved people and did his Chaplaincy training as well .

Because of his keen interest in the Norfolk history of whales and sharks. He wrote 3 books including one on the family called *The Trumps Bottle House* ( which was built by Heathers Dad Robert Hemus )

This was a big goal for Bob because he was quite illiterate and taught himself to read and write and with the help of Heather and others he was able to achieve writing these books .

He even found himself on a Norfolk Island stamp which was part of the Norfolk Island Writers festival.

Heather was the love of his life and he was a very devoted husband and provider and a loving family man. Bob loved music and singing whenever he had the opportunity and also played guitar which was an inspiration to his family .

Bob was a keen gardener and spent many hours in the yard looking after the garden and the fruit trees. He adapted well to the Norfolk Island lifestyle and he learnt a lot of skills on Norfolk and would enjoy swimming in Emily Bay.

Bob was a very hard and conscientious worker and he was always available to help out and lift things quite heavy including pianos, and awkward things like fridges and cars, he had quite a reputation for his strength .

Bob was blessed to have worked for Agnes Haines who was a wonderful support to the family through many years and the local community. He worked for Agnes for over 40 years and enjoyed his work .

Robert Graham Tofts was a humble generous gentleman, who without judgement, showed kindness to everyone who was approachable with a big heart, who loved God and people and showed that love to others in any way he could .

In the last few years since his wife's death in 2015, Bob enjoyed visiting family overseas and singing with The Soul Brothers and spending time with the church community who were a great support to him in the latter part of his life. He would open The Bottle House to tourists a couple times a week and continued to work for Agnes. He would love to hang out with the local fisherman and fillet fish regularly even up until 2 years years ago he continued ambulance work call outs .

He lived a very happy and fulfilling life on Norfolk Island and loved the community and her people and

will be missed greatly by many whose hearts and lives he touched.

Robert Tofts left a strong legacy and was a legendary character within the community he loved .

He was a pilgrim on this earth just passing through and promoted to Glory into the everlasting life into His Father in Heavens arms ...well done good and faithful servant.

The wake and remembrance and celebration of his life at The SDA Hall ( Seventh Day Adventist Hall )

Thankyou to everyone on Norfolk for accepting our family into youre wonderful community all those years ago in 1952 .

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## **Thank You**

A heartfelt Thankyou & gratitude goes out too :

- All the hospital staff on Norfolk Island the nurses & Doctor Peter Mann's .
- The Hospital staff at Prince of Wales emergency & ICU clinics .
- Don & Maree Reynolds and The Bumboras Ukelele Band
- The Norfolk Island Police
- The St Johns Ambulance Crew
- Shane Quintal and the Pall Bearers
- Tardy for driving the hearst
- Ken and Julie Weslake
- Reverend David Fell
- Pastors Marty & Gail Nola
- The Soul Brothers & Laurie & Snowy & Leith for you're wonderful friendship to Dad .
- Everyone that dropped off meals and veges & offered accommodation & cars .
- All the family that came over from Australia / New Zealand / Tasmania.
- Everyone on Norfolk for you're kind words and love and care to the family ~ All of Dads family in New Zealand and America & Australia & Tasmania for you're support & financial help .

*Love you All God Bless xx*



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