

# Glebe District Hockey Club

## Life Membership Biography

### Robert James Taylor

Born 17th April 1945

Elected Life Member of the Glebe District Hockey Club in 1996

Bob Taylor, A Queenslander, came to the Glebe District Hockey Club in 1977 and has been a tremendous worker for the Junior Teams and also the GDHC Executive. Bob's energetic, positive approach is contagious and he encourages fellow Club Members to follow his lead.

Robert James Taylor was born on the 17th of April 1945 at the Royal Brisbane women's Hospital to James Taylor and Marjorie Taylor (nee Clarke).

Bob was the eldest of four children and unfortunately Bob lost his younger brother Kevin Taylor (1948) when he died from Tetanus in 1953. Kevin was playing at his parent's farm and got a splinter in his foot and unfortunately died at the age of six, this was all before a tetanus vaccination was widely available in Australia. Bob's younger sister Gale (1950) still lives in Brisbane and is a

personal secretary and Bob's younger brother Peter (1955) lives and works in Brisbane. Peter followed Bob in to the plastics industry and still works for Mulfords Plastics.

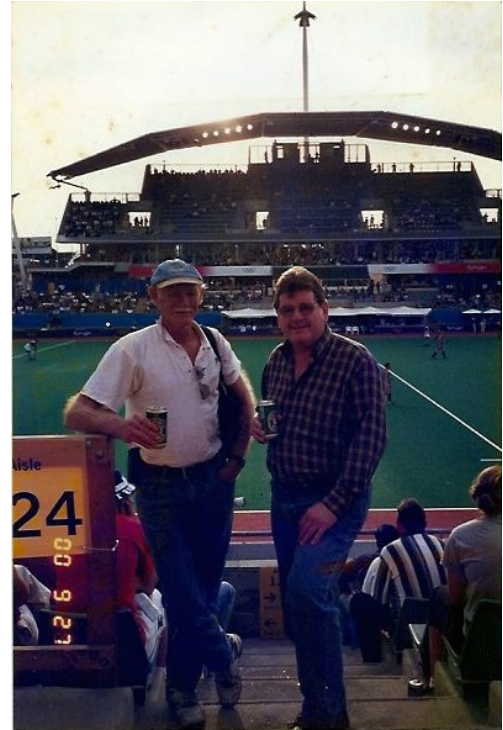
Bob was born and raised in a suburb of Brisbane called Zillmere, which is about 17 kilometres north of the Brisbane CBD where he spent all of his childhood in a low built suburban house at 11 Gledson Street. He attended Valley State Primary School from 1950 to 1955 and then transferred to Zillmere State Primary School from 1955 to 1958.

After completing his primary School education he transferred to Banyo High School from 1958 – 1961. Both of Bob's old schools are still in operation.



Bob was always a keen hockey player and whilst he may have never accomplished great representative honors he mostly enjoyed the camaraderie that the sport offered. He was a member of the Valley Hockey club from 1952 – 1960 and the commercial hockey club from 1961 to 1977.

In 1969 Bob meet a young lady by the name of Ireni Papakul. Bob and Ireni lived in the same neighbourhood growing up and after one night attending the local movies together, one thing lead to another and they married in 1969 in Brisbane in front of family and friends. Bob and Ireni had three children together Jason (1972), Karmen (1974) and Elise (1982). Jason Taylor or JT was a keen and enthusiastic member of the Glebe District Hockey Club for many years playing through the juniors and progressing in to the senior ranks. He was a member of various lower grade winning premiership sides over the years. In 2003 Jason relocated to Brisbane and is now living at Albany Creek which is a suburb situated 15km North of the Brisbane CBD. Upon moving to Brisbane Jason has joined his Fathers old Hockey Club of Commercial where he plays in the clubs 4th, 5th and classic league competitions which is still played on grass. Jason is also an integral part of helping run the Clubrooms, Jason enjoys the camaraderie the job offers. At the end of the 2002 season Jason Taylor had played 304 senior games for the club. From all reports Jason is enjoying himself up in Queensland and it's good to hear he is following his father's love for the game. Bob's two daughters Karmen and Elise never progressed further then the Glebe Minkey ranks from which they were keen attendee's for many years down at Jubilee Oval Glebe.



After leaving school Bob spent some time in various accounting jobs but soon realised this wasn't to his liking. He then transferred in to various sales jobs which at the time were very sought after jobs during the 60's and 70's. In 1977 Bob earned a rather sought after promotion with Mulfords plastic and was promoted to General Manager and in charge of sales within Australia and New Zealand regions. Mulfords plastics produce's & exports plastics through the Asia Pacific Region. Materials included a diverse range that is now used across a host of dynamic industries: from Building and Construction, Corporate Signage, Shop-fitting, Engineering, Mass Transportation, Digital Printing through to Electrical and Electronic industry. Bob's promotion required him to relocate to Sydney, which Bob looks back on as an exciting time in his life and with a young

family it offered the Taylor family a fresh start so to speak. Upon first moving to Sydney, Bob lived at 36 Marlborough St Drummoyne, with the Mulfords office being located at 597 Darling Street Rozelle. The young Taylor family stayed at the Marlborough Street Drummoyne property for four - five months before moving out to Baulkham Hills where he acquired the family home which he lived in for thirty years from 1977 - 1997. Bob now resides at Cromwell Street Croydon Park where he has lived since 1997.

One of Bob's passions has always been fishing and in Brisbane his old club of Valleys established a fishing club, which was capped at 20 people. He remembers at various times that often the 20 members of the fishing club included 14 Olympic Hockey players with names such as Don Curry, Jack Ellis Etc. The club spent most of their fishing days throwing a line in at Jumpin Pin which is located 45 kilometres south of Brisbane. One day whilst waiting for the fish to bite Bob mentioned he was moving to Sydney and the old Valleys Hockey players such as Des Wise who was a warrant officer and had played for Glebe during the 60's & 70's and Col Deane highly recommend the Glebe District Hockey Club to Bob. Des Wise Played in the Australian Team alongside Ken Wark Snr who originally enticed him to club.

Upon moving to Sydney and starting his new job in the Darling Street office, Bob one day walked down to Harry and Ken Wark Snr's butcher shop at 107 Mansfield Street Rozelle, introduced himself and explained his story and from that moment on he has been with the Glebe Hockey Club ever since.

Bob was a spritely 32 year old upon first wearing the Glebe colours and took to the GDHC like a duck to water. He recalls fondly that one of his proudest achievements with the GDHC was resurrecting the Glebe juniors along with Martin Howe, Peter Howe & Bob Fox when they used to hand out flyers in and around the Glebe area to Primary Schools, High Schools, Police Boys Club's trying to recruit everyone and anyone willing to try their hand at Hockey. He remembers upon arriving at the club the juniors were at times lucky to field three teams but thanks mainly to the men mentioned above the juniors flourished during the 90's and into the 2000's.

Bob can often be recognised driving around in his 1984 Holden Statesmen Deville which he brought brand new straight off the factory line. He still owns the car to this day and it is in pristine condition. Over the past decade Bob, Billy Stubbs and Lex Mcphee have been



completing a number of long distance drives in and around Australia taking them to every watering hole Australia has to offer. Bob looks back fondly at seeing some amazing scenery on his journey's and has enjoyed the company provided by both Lex and Billy.

Bob is the proud Grandfather to Grand Children Ella (2002), Jorga (2001) and Zac (2012).

Bob Taylor was also elected a life Member of the Sydney Hockey Association after serving on the SHA executive for 12 years from 2000 - 2012.



Bob Taylor played 324 games for the club exclusively in the lower grades winning a couple of premierships along the way. Bob also holds the prestigious title of being the Clubs longest serving President serving from 1998 till 2012 a record of 15 years. The previous longest serving President was Jack Worley who served for 12 years from 1946 till 1957. Bob has steered the club through thick and thin and his devotion to all things Glebe hockey is unwavering. You can truly say that Bob's impact on the club over 35 years has been tremendous and the Hockey Club is a better place for having had Bob Taylor as one of its members.