



Name: Debbie Netto Jonker

Year first nominated for Membership of RBYC: 2020

Membership Term: Senior Member since June 2020

Membership Status: Senior Member

Professional Background:

My first career was as a general nurse and midwife, working in Cape Town South Africa and then in London. On return to Cape Town, I trained in hospitality and co-managed a 120-seat steakhouse for two years during which time developing a keen interest in people, business processes, financial management and Investments. This led to studying Financial Planning at a South African University and founding Netto Invest, an investment advisory practice some 34 years ago.

In 2001 we moved to Melbourne and for 12 years I commuted between the two countries to grow the team in Cape Town which enabled me to be an at-home Mum to two young children while Dave ran the business in Melbourne full time.

Having stepped aside from day-to-day management in South Africa a few years ago, I now consult to my co-shareholders when required and no longer accept new clients. In Melbourne, I provide Business and Tax advisory services exclusively for our family-owned company. This allows me time to be involved in community work and my hobbies.

I currently serve as a volunteer community visitor in the mental health stream reporting to the Office of the Public Advocate and assist various charity projects in South Africa.

Sailing experience:

Learning to sail an optimist for a week at a school camp at the age of 16, I then windsurfed in the lakes and seas of Europe while travelling abroad as a fit 23-year-old. On returning to South Africa I cobbled together funds and bought a tired old windsurfer and later, a Hoby cat 16. A crew member and I sailed in a few races around the Western Cape. We were exposed to stormy seas; frequently found ourselves upside down and I naively entered the world Hobie sailing event in Cape Town, surviving with crew, a sense of humour and my Hobie Cat intact!

My fiancé - now husband Dave and I did not successfully sail together and agreed that power boating could be a more harmonious arrangement! For the last 35 years, we have had various power boats. In Australia, a Whitley 21 ft, then a 28 ft, a 4 Winns and 3 years ago, we invested in a Riviera Motor Yacht and a fishing boat. We have since cruised to Hamilton Island twice, with a successful return trip from RBYC where Dave and I did the Sydney to Melbourne leg alone with a Professional skipper on call to us but, not onboard. Both our children Mike, 24, and Kerry, 27, have developed a passion for Motor Cruising and perhaps one day, the club's members could convert one of them to sailing as well!

RBYC Committee Experience:

It was suggested by the Commodore that I nominate as a General Committee member, given my professional and boating background. I am happy to use my experience to assist the club where I can add value and I look forward to contributing as part of the General Committee.

Personal Objectives:

I believe a sense of community is critical for the club, and our purpose should be to maximise the community's connection to the sea while respecting the privilege that the position to the waterfront location, affords us all.

Thank you for your time.