



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, after which I trained in hospitality and co-managed a steakhouse where I developed a keen interest in people, business processes, and financial management. This led to studying Financial Planning and founding Netto Invest, an investment advisory practice, over 34 years ago.

In 2001, my family and I relocated to Melbourne where I balanced commuting for 12 years between South Africa and Melbourne to be an at home mother to our two young children, while my husband, Dave, managed the business full time in Melbourne

A few years ago, I stepped back from day-to-day management, though I continue to consult with my co-shareholders as needed. I no longer take on new clients and now devote much of my time to community work, which I find deeply fulfilling.

Sailing experience:

My sailing journey began at 16, when I spent a week learning to sail an optimist at a school camp. Later, while traveling through Europe at 23, I took up windsurfing on the lakes and seas. 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, navigating stormy seas and frequently found ourselves upside down. Despite the challenges, we competed in the world Hobie sailing event in Cape Town, emerging with our boat - and our sense of humour - intact.

My fiancé - now husband Dave and I did not successfully sail together and agreed that power boating could be a more harmonious arrangement! Over the past 35 years, we have owned various power boats, including a Whitley, a 4 Winns and 3 years ago, we invested in a motor cruiser. Since then, we have cruised to Hamilton Island twice, successfully completing a return trip from RBYC, where Dave and I handled the Sydney to Melbourne leg with only a professional skipper on call, but not on board. Both our children Mike (24), and Kerry (28), have developed a passion for motor cruising and perhaps one day, club members might inspire them to take up sailing as well!

RBYC Committee Experience:

In 2023/24, I was encouraged by the Commodore to run for the General Committee, and I am happy to continue to serve. I am committed to utilising my experience to assist the club and look forward to continuing to contribute as part of the General Committee.

Personal Objectives:

I believe that fostering a sense of community is essential for our club. Our shared purpose should be to deepen the community's connection to the sea while honouring the unique privilege afforded by our waterfront location.

Thank you for your consideration.