

ASPA Life Member

Robert David Moreland

Surfers Ave, Ocean Grove

Born: 9th of March 1947

Awarded life membership November 2007

Growing up in Sunshine deep in the western suburbs of Melbourne, not many of Rob's schoolmates ventured far from the rattle of the train line and the constant growl of the city traffic. The only child of a local well regarded carpenter and his wife, Robert Moreland soon came to realise that there was more to life than what he saw on offer deep in the city's west. A strong swimmer and A Grade water polo player Rob was drawn quickly to the south coast and surfing. In his early days down the coast Rob was sponsored by several local shapers.

With his Higher School certificate in hand Rob left school in 1965 and spent a very short time working as a bank teller before the world of travel beckoned. A builder's labourer job in the city working on Nauru House, one of the biggest construction sites in the city at this time, gave Rob some experience as a first aider, and moreover in 1969, the cash he needed to set sail and see the world. After working and travelling extensively through America, Canada and Europe Rob didn't set foot back in Australia until 1974.

All this getting around but Rob didn't put a foot into his first pair of Stroltz until 1975. After a few trips to Mt Buller it was a ski trip to Falls Creek later that season that Rob met his wife to be whilst staying at Casella Lodge. Faye could not have foreseen what she was getting herself into. She, already a competent skier, took Rob out and showed him the slopes of Falls Creek, totally unaware that in the not to distant future these slopes would soon become Rob's workplace in his challenging new career as a ski patroller.



Completing his first ASPA course in 1980 Rob started his career as a volunteer in 1981 whilst working in the ski hire for Jeff Henke at Maloney's (later Gebi's). With Rob in the ski hire and Faye mastering the perfect pancake upstairs and a new house under way in Mt Beauty, the Moreland's soon settled into their routine with winters at Falls Creek and summers spent by the beach down at Ocean Grove. With some hard yards completed out on the hill in 1985 Rob commenced work as a paid patroller.

Two exchanges to Keystone, Colorado in 1990 and 1993, one to Kirkwood, California in 1998 followed by another to Whistler, British Columbia in 2000, Rob's experience grew and his involvement with ASPA as an instructor/examiner benefited greatly from this. Many candidates at the Melbourne course will have fond memories of Rob's involvement over the years. My favourite Rob moment at the course was a few years ago when Rob was giving a lecture on "Legal Aspects". Rob was commenting on the aggressive grilling nature of a QC that was trying to discredit him during a litigation case, which stemmed from an incident at Falls Creek. With a wry grin Rob exclaimed to the auditorium full of would be patrollers "this guy was good, when I kill my first wife I'm hiring this bloke" Such is the humour and an insight into the way Rob views the world.

It was evident early on that Rob's attention to detail and keenness to train would soon become his trademark. Rob's determination is well demonstrated in obtaining his national on snow qualification in 2005 after first attempting the exam some 15 years prior. Just to keep himself on his toes in 2003 Rob at 55 completed his degree in Nursing. I like many before me graduated from the Rob Moreland school of ski patrolling and I think I have benefited greatly from Rob's influence and I am glad that ASPA has seen fit to bestow Life Membership stature upon him.



A spring chicken at 60 Rob is still as keen as ever juggling his nursing roster and committing to another full season of patrolling in 2008, Rob says he is as primed as ever to go again. With a view to head back to Whistler to do some patrolling at the 2010 winter Olympics, the longevity of Rob's career stands as testimony to his fitness and durability as a skier and as a ski patroller.

Glenn McIlroy
Ski Patrol Director, Falls Creek
November 2007