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It was as though he would always be around as part of the "B1 and B2 show" - kind, practical, with a quiet wit. It won't be the same without him. Our hearts go out to Bern and the girls.

Josephine Tan & David Jenkins

Rob you were a quiet, gentle man.
We will always remember your
absolute love for Bern, Kate,
Mollie and Annie.

Fred and Mary Reus

Uncle Rob you will be very
missed. The DeGraaff
functions won't be the
same without you.. Our
hearts go out to Bern and
the girls. Rest In Peace
Chris, Cindy and family

Rob was a cheerful person and a much-loved colleague. In the office the topic of world politics often came up and he was quick to look at the humorous side these things. We would talk about the political commentators of the day and the jokes they would make about politicians. Rob was always keen to share these jokes and we often laughed about them together. At work he always thought laterally and had time for everyone. His spirit of positivity, helpfulness, openness and inquisitiveness was always there. We will miss him dearly. Sincere condolences to his family.

Catherine Irwin

Sincere condolences to Rob's family. I worked with Rob for a little over 11 years and found him to be an exceptional colleague and a joy to work with; friendly, helpful, smart, calm, respectful with a great sense of humour. You couldn't ask for better. Rob, you will be greatly missed. Rest in peace.

Jason Issa

Rob was a diligent and extremely capable colleague. He was an authoritative voice and always helpful and approachable. I will miss his cheerful and calm presence. He will be sorely missed at EPA. Condolences to his family for their loss.

Scott Jones

Rob was one of the loveliest people I have had the pleasure of working with. So clever, helpful, kind and best of all always in good spirits. A dull job was never dull for long when assigned on it with Rob. My thoughts go out to Rob's family. He spoke of you always. Rob will be missed by so many and always remembered fondly.

Kristin Wasley

Rob will be remembered as a wonderful human being: kind, intelligent, and funny. Taken too soon, the Toxicology and Risk Assessment community will miss him. My sincere condolences to his family.

Tarah Hagen

I was always impressed by the empathy Rob brought to often heated and complex situations, he was a calm and well-reasoned presence. Rob was always willing to impart his knowledge and experience to others and always took time out of his day to explain complex problems and help me with decision making. He will be missed!

Zac Dornom

We loved hanging on the hockey sidelines with Rob. He was special; a truly lovely person who was generous with his wit, verve for life and deep love for his family. Our condolences to Bern, Kate, Mollie and Annie.

Anne-Marie and Issa

I'll always remember Rob smiling and cheering us on from the sidelines. From U10 to U18 he was always there supporting the girls. Lots of love to Annie, Mollie, Kate and Bern ❤️
Bish

Rob, a wonderful neighbour for
many years. You will be missed.
Love to Bern and the girls
Ruth and Peter Gilder

It is with such sadness that I write in this
card. I only worked with Rob for a couple of
years but it was such a privilege. He will
be missed personally and professionally. I
am thinking of you all at this time. Warm
wishes.

Andrea Hinwood

Rob has long been involved with the Yarra Valley
Hockey Club with his daughters Mollie & Annie
playing for many years both at junior and senior
levels. Rob constantly had a smile on his face and
was always helping out around the club.

Yarra Valley Hockey Club

ROB HAD A LONG CAREER AND STRONG PERSONAL
COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH. PRIOR TO
JOINING EPA, ROB WORKED FOR THE THEN VICTORIAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS)
WHERE HE COLLABORATED CLOSELY WITH MANY EPA STAFF
ON PROJECTS SUCH AS BROOKLYN AIR QUALITY, SUNSHINE
NORTH ASBESTOS AND THE BLACK SATURDAY FIRES CLEAN
UP. IN 2016, ROB JOINED EPA AS SENIOR HEALTH RISK
ADVISOR AND WAS PART OF THE ORIGINAL GROUP OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVISORS WHO CAME ACROSS FROM
DHHS TO FORM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM IN
SCIENCE DIVISION. THOSE WHO KNEW AND WORKED WITH ROB
REMEMBER HIM AS KNOWLEDGEABLE, PROFESSIONAL,
HUMBLE, AND TRUSTWORTHY.

THE EPA

‘Successful engagement with stakeholders is essential in environmental public health,’ said Principal Scientist, Air, Paul Torre. ‘Rob was very good at explaining complex detail clearly and calmly, and he had a very reassuring manner.’

‘Rob is one of the best colleagues I've known,’ said Bron Burton, Manager Strategic Engagement. ‘Rob was highly respected across the business, and I know many turned to Rob for advice on a wide variety of issues and topics.’

The EPA

Dear Bern, Kate, Mollie and Annie
Your Rob was extraordinary. He enriched our work lives immeasurably and I am so sorry he is gone too soon.
I miss his wise smile and his faith in others, his compassion and his sense of humour
Nathalie

Although we last physically saw each other 3 decades ago, I cherish the warm memories of our student exploits in Melbourne and the delightful conversations on changing the world slightly for the better. A warm, charming and witty person has left us far too soon. I wish your family strength in getting to terms with this loss. Rob's memory will remain vivid in me though, and I am sure there will be a few giggles when he is discussed. Thank you Rob for making my Melbourne world so pleasant!

*Bob was such a solid friend to those who were fortunate to know him in the early years growing up in Warrnambool. He was always up for a chat or getting the group together for some adolescent shenanigans. Those early memories are my fondest and Bob was a big part of them.
Sincere condolences to Bern and family.*

Simone Smith

Thanks Rob. You were always there for all the hockey kids, mums and dads. A true allround great person. Love to Bern, Kate, Mollie and Annie.

The McConvilles

I worked with Rob in the past one year. From very limited talking and working experience with Rob, I can tell he is a gentle, helpful and humble person. Rob's soft voice and sence of humor will be remembered. Rest in peace Rob.

Yujing Zhang

Rob i didn't get to know you nearly well enough, but what an immediatley warm, calming, positive and sensitive force we'll all remember.

Tim Chaston

What a great colleague of those friendly but scie floor. Always had a sto and knowledgeable and j see you go so soon. Condi sympathies to the Mc x
John Rees

Hey mate,
You were a wise person
and Susan's favourite
friend
Stephen Edwards

Sincere condolences to Rob's family and friends. Rob was a highly respected and esteemed colleague, whom I will miss. RIP.

Brian Priestly

I will never forget working with Rob- a beautiful, knowledgable and kind man that always had time for others. My first interaction with Rob was when I was a new-starter at EPA and was thrown into the craziness that is PFAS and ducks. Rob's public health advice underpinned the health assessment of PFAS in ducks, and enabled us to provide risk-based advice to the community. He generously shared his knowledge and I learnt so much working alongside Rob. A fabulous man, gone far too soon. My sincerest condolences to Bern and the girls.

Cass B

Rob was a gentle soul and had a lovely sense of humour - I can still see the twinkle in his eye. I've known Rob for many years and worked closely with him for five. He was a deep thinker and with it, wise, calm, and trusted. Foi dhut Rob

Sandra Falconer

Rob was a true gentleman and one of the most kind hearted people I have had the pleasure to work with. Sending love to his family at this sad time.

Monique Vella

We spent many hours on the sidelines of various hockey pitches over the years with Rob - his support for the kids, the teams and the families was amazing. Always smiling and willing to pitch in and help with anything we needed. Sending our thoughts and prayers to Bern, Kate, Mollie and Annie

The Browns (Hugh, Sally, Emma and James)

I had the absolute pleasure of working with Rob (aka the 'Toxic Bob') at the Department of Health/Human Services etc for many years until he left to join the EPA. I was devastated to learn the news about his death. I think Rob was one of the best humans I've met and worked with. His subject matter expertise was immense as was his ability to explain it to numbskulls like me. He was patient, calm and incredibly caring of and for those around him. He had a great sense of cheeky humour and always seemed to know when to lighten the mood in a team. I will miss him, and my thoughts are with his family and friends.

Noel Cleaves

I had the pleasure of working with Rob since he joined EPA. In addition to his great knowledge, it was clear he was a dedicated family man - we always chatted about what he was up to with the kids at the lunch table. Sending my sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Tara Daw Quadros

Our sincere sympathy and love to Bern, Kate, Mollie and Annie. We are so sorry a beautiful loving husband and father has been taken far too soon. Our thoughts and love are with you.

Love Karen, Christian, Eliza and Paddy xo

All my love to Bernadette, the girls and Bob's extended friends and family.

Loving memories of meeting Bob and Bern early in my time at St Mary's and admiring you both so much, as individuals and as a couple. I will miss Bob's humour and his twinkle. ❤️❤️❤️

Elizabeth Ogilvy

Rob was a sweet and kind soul. I will miss him dearly. My deepest sympathy for your loss.

Eleanor Snowdon
(EPA, CPSU)

I first noticed Rob when he was around Form 3. He and Konrad stood out, a Laurel and Hardy duo, Konrad tall, handsome and charismatic, Rob short, laconic and also charismatic in a different way, both good natured and often laughing. Later in our 20s and beyond I slowly started to realise what a gentle, tolerant and wise man he was, as well as cheerful and frequently devastatingly hilarious. Some things he said will just not be forgotten.

We were hoping for next year's trip to Scotland. We'll have to drink the Lapraig in Bob's memory now. My heart goes out to Bern, Kate, Mollie and Annie. We all wanted Rob in our lives a lot longer and will miss this gentle man all our remaining days.

David McLean

Hey Rob, it is so sad to say goodbye, you were one of the most loving person in the Departmen of Health (Environmental Health area), I didn't work with you however, we always discuss many things in Lunch room and here and there, I mised you and my deepest condolences to your family. God give them strength to cope up with their infinite loss.

Prabhakar Gaware

Deepest sympathy to Bernadette ,Kate,Annie and mollie and Margaret and Helen and their families on the passing of Robert Nephew of Charlie and Mary and cousin of Ted (all dec) and his family

Lois, Lara ,Karen McKenzie and families Warrnambool

Very sadenned to learn of Rob's passing. He was always so friendly, helpful and always with a ready smile. He will be missed by all his colleagues.

Condolences to his family and friends.

Linda Perwan



To Rob's family - I'm so sorry for your loss. Rob was much loved across his professional colleagues. I first met Rob in 1992 during tox. study. His contribution to solving complex - code for wicked - issues in health protection / environmental health is (present tense) huge. See you in spirit at your send off. xoxo

Vikki Lynch

Sorry to hear this very sad news. Rob was a friendly, warm and caring person who was always great to chat to at work. Rob will be greatly missed. my thoughts are with Rob's family and friends.

♥ Laura Sherry Smith

Bern Kate Mollie and Annie so very sorry to hear of your loss. You are in our thoughts and Prayers. Rob I will miss you at our family gatherings, as you proudly explained what your girls had been up to. Rest In Peace it was a pleasure to know you. Love Dave Ellyse Annabelle Lilah and Emmeline.

David Reus

I will never forget the day we went skating and that vivacious lady asked us if we were brothers. I also will never forget your quick wit, laugh and friendly smile.

So sorry you've been taken from your family so soon, and wish we'd had more time together, See you Brother!

Paul & Pam Odgers

I was deeply saddened to learn of Rob's death and send my sincere condolences to his family and friends. I worked with Rob some time ago at DHHS, and witnessed the warmth and respect in which he was held by his team members and all those with whom he engaged. Rob leaves a strong legacy of making a difference to public health in Victoria, as well as exemplifying what being a great colleague is all about.

Carmel Flynn

So sorry to hear of Rob's passing. I worked with Rob over several years in his roles at DHHS and EPA. He was always so kind and generous with his time and knowledge, patient in explaining the complexities of risk and toxicology to each new person who he worked with. Most of all, I remember him as a quiet, humble person who had a fantastic sense of humour and made everyone feel valued. A great loss. My condolences to his family and friends.

Alison Medhurst

I knew Rob through many years of working alongside Bernadette. Rob was a kind, considerate and loving partner to B and an amazing father who idolised his three girls, Kate, Mollie and Annie. Rob was positive and brave throughout his illness and he will be deeply missed by all. Sincere condolences to Bernadette, his girls and extended family. RIP Rob.
Rhonda O'Riley

Rob was the most generous colleague and friend. The kind that logs onto community meetings while on leave, just to support. Or arrives on the morning of your hubbies 50th with 6kg of chicken on a spit, because he knows you're not organised! In work he was first to go to with tricky, unusual, or downright hilarious issues - he'd always nail it. One of the few who could easily pull me up - he'd just smile and say 'eh Jen, you might be leading with your chin there' 😊. We'd joke he should share the secret, but there wasn't one - he just had my best interests at heart. We miss his kindness, sense of fun, curiosity, and wisdom. Our hearts go out to his family and friends, Slán go fóill, mo chara
Jen, Yan, Finn and Oisín

Dear Bern, Kate, Mollie and Annie,
My sincere condolences. I worked with Rob at the Department of Health. An amazing colleague, always generous with his time, funny, approachable, gentle and considered. Appreciated his knowledge and wisdom. He left an impression on many and am proud that I had the opportunity to work with him and laugh with him in the office and over team lunches. May he rest in peace and live on through our memories.
Joanna

I am trying to remember the first time I met Rob- and I think it was at the Kerang Caravan Park just as I started teaching at the local school there. I remember it was hot and Gen, Bern and Rob were swimming in the pool!

What I remember most about Rob was his smile and his laugh, -it was infectious. He was kind and caring and just an all round good bloke.

Bern, Kate, Mollie and Annie I am so sorry for your loss, it's just wrong and sad.

I'll be thinking of you all today.

Jo McQ

I'll miss you, Rob

You were one of the kindest, funniest, most generous and wise men I've even known. Bernie and family, I'm so incredibly sorry for your loss.

Victor Kabay

I really enjoyed Rob's company both at work and down at the hockey club. He will be dearly missed. Our thoughts are with Bern, Kate, Molley and Annie

Robert was a great mate and always the centre of any gathering (especially anything involving beers or BBQ :) He had a great sense of humour, was the eternal optimist and showed an amazing sense of positivity in life in general. I will miss his smile, his laugh, his attitude to life, and will forever remember the good old Melbourne days with him (usually centered around beers, BBQ and the occasional bogan bingo events :) Rob was always up for an adventure.. My thoughts are with the McKenzie family in this difficult time. We will all miss him dearly as he had such a profound impact on all of our lives. May he Rest In Peace. Much Love Brad Peel, Hilde & Benji xx
Brad Peel

**Dear Bern, Kate, Mollie & Annie,
I'm sorry I can't be there today for you all & Bob.
I met Bob working at the Alfred a few months over
30 years ago and soon found a brother. A very
generous, kind and witty colleague soon became a
true lifelong friend. Although we saw less of each
other in recent years, Bob was one of those people
who you could pick up a conversation with as if
you'd seen him yesterday.
Kate, Mollie & Annie, you have never seen such a
look of joy & love on a man's face as when Bob
talked about you all.
Bob introduced us to Port Fairy folkie with a stay
at his mother's house and fed us with an old family
recipe of "impossible pie". He really should have
always been there.
Pete, Fiona, Anna & Jack**

Deepest sympathy to Rob's family.
Rob was an absolute amazingly
knowledgeable, caring and gentle
colleague. He managed to calmly
navigate tricky issues and was a
genuinely kind man. He left a lasting
impression on everyone he met. EPG
will never be the same. We will miss
him dearly
Martine Dennekamp

Robie, sadly we miss
your friendly chat over
our fence, when you
walk your dogs. Can't
believe you gone
leaving Wakanui St.
Stephen & Angela @
29 Wakanui Street.

*Deepest sympathies to Rob's
family.*

*Robie we will miss your friendly
smile and chat over our fence,
when you walk the dogs. We
cannot believe that you are gone
leaving Wakanui Street.
Steve and Angela @ 29
Wakanui Street*

Rob was one of the first smiling faces I met all those years ago who made me feel so welcome. I missed him when he moved to the EPA and I am devastated by this news. May his memory be eternal

Nectaria

Bern, Kate, Mollie & Annie,
Rob was such a wonderful man,
his empathy, patience and good humour
made him an outstanding partner, father
and friend.

Gone too soon, he will live on in our hearts
and memories.

May he rest in peace.

Scott, Rhonda, Jared & Aidan

Dear Bern and family, Rob was the first person Tamsyn and I met on joining Yarra, always a smiling, calm, caring person to talk to. Made us feel so welcome from the first moment and that never changed. Annie, I can't imagine losing such a wonderful dad but seeing the love in your family makes me think you'll be remembering him together with smiles and laughs. Lots of hugs. Wendy.

Wendy and Tamsyn Shaw

In the workplace Rob was a quiet influencer with the wisdom and practicality to see the forest for the trees. As a friend he was kind, giving, thoughtful, funny and always ready to go out of his way to support those around him. I count myself lucky to have known Rob and will miss him dearly. My thoughts and sincerest condolences go out to his family.

Antti

DEAREST BERN, KATE, MOLLIE AND ANNIE, SENDING
ALL OF OUR THOUGHTS, LOVE ,AND HUGS TO YOU ALL AT
THIS VERY SAD TIME. ROB, THE MOST. BEAUTIFUL, KIND
AND LOVEABLE GENTLEMEN AND DEAREST FRIEND
WILL BE FOREVER IN OUT THOUGHTS AND CLOSE TO
OUR HEARTS ❤️ LOVE ALWAYS

JENNY AND DAVID BACON

Dear McKenize family,

Thank you so much for sharing Rob with us at EPA. I'd like to say thank you Rob. Your gentle calming presence & infinite inquisitive wisdom you brought to every room, zoom, or tricky issue we worked on – from PFAS contamination to catastrophic bushfires.

Whether chatting to a Gippsland farmer over a cuppa, or debating what was needed with multiple State Chiefs (health, environment, vet) across a Board room table, you always brought the same you – perspective, respect & that famous warm glint in the eye that makes living & working fun no matter what.

You will be so missed. Just as always, I will continue to ask myself "what would Rob do" to help guide my decisions.

Love Steve Lansdell

Dear Bern, Kate, Mollie and Annie, this is a very sad time but our thoughts are with you all. I have shared before you are a beautiful family and Rob was a wonderful, caring, funny and very much an adored father. We are here for you all and will miss him. Love Scott, Renee, Claudia and Sophie

Dear Bern, Kate, Mollie, and Annie

Our deepest sympathies on Rob's passing. He has been such a lovely presence in our lives for nearly 24 years. As so many have said he was a kind, compassionate, and gentle man; but he was also great fun, hugely intelligent, and insightful. We are lucky to have known him, and shared some wonderful times together.

All our love

Zoë Tim Gracie and Roland 🧡

Rob and I only really knew each other virtually as I started at the EPA during the pandemic, but Rob treated me as if he had known me for years. I will miss his silly hats during meetings, his advice on where to eat, and having a fellow AFL lover in a unit full of soccer fans. My sincerest condolences to Rob's family and friends.

Carina

It was a pleasure to have shared the sidelines with Rob so many times watching our awesome gals play footy. Rob was every team manager's dream! Kind, patient, funny, relaxed and willing to do whatever he was asked to do as a parent job, never hiding in the car to avoid a duty !

We are sending out love to Bern, Annie and family.

Sophie, Bryce, Evelyn and family xxx

Sophie, Bryce and Evelyn

I was a student at St Mary's with Rob and remember him as a kind, gentle, and quirky man with a distinct sense of humour who lived life on his own terms. All my love to Bern and his family.

Alice

Rob was my colleague and friend at DHHS, even when he moved over to EPA. I would always bounce my ideas off Rob. We continued to work closely when he moved to EPA, with PFAS and Defence sites. Those ducks were problematic, but we would have lunch after our meetings and chat about our girls. He was a beautiful soul. I will miss Rob his smile, his unique bouncy walk and advice. May he rest in peace now and I wish you and the girls to always have fond memories of him.

Lots of love

Effi

So sorry to hear of Rob's untimely death. He was a great supporter of our kids at the hockey club, a well organised team manager and always up for a chat and a laugh. Love to you all at this very sad time,

Tony Williams and family

Sending our heart-felt condolences to Bern, Kate, Mollie & Annie.

Rob was such a friendly & smiling bubbly face around the hockey club and always willing to lend a hand. Step up when required, and have a quiet word in the inexperienced coaches ear (mine!) on how to improve the girls' game :)

He had so much love for his girls and was always up for a chat. He'll leave a big hole in many of our lives however we consider ourselves lucky to have shared so many hockey memories over the years.

Love and big hugs to the family. ❤️💙

Paula , Mike, Taysen & Rylie