

Plaque :

Jumbo`s Jetty

In memory of Lion Bryan Kelsey

Jumbo`s Landing was named after Bryan Kelsey a member of the Robe & District Lions club between 1982 and 1992. Affectionately known as `Jumbo`, not as one might suspect because of his size (being only 167 cms - 5` 6" tall), but of his voice. As a Regimental Sergeant Major with the Gordon Highland Regiment the volume of his voice often boomed across many an army parade ground. It is believed that this is where the nickname of `Jumbo` originated.

Born in England Bryan commenced his working life in the Army attaining the rank of Sergeant in a Kentish Regiment. During WW2 he saw active service in Egypt and Italy where he was captured by the enemy. Managing to escape he was separated from his own regiment so he joined the Gordon Highland Regiment and remained with them until the end of the war.

Following the war Jumbo ran a garage in Kent before moving to Devon where he and his wife ran a fish & chip shop before emigrating to Australia in 1973. Jumbo and his family moved to Robe in 1980, immediately falling in love with it, and ended up buying the Long Beach Caravan Park. It wasn't long before Jumbo was invited to join the Robe Lions Club.

In 1982 ill health struck when Jumbo was diagnosed with lung cancer resulting in the loss of one lung and a dire prognosis of `only 6 months to live`. Despite this Jumbo showed his true determination and was given an all clear three years later returning to Lions with a vengeance and living a fit and energetic life for many years.

Whilst not a keen fisherman himself Jumbo used to accompany his son and grandson to Lake Battye. He recognised the need for a jetty to enable youngsters to get near the water without clambering through the reeds and mud. He lobbied the Club and before long there were many working bees with Club members manning spades and sledge hammers and Jumbo`s landing became a reality, providing a safe family area for people to fish, swim and enjoy the view.

Sadly, Jumbo lost his second fight for life passing away in 1992. To this day Jumbo`s Landing remains a popular spot for locals and tourists alike. However, over 25 years, time and weather has seen water levels lower and the landing, more often than not, high and dry.

As part of the Lions International 100th year anniversary in 2017 / 18, the `new` Robe Lions Club undertook a significant extension of the landing and an upgrade and beautification of the surrounding area. The project, a joint venture with the District Council of Robe, has seen the installation of the public toilet, picnic tables and seating, making the area ideal for fishing, bird watching and family enjoyment.

The Robe Lions Club Second Chance Clothing Shop provided finance for this project with grant assistance from Australian Lions Foundation and Dept. of Environment and Water.