



## Service Award – Robert Van Der Zant

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Robert Van Der Zant first became involved in swimming as a competitor in the early 1980's as a member of the AJ's Algester Swimming Club. Robert showed strong potential as a young athlete and had good success at Brisbane, State and National levels.

Rick Van Der Zant, his brother, was his coach throughout the whole of his swimming career. When Rick moved from AJ's Algester to Yeronga Park Swimming Club, Robert went with him. Robert was an inspirational figure and many swimmers loved to train beside him. It was never dull when Robert was competing: he was a likeable larrikin. Robert loved to compete in the Brisbane competition, where he claimed records in all disciplines, which is a testament to his versatility.

Robert competed in the 2000 Sydney Olympics in the 200m Individual Medley. He also competed in three Commonwealth Games from 1994 to 2002. In 1998, at the Kuala Lumpur Commonwealth Games, he won the Bronze Medal in the 200m Individual Medley.

Robert coached at the Jamboree Heights Swimming Club for 10 years, and during that time, the club had the highest registrations in Brisbane. His commitment to Brisbane Swimming has been outstanding, and he has encouraged many swimmers to compete in the Brisbane competition.

Robert has now moved back to Yeronga Park Swimming Club to coach beside his brother, Rick. This dynamic combination saw them take the club back into the Premier Division of the Brisbane competition. We wish them every success for the new season.

This well-deserved Service Award is fitting recognition of Robert's outstanding contribution to our sport of swimming.

