

DAVID RHODES BATH



BATH David Rhodes 8013 (1962–65) VC Bath
Rubber Broker Singapore; Tudor, Bro, Cdt.
Blood Horse Breeder and Grazier.

Born	13 November 1948	Singapore
Died	15 December 2021	Sydney

David was born in Singapore in the aftermath of WW2. His father, Vivian Cullen Bath, also born in Singapore, as a member of the Australian Army had survived imprisonment in both Singapore and in Japan. His mother Iset Rosemary Milburn Pollard, born in Norfolk, England, had escaped Singapore in 1942 with David's brother Vivian (b 1940), for safety in Adelaide, however Vivian died there in 1944. His parents eventually reunited and returned to Singapore where VC Bath resumed business in 1945 as a rubber broker. David's older sister, Honor Rosemary, was born in 1946.

David grew up in Singapore and was without doubt a boy-of-the-world when he started at Tudor House in February 1958, having travelled by himself in a Qantas Super Constellation from Singapore. This experience followed him to the Main School in 1962 where he rubbed shoulders with the boys of other interesting backgrounds in Broughton House.

Fellow Broughton boarder Basil Simmons remembers that David drove a Mini which attracted a number of young ladies around him, and John Lord remembers him as a competent bugler in the Band.

Nick Paspaley ('65), also at Broughton, can remember David as being very generous. "He would give away anything he owned that somebody took a liking to. I remember admiring his Singapore tailored suit at one time, thereupon he took it off and gave it to me." David's interest in all things to do with horses was also remembered at school by Nick: "David was the local bookie. He took bets on every horse race imaginable. Everyone liked him."

His interest in horses was inherited from his father, who, it was reported, as far back as the 1930s in Singapore, always owned part of a horse even if his share only worked out at half a leg or nostril, or something. This led in 1953, to Vivian Bath and his mother purchasing some 160 hectares near Scone and creating the Bhima stud. Bhima and its historic c1910 homestead became the family's Australian home and it is where David worked after he left school in 1965, at the age of 17.

He married Suzanne Mary Bowditch at St Edmund's Chapel, Darling Point in May 1973.

Source: Trove: Australian Women's Weekly, 25 July 1973

By 1978 it was reported by David McNicoll in The Bulletin that David was managing Bhima with his father and "... is one of the new wave of young, stud men, full of hope and determined to succeed."¹

Living in the Scone area and with a thoroughbred stud, David obviously took a keen interest in the local racing club, becoming its President, a role he held from 1984 to 1994. The Club recognised his contribution in a fitting manner, as this obituary explains.

One could mount a strong argument that David Bath was one of if not the most significant leader at the helm of racing in Scone throughout its various iterations over 180 years (1842 – 2022).



He served as President of Scone Race Club from 1984 – 1994 having succeeded Bill Howey (1978 – 1984). David had inherited 'Bhima Stud', Scone which was the home of Star Kingdom's son 'Biscay' as well as other notable sires. During David's decade at the top Scone Race Club was transformed from its popular although 'physically restricted' tenure at White Park (1947 – 1994) to the present exceptional eclectic location at Satur. It was thanks to David's calm demeanour and firm resolve in managing a testosterone-driven cadre of strong individuals that he was able to hammer home the overall success of the ambitious agenda. He successfully moulded the team to produce the outstanding result members, patrons and the professional racing fraternity appreciate so much today.

David's traits include but not limited to being loyal, generous, gentle, gregarious, kind, charitable and unselfish. The Scone Race Club is proud to be able to recognise and acknowledge a truly outstanding leader on Today's program (Country Championships 'Consolation' Sunday 20 March 2022).²

David (left) with NSW Governor Rear Admiral Sinclair, at the opening of the new Scone Racecourse, May 1994



David died in Sydney on Wednesday 15 December 2021.

Contributors: Nick Paspaley, John Lord, David Simmons, David Payne, Rodney Hammett

Editor's Note: Should any old boy reading this have any details of David's life, particularly after he left King's, please make contact via the Year of '67 website.

¹ **Trove:** The Bulletin; 18 Apr 1978 (Cover Story: How Sangster takes the Punt out of Racing)

² Scone Vet Dynasty; Blog, 10 Mar 2022 by W.P. Howey