



Biography of Barry Rebeck by Rosemary Rebeck and Mike Bellis

Barry Rebeck was born in Durban on the 26th November 1944 and has lived in Durban his whole life. He matriculated at Northlands Boys' High School in 1961 after which he completed his compulsory 9 months National Service.

He graduated from Natal University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Commerce degree. In later life he attended Harvard University in USA and completed the AMP program.

After university Barry travelled and hitch-hiked overseas for about a year and, upon his return, joined Beacon Sweets and Chocolates. He quickly rose through the ranks to become CEO. He eventually retired from Beacon after 25 years but continued to work as a private business consultant.

He and Rosemary married in 1969 and they have 3 adult married children, Warwick, Taryn and Paul and 6 grandchildren, 3 boys and 3 girls.

Barry's love of all things fishing started as a young schoolboy encouraged by his father Mick. He spent all his free time fishing whenever he could, after school and sometimes bunking lessons to sneak off to Umgeni River mouth! All his school holidays were spent fishing around Durban and the coast of Kwa Zulu Natal. In 1960, when he was just 16, he joined the angling club Natal Coast Angling Association (NCAA) and has been a member ever since. He has served as Chairman, captain and won innumerable club trophies.

Barry's representative angling career was nothing short of incredible. He was first awarded Natal provincial colors in 1966 and represented the Natal and KZN team in 30 inter-provincial tournaments, as captain on 22 occasions, in 5 consecutive decades. He placed in the Top 8 on an amazing 15 occasions and was champion angler 3 times, in Namibia, Cape Town and Mossel Bay. He was also runner-up on 4 occasions. He won the trophy for heaviest fish at the tournament 3 times, and at the time held the record for the heaviest fish ever caught in the nationals, a raggie of 205kg at Cape Vidal.

All his dedication paid off when in **1977** he was awarded **Springbok** colors for the first time. He was captain of the team which fished against England, Scotland and West Germany. He proudly competed for his country many times thereafter, including leading the Springbok team to compete in the world championships in Spain. In 1981 he was honored to receive the **SA Sports Merit Award** from the State President. His final senior national cap was in 1994 but it wasn't long before he began fishing international tournaments for the SA Masters team, a period which he particularly enjoyed.

Barry served on the committee and as president of the NCAU and, subsequently, the KZNCAU for many years and is now an Honorary Life President. He also served as a selector for the KZN and Springbok angling teams.

His love of conservation has been at the forefront of his life and Barry enjoyed his service as an **Honorary Natal Parks Board member**. His voluntary service to the South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR) stands out as a highlight. He was an enthusiastic board member and chairman for over 30 years and is now a Fellow of SAAMBR.

Barry wrote many articles for various angling publications including a regular column for the Australian magazine, Western Angler.

His passion for all things fishing extended into flyfishing and ski-boat angling later in life, but his first love was always rock and surf. He fished virtually the entire Southern African coast from Namibia to Zululand and beyond to Mozambique. His enthusiasm for angling led him to fish all over the world, in Europe, USA, Australia and New Zealand and took part in many international competitions. As a family, the Rebeck's happily travelled to far flung fishing destinations all over the world in pursuit of something to catch.

Barry and his eldest son, Warwick, both obtained their private pilot's license and they flew together in Barry's plane to wonderful fishing spots. Barry has a special love for and knowledge of the Transkei coast; it is a place which holds a special place in his heart and where much of his leisure fishing times have been spent.

During his retirement he bought a beautiful ski-boat "Toes in the Water" and enjoyed many happy hours fishing off the coast of KZN with his grandsons.

Barry and Rosemary now live in a perfect spot for a fisherman - right on the beach near Umhlanga Rocks. Unfortunately, ill health has curtailed Barry's angling somewhat but he now relishes seeing his sons and grandsons follow in his footsteps by enjoying the sport he loves so much.

Written by Rosemary Rebeck April 2021

Postscript.

I have been invited by Barry's family to edit or add to his shore angling story. I asked myself what can one say? His achievements in shore angling – and his leadership in all his endeavours – are of phenomenal successes. The achievements speak for themselves.

His young age in the early years of his angling career belied the maturity he possessed and being captain and the leader was a natural consequence.

Apart from being a passionate and skillful angler, Barry exuded a sense of calm and confidence that was infectious on all around him.

Fishing with Barry, as a member of many NCAU, KZNCAU and National teams at tournaments over so many years, was exciting, was great fun to be part of, was never to be missed, and anything other than winning was not an option. Every occasion produced numerous stories, some legendary, many hilarious, far too many to write about, but never to be forgotten.

Barry was a strategic thinker, and any apparent weakness of the opposing teams was always on his mind; and finding the competitive edge was very much part of his armoury. He was fair but would not tolerate any underhand stuff.

Being better skilled and with good habits, such as efficiency on the beach, not wasting precious time, superior tackle, hours spent getting reels to spin faster and longer, better bait presentation, watching the opposition anglers carefully, new casting techniques, how to sharpen hooks and what a really needle sharp hook was, long before chemically sharpened hooks were ever invented. All became how to win and a part of his leadership which he brought to the team.

His leadership and strategic thinking that brought success to his shore angling, continued into his business career, and the organisations he has been associated with.

It has been an honour to have fished alongside Barry and to contribute to this angling biography.

Mike Bellis - Jeffrey's Bay – May 2021