

John Toulson



I attended primary and high school in the UK but left education at the age of 15 to pursue an apprenticeship in bricklaying, which lasted for 5 years.

In my early twenties, I emigrated to Australia as a '10-pound pom' and settled in Sydney. Over the next couple of years, I traveled and worked along the east coast of Australia, covering Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland.

Following that, I spent two years in the Northern Territory, primarily based in Alice Springs, but working across various parts of the territory. It was during this time that I met my future wife in Alice Springs. We eventually moved to Adelaide together, where we spent the next 15 years raising our two daughters.

During my time in Adelaide, I transitioned from being a self-employed bricklayer to taking on more administrative roles in the construction industry. I furthered my education by returning to night school in my thirties to earn advanced construction qualifications and local government building inspector certification. This led me to shift from hands-on work to roles in quantity surveying, building management, and supervision.

In 1990, I relocated to Tasmania and continued working in various capacities within the construction industry, eventually ending my career as a revenue collections officer at Launceston City Council before retiring at the age of 70.

Apart from my professional journey, I also had a rich sporting life. I participated in soccer and rugby union during school days and continued playing soccer both in the UK and Australia. I also engaged in AFL footy and later transitioned to women's gymnastics, where I spent a decade coaching and judging my daughters' competitions. In Tasmania, I resumed playing soccer with Launceston United and represented Tasmania in superules football for over 45s.

In my retirement, I enjoy playing walking football on Fridays and social football on Wednesday nights, followed by enjoyable moments over a beer at the pub. Besides sports, my interests include music (playing guitar), reading, watching dramas or movies, travel, and spending time with my grandchildren.