



Luke, Rob Paron, Jake and Michaela

As owner of Tropic Engineering and Shaft Laser Alignments, Robert Paron has spent over 20 years servicing the marine industry. Living by the motto that “effort brings reward” this father of three has built his company on the same work ethic that he instils in his children. With both sons looking to follow in his footsteps and his daughter already enjoying success in her own right, Rob has recently taken on his biggest challenge to date.

TROPIC ENGINEERING & SHAFT LASER ALIGNMENTS

Robert Paron

Born and bred in Gordonvale, Rob began his career as a boiler-maker apprentice at NQEA. Determined to become his own boss, he later set himself up as a contractor before establishing Tropic Engineering in 1991. Currently operating from their premises in Nelson Street Portsmith, the business is now home to a staff of nine. “I wanted to work for myself because I thought it would be an easy way to work the hours I wanted – but it didn’t turn out that way,” he laughs.

While servicing a range of vessels from fishing trawlers to luxury white yachts, Tropic Engineering also fabricates stainless steel artwork including the fish sculpture at The Esplanade Lagoon that has become a Cairns landmark. The other arm of the company, Shaft Laser Alignments boasts laser equipment that can align to an accuracy of .01mm, which has led to Rob’s expertise being in demand around the country. “I fly to Darwin to work at the navel base regularly as well as the islands and down to Townsville,” he says.

More recently Rob’s career has seen a return to his ship building roots. After purchasing the property next door to accommodate their expansion, they are currently building a 13.5m pilot vessel for the Torres Straits with plans for two more in the pipeline. “We’re never scared to take on a job, we just get into it,” he says. Rob is also the first to admit he couldn’t have achieved what he has without the support of wife Bernadette who helps run the business. “She’s a full-time embezzler – draining the funds,” Rob laughs. “But seriously, it’s definitely a family-oriented business and there’s no one else I could trust.”

While for many years Rob was working six to seven days a week he now makes a conscious effort to spend more valuable time with his family enjoying waterskiing and fishing at their property at Lake Tinaroo. “I now try to just spend five days a week here so the weekends can be spent with the kids,” he says. “They grow up around you and you don’t even see it.”

With oldest son Luke due to begin an apprenticeship at the business next year and 12 year old Jake also showing an interest in the trade, Rob and Bernadette have clearly set their family a good example to follow. And at the young age of 15, daughter Michaela is already displaying her own business acumen by becoming a recognised clothing designer and partner in the local business, Sugar Boutique at The Pier. “The kids understand what it takes to succeed,” Rob says. “You have to put a lot of work into getting what you want out of life.”

Tropic Engineering
& Shaft Laser Alignments



Rob Paron: 0417 612 556

Ph: 4035 5355 Fax: 4035 6853
Email: rob@tropic-engineering.com
62 Nelson Street, Bungalow 4670 P.O. Box 726 Edmontan 4669