

## 90 Seconds with ... Bob Ivey

**My earliest memory is ....** During the late 40's, the family going on a 'trip of a lifetime', driving in Dad's old Erskine car from Sydney to Melbourne, with the back seat made up like a bed for my brother and I (no seat belts in those days).

**My most memorable school event or achievement is ....** performing in my high school annual gymnastic display on the stage of the Sydney Town Hall.

**I don't like to talk about ....** frustratingly bad political policies

**My most treasured possessions are ....** having spent some nights sleeping in a slit trench or similar, I do enjoy comforts in life, but health is the most important to me.

**My mother's favourite exhortation was ....** nagging Dad to do some maintenance around the house, e.g. do something about the ants coming through the window onto the kitchen table which was pushed against the window – so Dad just pulled the table out a few cm..."give them further to walk" he said!

**I wish I had ....** left the Army a bit earlier. While I thoroughly enjoyed my 30 year career, I had not appreciated the many opportunities available outside the service.

**I wish I hadn't ....** forgotten to ask for a name and address in 1964 so I could say thank you properly to the kind Malaysian family who took a shaken 21 year old and his bent motor cycle in after crashing heavily outside their front gate in Ipoh, Malaysia. They treated me to a lovely lunch while a mechanic repaired the bike in their back yard.

**My most humiliating moment was ....** in Canberra while staying at Government House, being quite ill in the Governor General's bathroom at 1.00 am – after drinking too much free whiskey (it may explain why I did not get the job as his ADC (aide.)

**The happiest time in my life was ....** marrying Gwen and the birth of Ben – and years earlier, crying with delight in my beer as I listened to the music of a live band – my first time off and in over 10 months in South Vietnam.

**My guiltiest pleasure is ....** chocolate

**My last meal would be ....** Gwens' seafood crepe

**If I could change one moment or event in my life it would be ....** to go back and visit that kind Malaysian family

**When I was a child I wanted to be ....** a soldier or a graphic artist

**The book that I enjoyed as a kid was ....** 'The Air Adventures of Biggles'

**Even though it's not fashionable I love ....** not making a mobile phone essential in my life

**If I could live anywhere and afford it I would live ....** near a long beach to enjoy walks on

**My best trait is ....** probably paying (too much) attention to detail

**My worst trait (so I am told!) is ....** taking things too seriously

**If only I could ....** lighten up (so they tell me!)

**The hardest thing I have ever done is ....** My first mission in Vietnam, which required I leap out of a perfectly serviceable helicopter; not being able to hear above the roar of the rotors if the enemy were shooting at us, as it hovered momentarily over a jungle clearing in the middle of Vietcong territory in South Vietnam.

**The biggest surprise ...** running out of air while underwater diving at about 50 feet. The reserve supply did not work and having fully exhaled I headed for surface under some duress! – only to discover my lungs filled with air again after only a few feet and I was able to blow and follow my bubbles all the way to the surface.

**The biggest fright ...** being in a helicopter that lost power at about 100 feet and crash-landed - with no casualties.

**I relax by ....** enjoying a glass of wine while reading.

**My worst job was ....** being the 'manager' of a crematorium and trying to provide service to grieving families, in an environment where very hungry commission-only sales staff had more authority than I.

**I often wonder ....** whether I would have enjoyed a 'normal' working life