

NEW LIFE MEMBER

Life Membership for David Borg
by Peter Last



Lorraine & David

Queen Victoria directed that the sole criterion for a man to be awarded the Victoria Cross should be conspicuous gallantry in combat. As we all know, the awards are quite rare and are very highly regarded.

In the same spirit, the sole criterion for election to Life Membership of the Squadron is that it 'may be conferred on any person who has rendered the Squadron valuable services.'

Like the VC, this has been an unusual distinction, and at no time have the numbers reached double figures. David takes the current total to seven.

The first was William Henry Bunday in 1884 who was the inaugural Vice-Commodore in 1869. He dealt with the disposal of FE Bucknall, our founder, to my knowledge the only formal expulsion we have ever had. This was on 6 June 1871. Sir Henry was Commodore for eleven years, a record that can never be broken.

From 1928 to 1959 the resident caretaker at the Squadron was Jack Carlstrom, who was David's grandfather. Since infancy he can say that he has spent almost all his life involved with the Squadron, to live through the conversion of extensive sand flats and open water to Saint Kilda until we now find ourselves closeted with the expanding port.

David had his first sail at about 12 years with Peter Carlstrom in Margaret and Helen Thiem's *Tumlaren Venture*. (Margaret married past-commodore Ion Ullett.) His first race was with Bob Stevens in *Zefir* in 1957. He became what was called a cadet member of the Club in 1959. Then he crewed for Rex Godfrey in another *Tumlaren*, *Unity*, followed by the 5.5m *Kirribilli*.

Offshore David started with Colin Haselgrove in *Cooroyba*, followed by *Maluna*, *Seevogel*, *Achenar* and *Marina*, until work took him elsewhere. He found the Todd River at Alice Springs too difficult, through always being aground.

In 1972 he returned to Adelaide and crewed on *Morning Mischief*, in which for the first time he competed in the Sydney-Hobart race, succeeded by *Kaos* and *Goose* before moving to *Dragons*.

For many happy years he sailed with Chappy Charlesworth, racing and cruising to Lincoln. He bought Mock Sarah's *Taworri* in 1995 but has since relinquished her and returned to crewing.

In the late 1970s David joined the House and Social Committee, of which he was chairman for more than one term.

In 1991 he became a founding member of Robert Henshall's Seaweed Gardening Group.

Dating from the thrice-moved eastern boundary fence in the 1960s, David has repeatedly and willingly worked on any jobs needing to be done, like flooring the Quarterdeck, painting Jimmy's bar, laying paving and a multitude of tasks. Most recently he has been digging trenches to enhance watering the lawns.

This accumulation over many years displays intense commitment to the Club, but there is more. With David comes Lorraine, who likewise has devoted many hours to the Club. Her particular interest is in the garden. When you admire the flowers seemingly always in bloom in the large pots at the main entrance, and how well they are maintained, you can thank Lorraine for her frequent attention to them. Her prowess as a dancing entertainer, most recently demonstrated at the recent Roaring 20's Commodore's Ball, is also a remarkable contribution.

They are a close and generous couple, devoted to this Club, and together they have indeed rendered the Squadron valuable services, eminently justifying this recognition.



Lorraine and David's traditional vessel *Taworri* on the RSAYS slip