

Valete

In quick succession we have seen the deaths of three longstanding Squadron identities. **Henry Roy Cook** was always known as Harry. He grew up in Port Lincoln, which gave him a lifelong love of the sea. For a time war and its aftermath took him as far away from it as you can get in this country – to Alice Springs and parts thereabout. He and Edna enjoyed a full military wedding there in 1941, and returned after the war to become involved in a number of ventures, including kangaroo shooting. They reluctantly came back to Adelaide to educate their children, and Harry returned to the sea. He bought *Aorere*, one of the oldest vessels in the pool. He and his growing family had years of pleasure in her, mainly in and about the Port River. A tradition began, which endured for over a quarter of a century, when year by year Harry was given the responsibility to place his vessel as the rounding mark on Opening Day. This enjoyable pattern continued with *Anyndah*. Week by week we heard the familiar and unique throaty chug of her distinctive engine as Harry set off with a group of friends and family aboard. He became our Honorary Gunner, and fired the signals on Opening Days and similar occasions. Harry delighted many with his knot boards, with which he displayed his skill with the classics of the boatswain's craft. For months Harry knew that he had mortal disease. With great courage he carried on as usual, moving more slowly but always with cheerful and affectionate good humour until the end.

Andrew John Gibb Maitland also had a distinguished war record. He reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and was awarded the MBE. With family links here and in Perth he spent his time between both, and

died there on 14 April, 1993. John owned a small centre-board sloop *Athola*, which he raced with considerable success in Third Division. He became gravely ill in Indonesia, and was taken to Singapore General Hospital as an emergency public patient. He described that as an interesting anthropological experience with great good humour, but it was certainly not pleasant at the time. His doctor advised him to give up racing, but that did not mean leaving that scene. John moved into the Committee Boat when this chore was shared amongst volunteer members who provided their vessels. He was invariably courteously grateful for their generosity, and was a popular Officer-of-the-Day for several seasons. This included some national events held at the Squadron. There came a time when he had to relinquish that, in part because of his desire to be with his Western Australian family. John Maitland came to the Squadron a few weeks before his death, still keenly interested in our corporate doings.

Colin Gilmore White built *Fiona*, an H-28 Herreshoff sloop, in his back yard between 1952 and 1956. Over seventy years ago he began sailing dinghies at Glenelg Sailing Club before cruising with Ken FV Sanderson in *Wylo* in the late 1940s. In *Fiona* Colin actively participated in "mud-crawler" racing, together with as much cruising as he could manage. He was one of the "characters" of his generation in the Squadron, like Harcourt Doherty, Peter King, Colin Turley, King South and Len Wigan, who enjoyed the freedom of cruising, boozing and snoozing. As well as his own family, he introduced many others to sailing and the Squadron, including Ian and Don Scott, Norm Gibson and Tim Patterson.

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In the days when few yachts had lifelines Colin was washed overboard from the helm of *Fiona* in fresh conditions about 12 miles NE of Edithburgh. He was recovered reasonably quickly – waterlogged, cold and somewhat shocked. Colour returned to his cheeks after liberal quantities of brandy (taken internally). *Fiona* acted as Official Boat for the World 505 Championships at Brighton and Seacraft Yacht Club in 1966. [The winner was Jim Hardy] Her anchor dragged, and she was beached on the lee shore when the engine was not powerful enough to drive her through the breaking seas to safety. Planked with 22mm jarrah

and well built by her owner, she was only superficially damaged.

Fiona passed to Peter and Helen White; followed by Treasurer David Seaton (who was a coopted labourer when she was built); and then grandson Mark Daulby (who is active on the House and Social Committee). Grandchildren Genevieve and Douglas White are both competent yachtsmen and members of the Squadron. Colin's son Peter is about to be Commodore.

Colin White died on 14 April, 1993, aged 81 years. 

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