

OBITUARY

At the December quarterly meeting, members observed a period of silence for Tom Hardy, Aub. Howard and Keith Tuck, whose untimely deaths were saddening to us all. They were longstanding members and it is consoling to know that to their last days, Aub. and Keith were active and stalwart yachting types who will be greatly missed by their many Squadron friends.

Tom Hardy's active association with the Squadron did not include the recent years, due one suspects to mounting business commitments and more latterly his tragic illness. It is fitting that his association with our club is outlined in this newsletter by Dr. Peter Last in his introduction to the opening instalment of a log by the late Norman Ford, recording the first cruise of NERIDA, the Hardy family's famous yacht. Tom's distinguished services to the wine industry are well known and have already been described in an "Advertiser" obituary article. All of us who had the pleasure of knowing this kindly and courteous man will share a feeling of deep personal loss.

We were further saddened recently by a report in the "Advertiser" of the accidental death by drowning of Owen Trewartha, one of the Squadron's most active and resourceful yachtsmen, who had voyaged to Queensland in pursuit of his lifelong ambition to cruise the Pacific Ocean. A strong individualist, Owen had nevertheless a fund of good humour and ready wit that won him many friends. He was a delightful sailing companion to all those who shared his many voyages during his 31 years of membership.

To the next of kin, families and friends of these departed members, I offer deepest sympathy on behalf of the Squadron's officers, members and staff.

THOMAS G. FLINT

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMODORE

We are now well into the new year, and since you received your November newsletter our yachting season is well under way. With good fleets both inshore and overnight, races are being keenly contested, although it would appear that several more yachts could possibly be competing if suitable crewmen were available for them.

As you are no doubt aware, we had several of our vessels competing in some of the interstate offshore classics at Christmas time. Naturally we are elated at the very fine performance of Vice Commodore Jim Howell and his crew in gaining fastest time and a third in the Westcoaster from Queenscliffe to Hobart. Jim also won the Navigator's Trophy. Frank Ryan in the ex-12 Metre NEFERTITI was fifth in the Sydney-Hobart, and Josca Grubic's ANACONDA II was well placed being third across the finishing line and eleventh on handicap. Dick Fidock's KESTREL, representing the Cruising Yacht Club of S.A. on this occasion, was second in her Division and thirtieth overall.

Next summer, in January 1982, our Club once again will be conducting the Prince Philip Cup for Dragon class yachts. Nearly fifty yachts raced in the series recently conducted in Sydney by the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. When the Dragons were dropped from the Olympic Games after 1972 many people thought this would be the end of the class, but fortunately it has gained strength and is now stronger than ever, particularly in Europe, the two main competitions being the Gold Cup and the World Championships.

The General Committee had a meeting at the Harbor on Tuesday evening, 20th January, and as a preliminary, made a general inspection of the boat houses, slipways, and the whole of the installations. As a result of this inspection several recommendations will be made to the Outer Harbour Committee. Generally the place is in pretty good shape, although maintenance is a continuing problem. We were appalled at the condition of some dinghies that were stored; apart from