

Senior Members

Barry Allison Audacious 11

We have some very senior, and experienced Squadron Members in our midst. At this moment there are seven members with over 60 years continuous membership. There are fourteen members with 50 years membership, 42 with over 40 years, 87 with over 30 years and 108 members with more than

20 years continuous membership. This represents around 26% of all our Members, and many are lady Members – 51 in total.

It is my intention to record the adventures of some of these senior yachting members over the next editions of Squadron Quarterly so

that we all can more closely associate with and share their experiences. However, as space is restricted and there are also other newsworthy items, each article will be abbreviated. The full dossier will be maintained and preserved in the Tom Hardy Library by Allan Sinclair and his Library Committee.

Peter McBride *Mrs Hooligan and Zoe*

Peter has been a Squadron member for over 64 years. He first started sailing when aged four years in his father's motor yacht *Koorngan*. His initiation into yachting was around the Squadron basin in dinghies, and with his parents fishing in the gulf. He later sailed on his older brother's cadet dinghy *Helen*, and then aboard Dr. William Ray's *Soliloquy*. Peter believes that Dr. Ray was the first person to show him anything about sailing.

He also sailed aboard the Searles built 28 footer *Cultana*, and later on his father's 26 footer *Marie*. During the war years Peter sailed with Frank Ide who owned *Radiant*, a thirty footer. Not a fast boat, she once took 22 hours to go across to Port Vincent, with a much faster return voyage of 17 hours in extremely light easterlies!!!

Christmas 1946 was spent with the Donaldsons on their craft *Taabinga*, a forty foot motor sailer. Turning 21 in August 1946, he bought his first boat *Lorraine* from the Port Adelaide Sailing Club and rechristened her *Alva*. A year later *Alva* was sold, and Peter bought *Lakatoi*, a twenty footer with a jarrah

bottom. She was sold in 1948 and Peter proceeded to Scotland to study naval architecture at Glasgow University. In 1948 he purchased a 25 foot fast motor boat, an ex-officer's launch off a naval destroyer and named her *Silhouette*. He then set about extensively cruising the west and northern coasts of Scotland, and became great friends with Mr. W G McBryde, who was a famous yacht designer on the Clyde. He designed Arthur Searcy's *Narda 11*.

In 1951, Peter crewed in *Salvation Jane* owned by the Pentreath family, and made two most notable cruises; along the south coast of England, and to the Brittany coast of France. While in Yarmouth Harbour, they moored near *Truant*, George Millar's famous yacht featured in his book 'Isabel and the Sea'.

In 1952, Peter returned to Australia and back at the Squadron, he bought a 20 foot centre boarder *Nomad*. In 1957, he purchased *Playtime* and rechristened her *Silhouette*. She was a 30 square metre racing yacht without a motor and a lot of fun.



In 1964 *Silhouette* was sold and *Jeannie Claire* was purchased through Max Woolatt. He also renamed her *Silhouette* but in later ownership she became *Solstice*. She was designed by Port Adelaide designer Neil Cormack and Peter claims she was the best balanced boat that he ever sailed.

Then in 1971 after moving to Melbourne with the Department of Transport and while in Victorian waters, he bought the first Columbia 22 built in Australia, *Dress Rehearsal*. With many new ideas a Columbia 27, *Theme Song* was built. She stayed with Peter for the next eighteen years, and is still in the Squadron fleet. Peter's current yacht is a Northshore 38 *Mrs Hooligan*, and on his eightieth birthday, Peter gave himself the 28 foot motor cruiser *Zoe* to cruise single handed when short of a crew for *Mrs Hooligan*.

This is a brief account of the many years Peter McBride has spent at sea in different craft in local and overseas waters. The full account of his adventures is in the Squadron's Tom Hardy Library. He has an amazing memory for such detail even down to the make and capacity of engines in all the craft in which he has sailed.

We wish him well in cruising many more years.



Peter McBride bought himself *Zoe* for his 80th birthday.