

Vale Colin Tanner

On the 27th August members of the Club attended the funeral service of the late Past Commodore and Life Member.

Colin joined the Claremont yacht Club in 1951 as a Junior Member. His father had already been a member since the war years. Colin sailed a Heavyweight Sharpie from the Club. He later shifted to a Lightweight Sharpie. For those with an interest in yachting history, Colin bought the first lightweight sharpie built in WA (some would say the first in the world) from Bob Addison. In the years that followed, Colin would sail in 16ft Skiffs and Flying Fifteens.

In his move to power boating, Colin purchased the last public ferry operating between Palm Beach and Garden Island. He made some modifications to it, and with Kim, enjoyed many a happy break among the islands off Fremantle. "Gannet" can still be seen on a mooring at the East Fremantle Yacht Club.

Colin was Commodore at Claremont in 1975 and again between 1986 and 1988. His terms as Commodore, and indeed all of his years on the committees' of the Club clearly demonstrated his dedication to the Club. He was a member who: "thought outside the square"; was pragmatic; down to earth and a tireless worker. Two examples stand out in my mind.

Colin led discussions between Club representatives and Alan Bond over what was eventually a successful America's Cup challenge by another club. Bond had unsuccessfully approached a number of club's to become Challenger of Record for his tilt at the Cup and was rejected. Claremont Yacht Club was approached and took the pragmatic position that only benefits could flow from being the challenging club provided the Club was adequately protected from cost. Part of the requirements to qualify as a challenger was the regular conduct of an ocean yacht race and so the Mariner's Cup was born. Claremont Yacht Club's approach caused the Royal Perth Yacht Club to change its mind and the rest is history.

The other activity that Colin must be remembered for is his enthusiasm and support for the continuing expansion, replacement and refurbishment of the Club's jetty system; and the replacement of timber piling and decking with steel piling and concrete decking. He coordinated the efforts of the Club project representatives both during his term as Commodore and after.

Colin was not one to accept the status quo: He looked to the future instead of the past. He always sought improvement in services and conditions for the Club and its members.

Fittingly and deservedly, and after half a century of service to the Club, Colin was elected a Life Member.

The Club extends its sympathy to Kim and family.

*Steve Scott
Special Member & Past Commodore*



*L-R David Bovell, Bill Harding, Chas Milner,
Charlie Strickland, Steve Scott
Front - Cheryl Harding, Kim Tanner*