

STANLEY THOMAS MATHIESON

Stanley Thomas Mathieson was born in Ringwood on 23 June 1933 at a little private hospital run by Dr. Hewitt the local doctor. He was the first child of Thomas and Ruby Mathieson, who were currently living in Campbell Street, Ringwood. Stanley was enrolled at Ringwood State School [pupil No. 3444] on 14 April 1938 and continued his education there until he was in 7th. Grade, and shortly after reaching the school leaving age of 14 years he left school, on 8th. August 1947, to work with his father at his garage/bike shop at 128 Whitehorse Road Ringwood. Stanley was very keen on sports and as a young teenager played soccer for a junior team at Ringwood [Junior Team Man 1948]. Soccer was only just becoming established in Australia as the major immigration program which began after the Second World War saw the European migrants influencing the Australian sporting scene. Stanley developed an interest in sailing, initially crewing for Ron Keller, the son of Thomas' long time friend Charlie Keller. They sailed a VJ class yacht at Parkdale before moving to the Mordialloc 12 sq. metre Yacht Club sailing "Sharpies". After leaving school Stanley had attended woodworking classes to gain additional skills which he was to put to good use in furthering his interest in boats. Initially building a 12 foot [3.6 m.] bondwood runabout, which required an outboard motor. The problem was that these were unobtainable without a special import licence at that time so his only option was to purchase an ex-US Army 22 h.p. twin cylinder Johnson. A separate story should be written about that aquatic beast! Stanley had more success with the "Sharpie" he subsequently built which he sailed at the Mordialloc club. This interest in sailing continued into his married life and he eventually "downsized" to a Mirror dinghy, usually with one of his children as crew. When the children outgrew this interest he changed to a Sabre, which he could sail on his own. During the years he sailed the Mirror Stanley would participate in the annual Australian Championships held during the summer holidays, often travelling interstate to compete, and proving to be a highly competent competitor.

At the age of 18 years Stanley was required to undertake National Service with one of the armed forces and in July 1951 he began 6 months training in the RAAF at the Pt. Cook air-force base. He was subsequently transferred to the Reserve in January 1952 and finally received his official discharge in January 1960.

When the development of Ringwood forced the Mathieson garage/service station to be relocated out of the centre of town, on the Melbourne side of the major development, it was arranged for Stanley to conduct this new business site while his father continued the bicycle sales and repairs in a renovated shop on the original site. [On the corner of the railway station entrance and Whitehorse Road.] At a later date this site was vacated [The lease sold to the Commercial Banking Co.] and Thomas continued the bicycle business at the rear of the new service station site. The service station operated under the ownership of Thomas Mathieson at the time when the major oil companies had purchased most sites/businesses from the owner/operators. On Thomas' retirement and the service station was sold to British Petroleum and Stanley re-established the cycle shop as a separate business at 86 Whitehorse Road Ringwood. This was in 1968 and he continued this business until he sold it and retired in 1998. As a mark of the esteem in which he was held the Retail Cycle Traders Association made Stanley a Life Member in 1990.

Stanley married Marion Sword at the Box Hill Methodist Church on 22 February 1957 and they set up house in Bardia Street Ringwood, where they have spent their whole

married life. As mentioned earlier each of their children seemed to take their turn at sailing with their father but their son Gary developed a keen interest in cycling and Stanley's support of Gary, and cycling in general, resulted in him being made a Life Member of the Blackburn Amateur Cycling Club in 1982.

Stanley was also a keen photographer and a member of the Ringwood Camera Club for quite a few years. During that time he won a number of awards for his 35mm. slides. After retiring from the cycle business, which all members of the family had helped in at one time or another, Stanley had more time to enjoy holidays at their holiday house at Cowes, Phillip Island and to more regularly play golf, particularly at the course near to their holiday house.

Sunday 17 Aug. '08

Dear Stan,

Run your eye over this and let me know what I have left out / what mistakes I've made / or if any needs to be deleted... better still is there anything which could be improved.

Regards,
Bob.

P.S.

Great to hear that Marian got the 'all clear' from her surgeon the other day.