

COMMODORE E.A. FRANKLIN

Commodore 1947 - 1950
1953 - 1955

"Dick" Franklin was a keen boating man all his life - his first boat named "WEDNA" was a 20' motor boat which he and his friend Bob King built when they were nineteen years of age. I seem to remember being told that he and Bob stole much of the furniture timber used in the boat and Bill never ceased to follow the yacht from Dad and was continually from Bob's father, who ran a very successful funeral business in Richmond involved in Coast Dinghy patrolling, courses in navigation and the like. I still have a beautiful old pendulum clock outside my office which after the war the Commodore serving in the Navy for many years in displays a small brass plaque reading -

V.M.B.C. "WEDNA"

Placed Geelong

12 Mile Geelong Race

Mornington

12 Mile St.Kilda

Season 1911 - 12

At this time Dad was playfully fitted out and was regularly used for I always remember in years prior to 1935 he would go to either St.Kilda or Brighton and watch the yachting events from the pier but it was not until 1935 that Dad was able to join a Club and revive his interest in boating. My introduction to R.B.Y.C. occurred at the launching of the first Jubilee 'Freydis' Following this, Dad arranged through Jim Linacre and Bill Timms to have a Jubilee built by Jack Botterill. Leander (BJ9) was built next to Dad's factory in King Street, Melbourne, and Jack suffered me as an assistant carpenter during its construction.

After a year's crewing in Cadets with Bill Linacre, Johnny Neilson and Alan Edwards, I sailed in my new 'Jube' as for'd hand for Alan Needham who skippered 'Leander' in her first year.

Dad and Bill Timms became great friends and around 1937 he purchased the Seabird 'Lonsstar' from Bill and 'Tuf' Loftus

This beautiful little yawl was regularly seen around Port Phillip and they were called the two "Penshies" by their mates. Before the war years they regularly visited Mornington and 'Lonestar' became the mother ship for a wild bunch of Jubilee crews who made this part of the world their play-ground during summer.

Dad and Bill never ceased to follow the yacht races and were continually involved in Cadet Dinghy patrolling, course assistance and the like.

After the war Dad became Commodore serving the Club for many years in

Senior capacity

He won the hearts and respect of the boating fraternity around Port Phillip and was involved in the V.Y.R.A./V.Y.C. affair in the forties.

In 1954 he, among many other yachting notables were seen around Sydney harbour during the Queen's first visit, and the first Prince Phillip cup event for Dragons

At this time Shed 23 was elegantly fitted out and was regularly used for

afternoon tea parties on Sunday by the elders, cakes and scones being supplied by the ladies

Also around this time the oldies became the crew of Col Patience's - Helena and one night did not return from fishing

Rescue parties searched the spoil ground area and sighted them when Len Fenton set fire to his sport's coat.

They remained in disgrace for several days when it was admitted they could not start the engine.

Dad remained active until the late fifties but spent little time at the Club

in his last years as his health deteriorated - he died in June, 1962 on my 42nd birthday

A great bloke - loved by all

Written by Rae Franklin
his son