



Alison & Tony at
the 2006 Vindi
reunion, Umina

ANTHONY GORDON MAYNARD (TONY)

27-Feb-1934 - Jan 17-2008

I only had the pleasure of meeting Tony a few times, the first time was when he had just had an operation in which he lost a leg because of diabetes. Maureen & I called at the home of local Vindi Boy Clive Sergeant who was more in the picture with Tony's condition, the three of us went around to the hospital to visit Tony and I remember 'geeing' myself up to be cheerful to try and cheer Tony up, when we got in there it was Tony who cheered US up!

I was amazed, we had a wonderful time with him, 'long & tall' stories streamed out, we went around the world a couple of times, plenty of laughter and a real good feeling, I came out of that hospital on a high and have never stopped thinking about how Tony could be so good and cheerful, facing what he was facing at that time.

He was born in the north London suburb of Edmonton in 1934 a fourth addition to one brother and two sisters. That the family was living on a very tight budget, as was the norm for many in those days honed his survival and entrepreneurial skills, as his earliest memory was earning pocket money by 'watching' the cars of Jewish mourners at the Jewish cemetery on the day war broke out!

School days were something to be suffered & got over but he seemed to have enjoyed the war years in London living with his close family (his Mum wanted her children around her, not evacuated) as he often told stories of their adventures in the Blitz & air raid shelters.

Leaving school his first job was in the local shoe factory but he soon got himself thrown out for marking shoes with the wrong sizes to go and join his Uncle Charlie at sea.

Tony joined the Vindi in 1950 as a catering boy and took to the life like a Duck to water and entered the British Merchant Navy in its Heyday serving for the next 18 years on ships whose names have become icons of those glory days. Cunard, Union Castle, New Zealand Shipping Company, Shaw Saville, Bibby Line, P&O, Orient line & Ellerman's amongst many famous shipping companies.

His wartime skills education soon had him climbing the ladder - from cabin Boy on the Sithonia, asst/steward on NZSC Rangitoto to the Orontes for eleven voyages as Head waiter & 2nd. Steward, then the Orcades, Orion, Strathmore, and the Gothic.

It was a lovely young lady from Dubbo that he met on the Orcades in 1965 that brought a swift end to his seagoing shenanigans.

Alison his future wife to be had just finished her nursing training in Dubbo Hospital and was on her way to London when fate brought them together.

Alison can't recall his actual job onboard except that he carried a large bunch of keys around all the time and that he looked very important and very handsome.

Tony soon became a 10 pound Pom and married Alison in her home town of Dubbo in 1967.

They settled at first in Narrabeen were daughters Rebecca & Nicole were born, Tony went into business buying & selling smallgoods and delivering to shops with his truck.

Later they had a Jewellery shop and a motel in Gosford from which in 1993 Tony retired from work.

In 1997 he became ill with Diabetes and in the years to come he suffered from increasing complications of the disease, but through it all he never once lost the smile on his face or his cheerful greeting, he died as happy as anyone can do with his family close around him, still smiling and telling funny stories until just half an before he passed away.



**Tony & Alison
with Marion Casey at the 2006 Umina reunion**