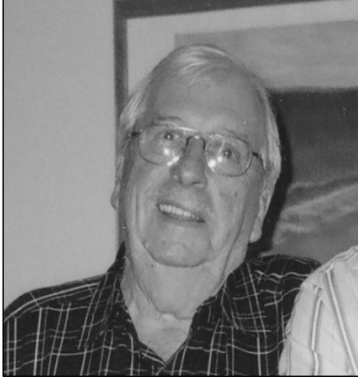


Crossed the Bar

Max Bergamini- 19 July 2009 - Born 29th March, 1928 in Hokitika, South Island, New Zealand.



Max joined our branch as an associate member three years ago now after really enjoying one of our Vindi Christmas parties as a guest of his longtime shipmates George Murray & Eric Hitchen.

It seems living on the NZ south island coast at Greymouth from the age of 3 injected sea water into his veins as he had a lifelong love affair with the sea and messing about in boats, at age 12 he had a 7 ft.P-class boat and was still boating in his last months of life.

In 1944 he started a 5 year Bakery apprenticeship which set him on his career path. He started his seagoing career in 1948 by joining the NZ shipping company passenger ship Rimutaka as 'Caterer' on the UK-NZ run followed by service on troopships during the Korean war. Returning to N.Z. he worked on the inter island ferry 'Wahine', then Union Steam's Monowai, on the triangular

run- Wellington - Auckland - Sydney, where he met his wife to be Norma.

They were married in 1954 and had a cake shops in Pittwater Road Manly for 6 years and then 6 years at the cake shop in North Balgowlah.

Max returned to sea in 1975 on the Aussie coast serving on many types of ships, several years on the bulk cement carrier 'Goliath' plying between Tasmania and Sydney his last ship was a Dutch flagged Dive Support vessel working on the North West oil pipeline reconstruction, compulsory retirement came with his 65th birthday in 1993.

A keen sportsman he cycled regularly and had a 14ft rowing Skiff that he kept at Mary White's house at Forty Baskets beach, he rowed nearly daily and was the starter at North Harbour Sailing club for many years.

His interests since retiring included line-dancing, painting, classical music especially the Brandenburg Orchestra, gardening, mountain-biking, rowing, fishing and the Sea Eagles.

Max was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in December 2008, he faced it very bravely and with the aid of drugs carried on near normal for some months, then the end came quickly and he died with his family close. The funeral was given a lovely 'friendly touch' when following the service 'refreshments' were had at the house were Max had kept his rowing Skiff.

The new owners 'inherited' Max from Mary White and became good friends with him.

Our deepest condolences to Max's family and friends

Thanks to Norma, son in law John Allcock & Eric Hitchens for this information, it was nice to talk to you about Max.

Below at the December 2008 Christmas party—Max on extreme right.

