

Captain Alan Pearson MBE
Member No. 234
President 1996-1998
Senior Vice President 1999-2001
Committeeman 1986-1995
Joined 12/12/1958

13th July 1921 to 4th August 2011



Alan Pearson joined Furness Withy as a Deck Apprentice in 1937 and saw service throughout World War 2, in the North Atlantic and world trades. He gained his Extra Masters Certificate in 1947 in a remarkable effort.

Captain Alan Pearson joined the Department of Shipping and Transport in 1952 as a Nautical & Ship Surveyor and in a few years was promoted to Deputy Director of Navigation for Tasmania.

In 1958 he returned to Sydney as Senior Nautical and Ship Surveyor before moving to Department's Head Office in Melbourne as Principle Marine Surveyor in 1961.

One duty he enjoyed in Tasmania & NSW was visiting Lighthouses on inspection. He was appointed Nautical Advisor in 1964, which involved a wide range of responsibilities such as shipwrecks, both historical & modern, prevention of pollution by oil and marine casualty

investigations and attendance at Courts of Marine Inquiry such as the Lake Illawarra Inquiry and also Chairing the Marine Council and Manning Committee.

In 1972 Captain Pearson led the Australian Delegation at the Convention on the International Rules Preventing Collisions at Sea.

Captain Pearson was made an MBE in 1979 for his services to shipping before retiring from the Public Service in 1982.

Alan Pearson had joined the Company of Master Mariners of Australia in 1965 and later served as Master of the Melbourne, Sydney and Federal Branches and remained active until shortly before entering a nursing home.

Captain Pearson was awarded a Graduate Diploma in Business (Shipping) in 1997 and also a Graduate Diploma in Port and Terminal Management in 1998 and also wrote for a number of nautical publications.

Captain Pearson joined the League of Ancient Mariners in 1958 and served as President 1996-1999 and also as Senior Vice President and Committeeman over a decade.

Information has been taken from a eulogy given by David Wharington and information in *Sons of the Sea*.