

Capt Bruce Hitchman
1927 – 2008
Queensland Coast & Torres Strait Pilot
Roll No.334

Bruce Hitchman, a noble mariner from New Zealand, made his maiden voyage at 16 years of age to San Francisco as a deck hand aboard *Pamir*. Later he joined the Union Steamship Company in New Zealand for six years. During this time he gained his Chief Mate's and Masters Certificates and married Nanette Shaw in 1955.

In 1964 he came ashore and began his long association with Sydney Harbour. Even after his retirement in 1987 Bruce kept his passion for the sea alive, entering the *Pacific Breeze*, his first mono-hull in many races including the Sydney to Hobart and the 1991 Melbourne to Osaka short-handed race.

Bruce became involved with Sydney Heritage Fleet in 2002 and became one of their captains, where he awed his passengers by climbing the rigging at 78 years old. Bruce's tenacity, drive, strength of character and experience made Captain Bruce Hitchman a much loved and valued member of the Heritage Fleet and wider Maritime Community.

His family Nanette, Kylie, Sally and grandchildren Jay, Brodie and Mitchell, friends and shipmates will sorely miss Bruce.

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