

**Captain Cyril George Cocksedge**  
**1934 - 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**  
**Roll No. 71**  
**Member of the League 1997 to 2018**  
**Committeeman 1999 to 2005**  
**Vice President 2002-2003**



Cyril George Cocksedge was borne in 1934 in Assam, where his father was a Civil Engineer. Still in India, he attended school in Shillong.

He joined Worcester in 1951 leaving after two years, with credits in cricket and boxing, First Class in School, Extra in Seamanship, and as a Badge Cadet.

He joined Ellerman Lines, his first ship being the City of Hereford. He became the Hon Sec of Dog Watch to which he made substantial contribution. In his final edition he furnished a fine pen and ink drawing of Worcester 3. During these years he was a regular entrant in the Seafarer Education Service painting competitions.

In 1959 he joined China Navigation Company (Swires) where he rose to Command for his last eight years, before leaving in 1975 and moving to live in Sydney. During these years he had met his wife, Sheila, and they had two children Sarah and Ian.

Whilst waiting for a vacancy in Sydney Harbour Pilotage he served as Third Officer for a short time aboard 'Iranda' of the Australian National Line.

From Sydney, in 1980 he moved to the Port Kembla Pilotage from where he retired in 1995. He is spoken of highly, both privately and professionally in the difficult job of manoeuvring fully laden Cape Size Bulk Carriers into very tight spaces.

He contributed to the feasibility of building Australia's largest vessel, the BHP 250,000 ton bulk carrier "Iron Pacific". It was during these years that fellow Pilot and friend - Bryan Hayes (OC 55) recalls that he had heart surgery and whilst probably not impressing his surgeon, the much lauded Late Victor Chang, astounded his colleagues by quickly returning to climbing pilot ladders!

In his retirement Cyril was a senior office holder in the League of Ancient Mariners. He was also a stalwart of the Old Worcesters Association in Australia serving as Secretary for many

years. Tireless and efficient, he is remembered by all as a very proud mariner and a good chum. We thank him for his years of dedication.

After Sheila's death in 2018, Cyril moved to be near his son and spent his last few years at a retirement village in Mango Hill, north of Brisbane. He seriously missed any opportunity to talk ships and seafarers and most recently suffered from cardiac issues. In April I received a long and very poignant missive, complete with an evocative pen and ink drawing, from him in response to a Cheer Up card sent on behalf of all his fellow Australian Old Worcesters. In it he had quite clearly seen the breaking swell ahead and he crossed the Bar on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2021. Chris Langford OW 62, also a Queenslander, and a fellow officer in both Ellermans and China Navigation had kept us in touch with his health.

Thanks to Richard Pocock for his profile published in Old Worcester Magazine The Dog Watch 2021.