

Captain Geoffrey Louden Cleveland
20th October 1922 to 4th March 1996
Member of the League 1978-1996

Geoff was born at Homebush on 20th October 1922 and crossed the Bar on 4th March 1996. He was the son of Captain Ernest Warner Cleveland, who was a Torres Strait Pilot based on Thursday Island.

Like many a seafarer's son of the period, he followed his father's footsteps by going to sea as an apprentice with W.R. Carpenter in 1939. During World War II he served on ships in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Far East areas. After the war he returned to Australia and joined the Eastern and Australian Steamship Co. serving on their ships until 1953. He then "swallowed the anchor" and took up a position as manager of a plantation in New Guinea until 1960 when he returned to seagoing with his old firm W.R. Carpenter. In 1964 Geoff was appointed master of 'LAKEMBA', serving in that position until 1967 when he took a shore appointment with E.F. Hogan & Sons in Sydney. He continued his employment with Hogan's and their change of ownership to Conaust Stevedoring until his retirement in 1987.

Geoff's record with the Company of Master Mariners of Australia is second to none. After joining the Sydney Branch in May 1973, he served in various positions on the Branch Court before being Branch Master of the Sydney Branch from 1983 to 1985. He then went to the Federal Court as Federal Mariner Warden, then as Federal Prime Warden and eventually as Registrar between 1988 and 1995. He spent an enormous amount of time assisting with the incorporation of the Company and the amending of the Articles of Association. As recognition of his efforts over the years, Geoff was made a Life Member of the Company in 1995. He was also a member of the League of Ancient Mariners and the Port Club for many years.

As a result of declining health, Geoff was unable to attend the Federal Office in 1995, but still took a keen interest in contributing all the information he had acquired during his tenure. Much of the Company's success is owed to the dedication and hard work of Geoff Cleveland.

Information supplied by Betty-Anne Cleveland from an article in the August 1996 Journal of Company of Master Mariners written by the late Captain Norm Mackie, the then Federal Prime Warden.