

Captain Michael Thomas May
4th June 1942 to 27th July 1993
Member of the League 1983 to 1993



Michael Thomas May, aka Tom Terrific, went to sea an Apprentice with AUSN and sailed in Caloundra (later Iron Warrior). The AUSN Company folded while May was still in his time, which he completed in E&A.

With a new Second Mate's he did several voyages in Abel Tasman, transporting mid-coast logs from Coffs Harbour. This experience helped him years later when he was able to assist Captain Harry Clark get Cycle into and out of Coffs to transfer an

injured seaman to a fishing boat. Then the fisherman pushed the bow around for them. Cycle is the biggest ship to enter Coffs.

May remains the only man to have seen a walrus while aground in the Hinchinbrook Channel. It was, of course, a dugong, but a boy from Double Bay was unaware of dugongs.

In Howard Smith, May sailed in many ships, in all ranks, becoming Master in 1981. He joined Sydney Harbour Pilots in 1983.

Away from work, his great love was Rugby Union. He coached an under 15 Rugby team from the Gordon club and toured NZ with that team.

He died, too young, in 1993, and is, still, much missed.

A Pilot Cutter was named for him.