

Captain Peter Grainger
20/10/1944 - 21/10/2024
Roll No.133



Peter crossed the bar peacefully on the 21st of October, 2024 following a courageous battle with a progressive lung condition.

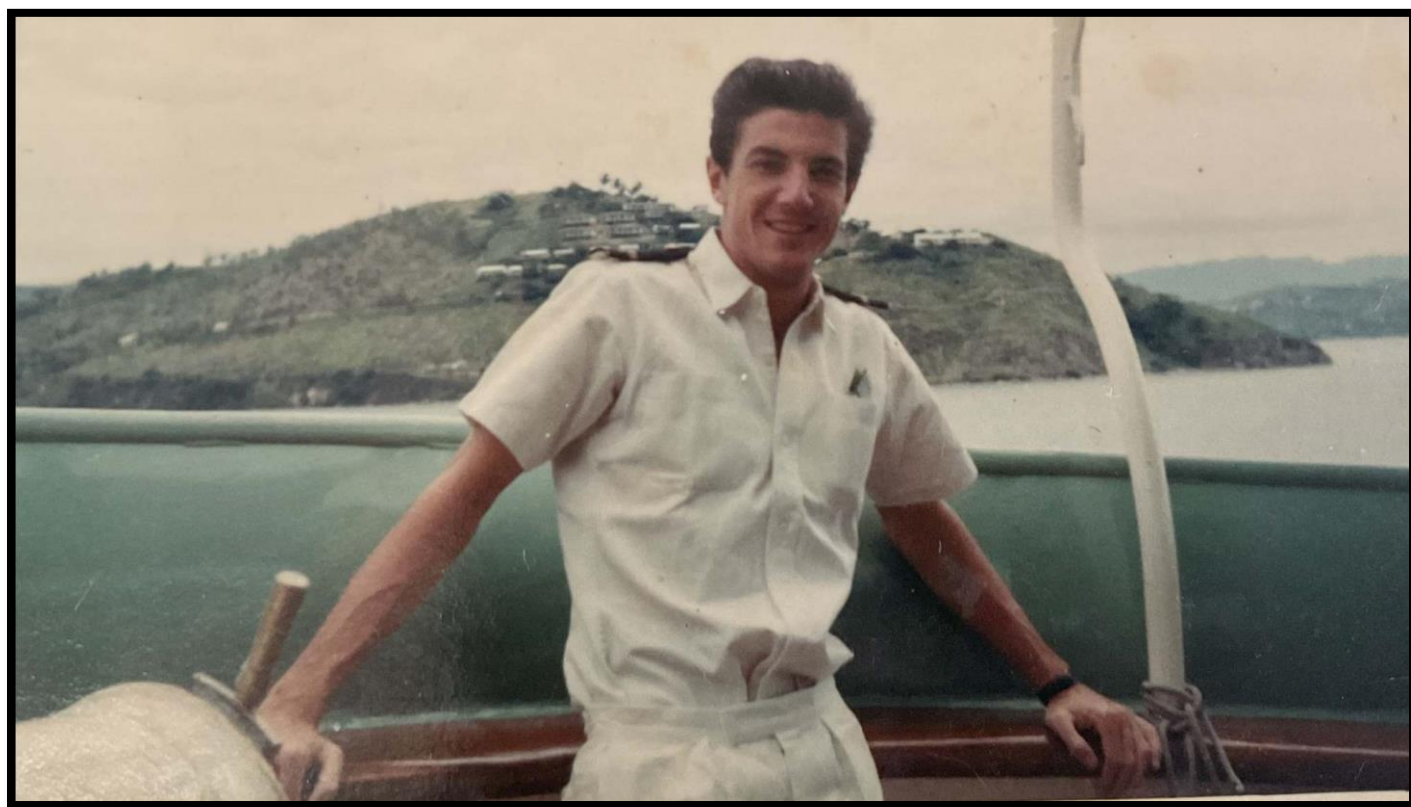
Peter's love for the sea began early in life. At just 13 he left home to join *HMS Worcester* at the Thames Nautical Training College, setting the course for a lifelong maritime career. By 17 he was at sea as an apprentice deck officer with Hain Line, later joining China Navigation in Hong Kong, then CSR and BHP in Australia.

His stories from those days are unforgettable, like one night navigating out of Hong Kong in the 1960's surrounded by fishing boats weaving across his path. The Chief Officer said "Okay Peter, I'll leave you to it" and disappeared from the bridge. At 18 he found himself giving orders to an older crew, relying on his training to guide him safely through. "I can still imagine the captain peeking from his cabin, hoping I'd manage well", he would say with a laugh.

Peter's deep connection to the sea and maritime history found a home with the Sydney Heritage Fleet, where he spent many years as a dedicated skipper on *Lady Hopetoun* and *Waratah*. The *John Oxley* was always close to his heart, but even more he valued the camaraderie of the Fleet's community sharing his knowledge and passion with fellow maritime enthusiasts. The fleet gave him a renewed sense of purpose and allowed him to live out his lifelong dedication to the sea.

To the Sydney Heritage Fleet Peter Grainger was more than a skilled mariner, he was a steadfast friend, a source of wisdom, and a man whose passion for the sea was as deep as the ocean itself. His presence, his stories, and his calm under pressure have left an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. He will be fondly remembered for his quiet strength, his lifelong dedication and warmth he brought to all who sailed with him.

Taken from an eulogy by Louis Grainger in Sydney Heritage Fleet Forum 31/10/2024



Peter's Funeral was held at St Mary's Anglican Church, Balmain East on 1st November 2024. One of his daughters sang beautifully whilst playing the guitar and her step-brother accompanied her on the piano. His casket was honoured with *HMS Worcester* Ensign. The eulogy was read by Captain Richard Pocock the President of the Old Worcester's Association in Australia.