

Capt Peter Lister Sturt

Roll No 265

November 4, 1927 – January 30, 2021



Member, Capt Peter Lister Sturt, Crossed the Bar aged 93 on January 30, 2021.

Capt Sturt first went to sea aged 16 as a deck cadet with Burns Philip and later spent 33 years as a Torres Strait Pilot.

In Capt John C H Foley's book, *Reef Pilots, the History of the Queensland Coast and Torres Strait Pilot Service*, on page 162 it states ...

'Capt Peter L Sturt. Peter was the last Burns Philip Master to be appointed a Torres Strait Pilot. It is unlikely that there will ever be another. Burns Philip's fleet has vanished; it is no more. The decline commenced in the 1960's and reach its sad conclusion in 1970 with the disposal of the company's last ship, Moresby.

Capt Sturt was the first pilot to tackle in a scientific fashion the vagaries of Torres Strait tides. Using the principle of harmonic constants and devoting many hours work to the task, Peter came up with some startling results which have since been confirmed by official sources. Largely as a result of his work, today we have, and take for granted, daily and hourly predictions of tidal rises at several important points all through the Torres Strait'.

We're told that Peter always enjoyed catching up with old friends at the League's lunches and that they were days not to be missed.

He is survived by his wife Annette, son Thomas and daughter Annabelle.

With thanks to Capt Sturt's son & daughter.