

Captain Stephen Francis Gerard Herklots
19 /08/1940 – 14/01/2024
Member Roll No.261



Stephen Francis Gerard Herklots, affectionately known as Captain Bompa, was born on the 19th August 1940 in Flixton (Lancashire) not far from Manchester, England. He went to Doncaster Grammar School, followed by his Pre-Sea Training at Warsash, near Southampton in 1958.

Stephen started his sea career with an apprenticeship as a Cadet with Furness Withy & Co Ltd from September 1958 to August 1961 serving in ships TS MANDAGALA, MV EGYPTIAN PRINCE and MV BARDIC.

While serving on MV BARDIC trading on the Australian Coast, Stephen and Janice met on the 1st December 1960 at the old Flying Angel Club on George Street, Sydney City, Australia, at a dance at the club, that evening.

After obtaining his Second Officers Qualification in the UK, Stephen emigrated to Australia and married on 16th November 1963.

In Australia Stephen was fortunate to start a 13-year career with Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand starting his service on MV WANAKA on 30th July 1962. He sailed on Union Steam ships WANAKA, KOOTARA, TATANA, KAMONA & KOONYA until July 1965, mostly trading in Trans-Tasman voyages between Australia & New Zealand and along the coasts. He returned to the UK later that year to complete his 1st Mates Certificate.

Once qualified Stephen resumed working with Union Steam Ships on the MV RISDON and various other vessels until the SEAWAY QUEEN in May 1969.

Stephen then spent some time ashore studying, before obtaining his Master's Certificate in 1969 in Sydney.

Stephen returned to sea in January 1970 and continued to work with Union Steam Ships on MV KOONYA and MV POOLTA until April 1975.

He then joined the Australian National Line beginning of May 1975 and served on MV JEPARIT, MELBOURNE TRADER, TOLGA, AUSTRALIAN PIONEER, LAKE SORELL, STERLING RANGE, ANRO AUSTRALIA.

In July 1991 Stephen was promoted to Master of the MV TRANSTAZ TRADER continuing voyages near coastal and trans-Tasman.

Stephen sailed as master for another six years on A.N.L. and A.S.P. ships TRANSTAZ TRADER, AUSTRALIAN TRADER, BASS TRADER, SEAROAD TAMAR, SEAROAD MERSEY, ENDEAVOUR RIVER and FITZROY RIVER.

Stephen held Pilot exemptions for Launceston, Port Phillip Bay, Hobart, Port Jackson, Botany Bay, Devonport and Auckland, which allowed him to manoeuvre his ship without having to take a local pilot each time.

His final voyage before retiring was on MV IRON CARPENTERIA from December 1997 to February 1998.

Stephen joined Master Mariners in November 1997 and has been a very valued member for 26 Years. He was Deputy Branch Master and represented the Company on many occasions. He was also a member of the League of Ancient Mariners and the Merchant Navy Association.

Beloved Husband of Janice, father of Amanda, Melinda and Rhonda, grandfather of Alexander, Phoebe, Jasmin, Amy, Adelaide, Edward and Chloe.

Stephen – "Fair Winds and Following Seas"

Eulogy from Captain Ted van Bronswijk. Photo from Captain Herklots Family