

Milner Horace Patey
August 9, 1935 – February 25, 2017

With thanks to Justin Patey and Milner's family

Milner Horace Patey was born in Newcastle on 9 August 1935. He passed away on 25 February 2017, aged 81.

He enjoyed a very interesting career as a Ship Chandler primarily with Smith & Reid Pty Ltd, based in Newcastle, for 35 years from 1959 until June 1994. In the years from about 1987 to 1994 he worked as a consultant to Nautilus Australia Ltd, who had eventually taken over the business.

Under Milner's guidance in the 1970's and 1980's, Smith & Reid grew to also establish operations in Sydney and Port Kembla in partnership with other companies.

Milner travelled extensively in the 1980's to Europe to promote and establish business contacts with many shipping companies on the continent and in the UK.

As children growing up, we witnessed seafarers from all over the world being entertained primarily at home by Milner and our mother Claudia (to whom Milner was married for 57 years).

Milner had friends in all parts of the world as a result of his career.

He always prided himself on doing his utmost to satisfy every request that came his way. One of the most memorable for me, was that made in the 1980's by a Russian Chief Engineer on a wheat ship in Newcastle for an engine for a Chevrolet Nova car. Dad actually managed to track down the correct engine from a wrecking yard in Newcastle. Just one example of what he was able to do to meet the needs of his clients.

We all terribly miss Milner and Claudia, who passed five months before him.