

VALE Commodore Peter Phillipson

It is with great sadness that TMA advises of the passing of one of our founding members Peter Phillipson, after a long illness.

Although his failing health prevented him from taking a more active role in recent years, Peter remained an avid supporter of the TMA's objectives and donated many precious items to the museum from his personal collection.

Unable to leave his home for any length of time, Peter was a deep thinker with a broad education and was what we would describe today as a 'lifelong learner'. A keen observer of natural history, he took comfort in sitting in his beloved garden and watching nature at work.



Peter began his association with the world's oceans as a Marine Engineer in the UK Merchant Navy, before joining the Australian Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol in 1989 after moving to Sydney. Following his term as Port Stephens Divisional Commander from 2001-2003, Peter spearheaded a Board-appointed team which developed the plans to create the organisation that became Marine Rescue NSW in 2009.

In a COVID-restricted ceremony held at the Marine Rescue Base Nelson Head in May 2020, Peter was presented with a medal honouring his thirty years of service. It was a fitting acknowledgement of the time he selflessly devoted as a volunteer.

Many people on the Tomaree Peninsular will also recognise Peter from the seventeen years he was an active participant and closely involved with the Australia Day Committee and annual ceremony.



Peter passed away at home in Fingal Bay on 26 June 2024 with his wife Milja and his family by his side.

He will be missed by his many friends for his enquiring mind, engaging nature and his unfailing determination to live his best life.

Rest in peace.