

Probus Neutral Bay Guest Speaker – Tues. 9th November 2021

NOEL PHELAN– Aust. National Maritime Museum



“THE HALVORSEN STORY”

There is every chance that sometime in your life you have undertaken ...or dreamed of undertaking... a journey on a Halvorsen cruiser on Sydney harbour. Halvorsen? Where did they come from? What did they achieve?

Most of us are descendants of immigrants or immigrants to this country seeking a better life for ourselves and our families. The Halvorsen family was typical in that in 1924, it came from Norway with very little and worked very hard to build a better life. However the Halvorsen family did more than that - they showed extraordinary commitment to boat building, excellent craftsmanship and boat design skills that made their boats desired by wealthy business people, commercial companies and key politicians.

During WW2 they built many vessels including supply boats, rescue vessels and boats for the RAAF and RAN. They also demonstrated outstanding seamanship by designing, building and sailing their yachts with great success in all the classic ocean racing events. They won back to back handicap honours three times in the Sydney Hobart race.

And they built and raced the first Australian challenger for the America's Cup - GRETEL for Frank Packer.

Our Guest SpeakerNoel Phelan. Noel is a Team Leader at the Australian National Maritime Museum and has had a close connection with the water all his life. He has been a volunteer guide at the Maritime Museum for several years..... and loves it.

Noel's first career was as a science and mathematics teacher. He then moved into IT with IBM where he spent 25 years in various technical and management positions.

Noel is a Past President of Northbridge Rotary and is an active volunteer in retirement. With his sailing ability he is a director and sailing captain of his sailing club. Noel also spent several years with Marine Rescue and the Rural Fire Service. Quite a remarkable bloke.

His Presentation Noel will discuss the origins of the Halvorsen family, their exploits and their achievements in some detailand more.

You will enjoy what promises to be a remarkable story.



Our Guest Speaker - Noel Phelan

HMAS "Sea Mist"



KA1 "Gretel" 1962



Magnus & Trygve Halvorsen

