



PEG

Peg was born on 31 August 1926 at Nannup Hospital. She spent her Primary School years at Jarrahdale before she was “dumped” in boarding school at Sacred Heart in Mary Street, Highgate.

Peg’s father worked as a clerk at a timber mill. The mill was closed during the depression, but Peg’s father was retained as a caretaker and the family were able to stay on in their employee housing. Times were tough, but Peg says that she didn’t really notice the hardship as everyone was in the same boat and there was always something going on, such as a dance, or footy and tennis.

Peg was thirteen when war was declared. She says they had been expecting it, and remembers sitting in the family lounge room listening to the announcement. She was nineteen when the war finished, so all her teen years were war years. She says that people just learned to live with it. Everyone was the same in terms of relying on food coupons and having a lack of new clothes. Peg recalls hearing all the church bells ringing when the announcement was finally made that the war was over.

After her husband died in January 1972 Peg worked as the administrator at Royal Kings Park Tennis Club until 1978. She had an office overlooking centre court. She got to know Margaret Court, and saw a lot of the other great players at the time, including Evonne Goolagong and Martina Navratilova.

Peg then worked in the office at the Royal Perth Yacht Club from 1978 to 1991. Peg was present for all of the drama of Australia II’s Americas Cup triumph in 1983. She says it was “the most exciting period you could ever wish for”. She recalls the logistical nightmare of dealing with the sudden massive media interest in the club, which grew over the few days between Australia II drawing level in the series and the eventual staging (after lack of wind and tactically called lay-days) of the final race. She recalls people coming from far and wide to be there. She remembers seeing Dawn Fraser, as well as Bob Hawke and that “bloody stupid jacket”. She says that “when we won it, it just went mad”. She recalls large quantities of champagne, and leading a conga line.

Peg first become involved in Mullaloo SLSC in 1985, after her grandchildren, Jeff and Megan, had joined two or three years earlier. She had had no involvement in surf clubs before then. She was Assistant Secretary in 1985/86. She recalls 1985 as being a great year for the Club, with the Australian Junior Championships being held at Mullaloo Beach in March 1985. She recalls that the club only had three or four hundred members at that stage.

In 1991 the old Mullaloo SLSC building was pulled down, and the present club rooms were built. Peg says there

was great excitement when on 13 December 1991 (a few months late, and already well into the surf season) the Club was given the keys to the new building. Peg retired from work at the Royal Perth Yacht Club on 31 December 1991, and then became even more involved in Mullaloo SLSC.

Peg has seen the club grow enormously over the last twenty years, with a large increase in members, particularly in the number of juniors. She has seen the Club conduct the Junior State Championships, inter club carnivals, and, in 2000, host the Australian Interstate Carnival at Mullaloo Beach. She has seen Mullaloo competitors win the club’s first gold medals at the Aussies, a Mullaloo member win the Australian Volunteer of the Year (Kevin Larkins), and the Club win first the State Club of the Year and then the Australian Club of the Year.

Peg notes that there are now a much greater range of activities for people to become involved in at the Club, particularly in relation to training and competition.

One of Peg’s fondest Club memories is of the fancy dress party that was put on for her 80th birthday in 2006. As well as past members of the Club, guests included Hugh Heffner, The Village People, a priest, a “Peg Exterminator”, and two Peg impersonators (complete with white hair, yellow tops and pearls). There was a cake suitably decorated with beachies and boaties, and Peg was awarded with her own name-plated chair for use while in the Lounge.

Peg continues to be an active member of the Club, assisting in the office each Sunday and Monday, as well as helping out with various other things around the Club. She says she has made many friends at the Club, but particularly enjoys watching the kids come up through the ranks from juniors to seniors and then keeping track of their adult lives.

Ian Allen

