

# Meeting members

*Son of Gladys  
Grandson of Fred*

## Ship's time

When we asked Newcastle member Mr Reg Whitten about Flight Deck, he was quick to point out that he was a founding member. Among the numerous advantages he enjoys is the frequent use of the meeting rooms in the lounges for such events as the annual meeting of the Horological Guild of Australasia, of which he is chairman.

"We'd also booked a room for the annual federal conference this year, but alas there are more people coming than we anticipated. We've changed the venue, but I'll use a lot of guest passes

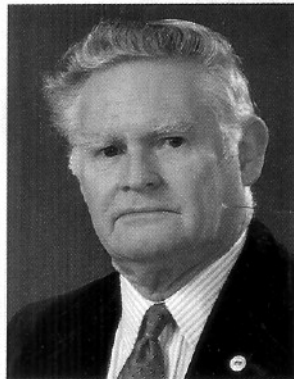
when I meet them at the airport or see them off", he said.

Mr Whitten is one of the most travelled watch and clock repairers in Australia and is regarded by the Swiss industry as the most experienced watchmaker in the world. Newcastle being a maritime city, it was natural that he would become involved in timepieces for ships—indeed, he has supplied more than 150 Australian-built vessels with chronometers, barometers, clocks, binoculars and electric clock systems.

He got into ships' clocks out of necessity and now specialises in this area. "I set

up business in 1956 with £11.10 in the bank, and my first caller was from the Australian National Line", he recalls. He recently provided navy supply ship HMAS *Tobruk* with a range of clocks, and as we went to press, he has just tendered for the supply to the *Sandra Maree* (Australia's new Antarctic research vessel) master clocks and 50 other timepieces.

Mr Whitten is often introduced as a Doctor of Horology ("There's no such thing, but it sounds nice", he says). He figures he has not done badly for a kid turned out of a boys' home when he was 13 and left to support



**Mr Reg Whitten.**

himself. He is proud of having won a Churchill Fellowship to study in Europe and America and of his membership of many international bodies.