



SYDNEY FLYING SQUADRON LTD

Australia's oldest open boat sailing club
Founded in 1891

THE RINGTALE

VALE BILLY LOADER

**JOIN US ON SATURDAY EVENING FOR A SAILORS' FAREWELL
6.00 PM AT THE SYDNEY FLYING SQUADRON CLUB ROOM**



Photo thanks to Bentley Powell



Photo thanks to Mark Callinan

The post-race presentation this coming Saturday will be a special occasion when we conduct a sailors' farewell to past-Commodore, former Club director and "down to a nanosecond" Principal Race Officer, Bill Loader.

After a short illness, Bill died, aged 70, at his home in Forbes last week. His funeral in Forbes is on Thursday of this week and the Squaddie will be represented by a small number of Squaddie members led by Bill's best mate and fellow Race Officer, Wayne "Chuck" Goodfellow.

Bill's death followed that of his dear wife Valerie almost exactly a year earlier. Valerie had returned to Forbes when she fell ill. Bill, despite his own failing health, joined her to look after her back in her home town and in typical fashion – because Bill was nothing if not a people person, Bill settled into the life of the town and was soon involved in the local business and social scene. The Squaddie's loss was Forbes' gain.

Some of the messages from Squaddie members when the news of Bill's death reached us included:

"Very sad. A good bloke"

"With Valerie now. RIP Billy"

"Can't believe this. Billy was bulletproof"

"Big man, big personality and big on enthusiasm for all things Sydney Flying Squadron"

"Larger than life? Well, yes, he certainly was. But now Rest in Peace Billy. You earned it"

The usual presentation following the race in the H18s Australian Championship will start the proceedings at 6.00. That will be followed by the traditional eight bells and an opportunity for some of Bill's mates to say a few words and tell a tale or two. There are bound to be a number of toasts to Bill. Sailors are welcome in sailing gear if de-rigging and putting the skiffs away is still underway.

We may be joined by some of Bill's Sydney friends and work colleagues who have been unable to travel to Forbes to pay their respects. Please make them welcome.

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