



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Marine Insurance Expert Sails on Final Voyage

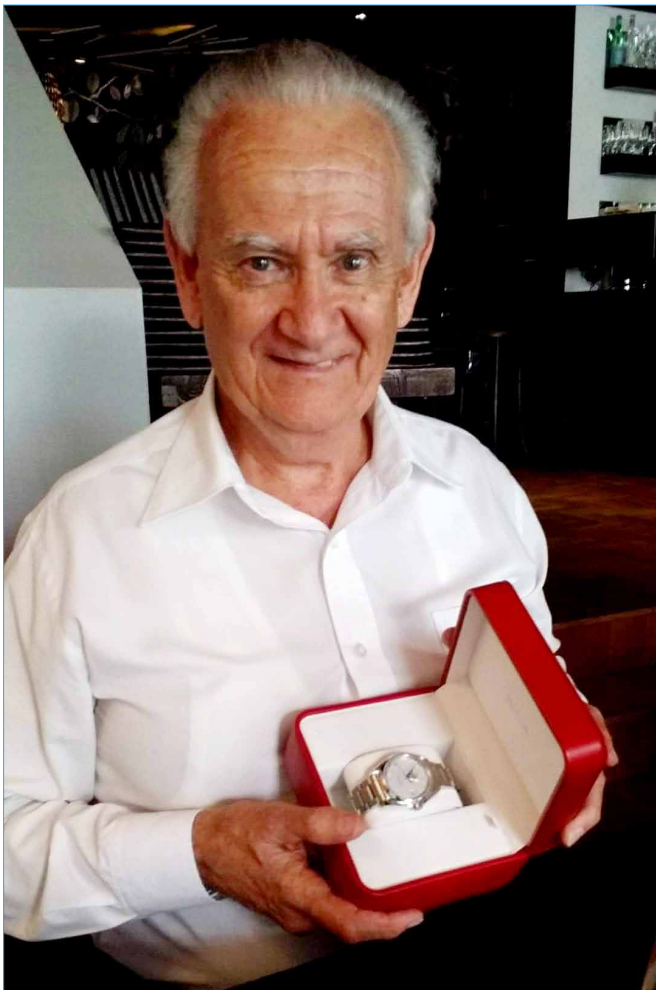
International marine insurance specialist Kevin John Noonan died on Friday 30 December 2022 after a short illness.

Mr Noonan, 88, of Brisbane, was national marine manager at Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers until 2021.

His initial career goal was to be an industrial chemist and he spent eight years with Shell until 1959 when he moved to Commercial Union and embarked upon a path to become a leading marine underwriter.

After almost a decade with Commercial Union, achieving the status of Queensland marine manager, he moved to Lumley Insurance and then SGIO (now Suncorp) with the same title.

After 15 years at SGIO, Mr Noonan then assumed the role of general manager of several insurance broking firms from 1986 to 1995.



Kevin Noonan with his gold watch presented to celebrate a decade of service to AJ Gallagher

He returned to underwriting in 1995, first for Suncorp as national marine manager and then to QBE Mercantile Mutual with the same title. He joined AJ Gallagher in 2010.

For over 50 years, Mr Noonan – a Bundaberg-born plumber's son – was an adviser to Lloyd's of London and many maritime professionals on marine risks and losses.

He was a specialist in placing cover for Australian-built, high-speed vehicle and passenger ferries and was instrumental in placing insurance for Australian-built defence craft, including the Collins Class submarines.

Mr Noonan also placed and led covers for port and terminal authorities throughout Australia and the South Pacific region.

He was Australia's first underwriter to insure construction of marinas and he insured the floating hotel and Fantasy Island – once based at Brewer Reef off Townsville – and other marine structures, including aquaculture fish pens.

Mr Noonan was a regular visitor to Lloyd's and the London Market and represented Australia for some time on the International Union of Marine Insurance.

He was the inaugural president of the Brisbane Insurance Club, an active participant in the Australian & New Zealand Institute of

Insurance & Finance discussion groups and lectured in marine insurance at the Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and other institutions.

Mr Noonan is survived by his wife of 60 years, Maureen, daughters Gail, Deanne and Yvette, six grandchildren, and his younger brother, Geoff.

His family fondly remembers Mr Noonan solving global marine insurance issues at the table after dinner. His dedication to his beloved industry was renowned.

Mr Noonan was called up for two years of National Service in 1955 and remained an Army reservist based at Enoggera. He attained the rank of Sergeant and made lifelong friends whom he treasured to the end.

Mr Noonan is also reputed to have been a skilful ballroom dancer who graced the floors of Brisbane's legendary Cloudland and was additionally an amateur golfer.

Despite his many accomplishments, Mr Noonan was a quiet person who sought no recognition but was renowned as a loyal friend and mentor to many.

He was remembered at a life celebration at the Kedron-Wavell Services Club in Brisbane on 13 January 2023.

March 2023

