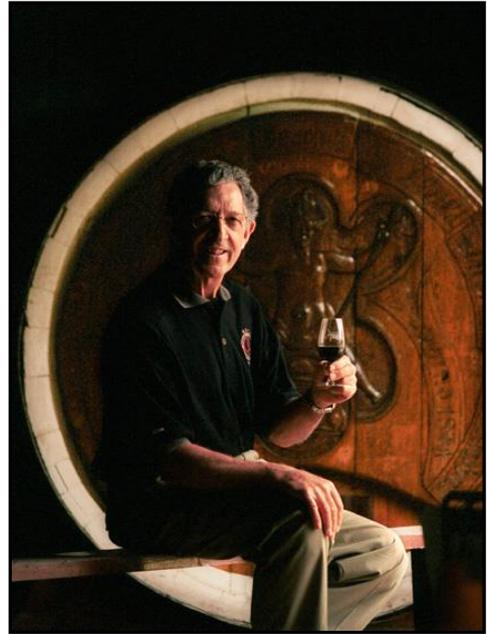


Sir James Hardy O.B.E

Born in 1932, Jim Hardy ("Gentleman Jim" to his many friends and admirers) is widely renowned for his astute business acumen, however is mainly identified in the Australian community as a yachtsman, and indeed sailing has been his primary love since he was born and brought up at Seacliff on the coast of the Gulf of St Vincent, near Adelaide. He became a household name in Australia when he represented Australia at the 1964 Olympic Games in Japan and then again in 1968 in Mexico.

He won the 505 Class World Yachting Championships in Adelaide in 1966, and was the captain of Australian 12-metre boats in three challenges for the America's Cup in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1970 (on "Gretel 2"), in 1974 ("Southern Cross") and in 1980 ("Australia").



His experience and training of other crew paid off in the 1983 challenge when John Bertrand, who had sailed with him on the three previous Cup challenges, finally took out the top honours. He has also sailed widely elsewhere, including being number one helmsman of the winning yacht "Impetuous" in the 1979 Admiral's Cup races from Cowes, United Kingdom, and was awarded the Australian Yachtsman of the Year 1980-81.

One of four children, James Hardy was born in Adelaide in 1932 to Thomas Mayfield Hardy and Eileen Hardy, and was educated at St Peter's College, Adelaide (1943-50). He became a qualified accountant and an Associate of the Australian Society of Accountants and worked for two rural companies before joining his family firm, Thomas Hardy & Sons Pty. Ltd., in 1953 - the company's centenary year.

He worked in various positions throughout the company until 1962, when he was transferred to Sydney as Director and Manager in New South Wales. He was made regional director, Eastern Australia in 1977 and when his brother Tom Hardy died in 1980, Sir James became Chairman in 1981.

He was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) in 1975 and also knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1981 (Knight Bachelor Kt.) in recognition of his services to the community, the wine industry and yachting.

He has been deeply involved over the years in wine industry organisations, The Royal Blind Society, the travel industry, various yachting organisations, including serving on the board of the HM Endeavour Foundation, and, as a member of the council of the Australian National Maritime Museum, Sir James became their patron. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Neurosurgical Research Foundation of South Australia, was a director of Advertiser Newspapers Limited and a past President of the Wine and Brandy Producers' Association of New South Wales.

He was director of sailing for the Ben Lexcen designed/Stephen Ward built 12-metre America's Cup Yacht "South Australia" for the Cup defence off Fremantle in Western Australia in 1987. He was Chairman of the "One and All" sailing ship project of South Australia, an Honorary Ambassador of Expo '88, was formerly a trustee with the Rothman's Sports Foundation, and a member of the Sydney Cricket Ground Trust.

Sir James married Lady (Joan) Hardy in 1991, and these days, spends his time between Adelaide and Sydney.