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**Bro Sir DOUGLAS FRANK HEWSON PACKER KBE, Ost J. FRSA
(1906-1974)**

The media proprietor, Sir Frank Packer, was born in Sydney on 3 December 1906. He attended the Sydney Church of England Grammar School and, after leaving school in 1923, he became a cadet reporter on the *Daily Guardian*.

By 1926 he was Assistant Business Manager and, the following year, he became a Director and General Advertising Manager of the *Daily Guardian and Smith's Weekly*.

In 1933, in association with the Hon Edward Granville Theodore, Packer launched the highly successful *Australian Women's Weekly*.

In 1936, Frank Packer became Managing Director of Consolidated Press Holdings Ltd which, in 1954, became Australian Consolidated Press Ltd with Frank Packer as Chairman.

In 1939-40, at the outbreak of the Second World War, he was President of the Australian Newspapers Conference which agreed with the Commonwealth Government on censorship standards for wartime security.

In 1941-42, Packer served in the AIF and, in 1942-44, he was a Director of Personnel for the Allied Works Council. He returned to the AIF in 1945.

In 1951 he was appointed a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) and, from 1955 to 1965, he was Chairman of Television Corporation Ltd which was granted the licence to operate TCN Channel 9 in Sydney, the first commercial station to transmit in Australia.

In 1959 he received a Knighthood (KBE) and, in 1960, Sir Frank became Chairman of General Television Corporation Ltd which was granted the licence to operate GTV Channel 9 in Melbourne.

His other media interests included Chairman of Australian Associated Press (AAP) in 1951, 1952 and 1962; Director and representative of the Australian and New Zealand Press of Reuters International News Agency and President of the Australian Newspapers Council in 1950.

In 1960, Sir Frank was appointed Chairman of the Nuclear Research Foundation.

He was created an Officer of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (O.St J.) in 1967.

He was a no-nonsense individual who disliked people whistling around the workplace.

There is the apocryphal story of a young lad whistling in the office lift one morning when Sir Frank directed him to stop, gave him a £10 note and told him he was sacked! The lad thanked Sir Frank for his generosity and said he was a telegram boy who worked at the GPO and happily went away whistling with more money than he had ever seen in his life.

Legend was created and Sir Frank became widely known as 'Sacker Packer'.

Despite his many business achievements and wealth, Sir Frank is best remembered by many for his sporting interests.

He was a member of the New South Wales Club, The Australian Golf Club and the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

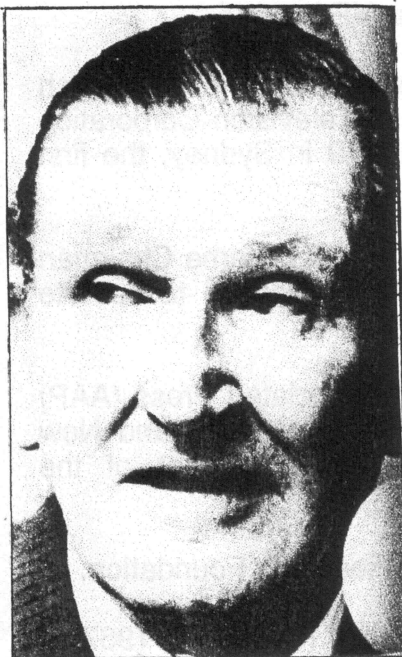
He was a super-keen yachtsman and his office walls were lined with books, not about newspapers, television or advertising but about sailing.

In 1962, he was Chairman of a Sydney syndicate which build the yacht *Gretel* which was originally intended only to sail in the Sydney-Hobart race.

Greater things were planned and with major sponsors Sir Frank Packer's Consolidated Press, Ampol Petroleum Co and tobacco giant W D and H O Wills, *Gretel* was shipped to the United States of America to become the 18th challenger for the America's Cup and Australia the 4th nation to do so in the 111 years of competition.

The American yacht *Weatherly*, skippered by Emil (Bus) Mosbacher, defeated the 12 metre *Gretel* by 4 races to 1 in the best of 7 series.

Gretel had been designed by Alan Payne and was skippered by Bro Jock Sturrock.



Bro. Sir Frank Packer

In 1967, the American *Intrepid* defeated Australia's *Dame Pattie* and, in a third challenge in 1970, *Gretel II* won the second race but was disqualified for colliding with *Intrepid*. Nevertheless, *Gretel II* won the 4th race of the series.

Three more unsuccessful challengers were *Southern Cross* in 1974, *Australia* in 1977 and again in 1980.

Finally, *Australia II* won the Cup in 1983 and the late Sir Frank Packer's dream had been realised.

The two Gretels were named after Sir Frank's first wife, Gretel J Bullmore, whom he had married in 1934. She died in 1960. They had two sons, Robert Clyde and Kerry Francis Bullmore.



Gretel on Sydney Harbour

Sir Frank married Florence (nee Porges) in 1964. She and his two sons survived him at his death in Sydney on 1 May 1974.

Bro Sir Douglas Frank Hewson Packer was made a Mason in Sydney in the Australian Lodge of Harmony No 5, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales on 6 February 1929.

He was aged 21 and gave his occupation as journalist at the time of his application during the previous year.

He was passed a Fellowcraft on 6 March 1929 and raised a Master Mason on 17 April 1929. He received Master Mason's Certificate No 108275 and retained his membership until his death.

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