

APPLES (AND OTHER EXPORTS)  
FROM THE APPLE ISLE

person was George Kosikas, who joined the branch in January 1958. In September that year Bob Mostyn and Bob Harrison went to the USA, after which Mostyn toured the UK and continental Europe and on the way home stopped off in Rangoon to meet up with Russ Fretwell, then on his first overseas trip.

On 27 December 1958 Mostyn married Joan Maloney at the Presbyterian Church in Hunters Hill, Sydney. The couple had met in Hobart at Maloney's Hotel in 1951 and had had an on-and-off relationship since then. After the wedding they lived in Hobart, but with Mostyn travelling overseas more and more often on general CM business and increasingly leaving the running of the Hobart branch to Fretwell, it was inevitable that before long the growing Mostyn family should relocate to Sydney.

The 1950s and '60s were the Tasmanian branch's years of greatest growth. By then it had added dried fruit to its lines and was also building a lucrative rock lobster trade. Seeing that the branch was able to get orders but could not always be sure of securing the necessary space on ships, Mostyn and Fretwell felt that a stake in the shipping agency business would not only safeguard the movement of goods but would also be a good investment. CM's main competitors, Jones & Co. (of IXL fame) and W.D. Peacock & Co. (both part of the same group, although they tried to downplay this connection), were already in the agency business. In fact, with four other exporters – Port Huon Fruit Growers, Tasmanian Orchardists and Producers, Clements & Marshall and the respected family shipping firm C. Piesse & Co. – they made up the Tasmanian Fruit Shipping Agents Committee (TFSAC), a tight-knit organisation that was an arm of the Sydney-based Australian Fruit Export Planning Committee. The TFSAC was responsible for underwriting Tasmania's share of chartering up to 40 vessels in a season and paid dividends on the share of cargo supplied by each member.

Mostyn and Fretwell had long dreamed of joining this exclusive club. For Mostyn, ships and shipping held the same fascination that aircraft

## Lobster tale

Bob Mostyn and Russ Fretwell were supervising CM's first shipment of rock lobster tails from Tasmania to the USA. The tails were packed in flat wooden boxes, and although the wharfies didn't know precisely what the product was, they realised it was hard-frozen because they had been issued with gloves. One asked the CM men what was in the boxes. They replied that it was crayfish tails.

By law it was necessary to indicate on the side of each box the variety of fish it contained. In this instance a version of the lobster's scientific name was shown – *Jasus lalandii* [the accepted name is now *Jasus novae-hollandiae*].

Looking at the words, the wharfie said: "Yeh, it didn't take the Greeks long to get into this trade, did it?"