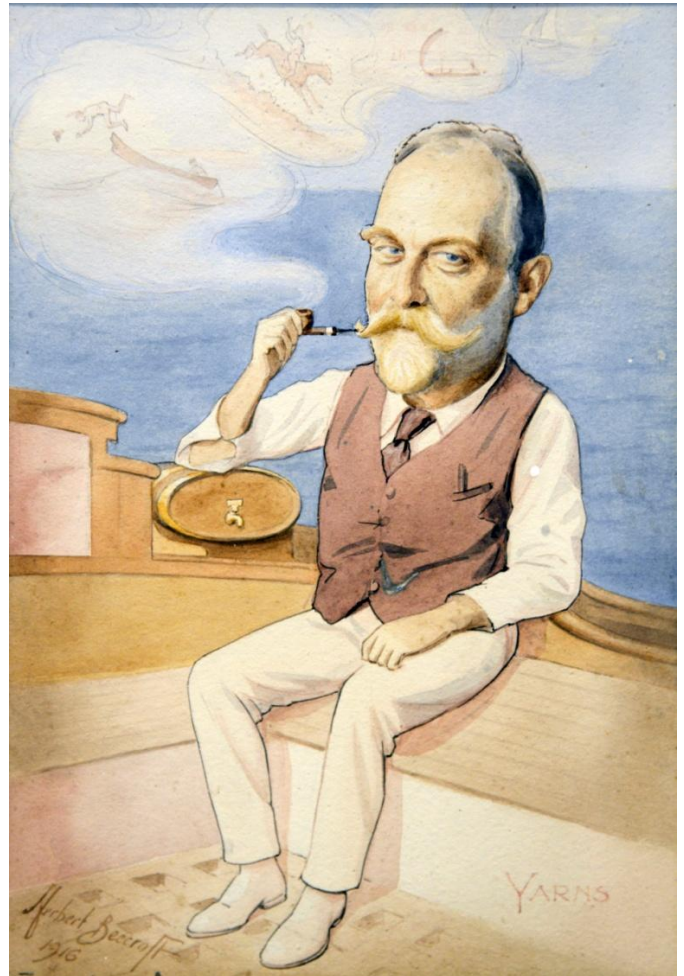


T F H MacKenzie

The caricature of Thomas Fitzherbert Hawkins Mackenzie was completed in 1916 by L. Herbert Beecroft at the height of the First World War. This was a very quiet time for the activities of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron and I quote from “**Sydney Sails**”:

“The outbreak of war in Europe in August 1914 brought yacht racing almost to a standstill “for the duration.” Membership was then at its highest since the Squadron’s inception, with 306 names on the roll. Few people at the outset realized that the war would be a long and grim struggle.”

Beecroft’s own activities at this time were focused on his paintings of the aboriginal community at Botany.



His painting of Thomas MacKenzie has the sub-title “Yarns” on the bottom right hand side. Mr. MacKenzie must have had lots of stories. With his right elbow resting on the keg of rum, sitting comfortably in the cockpit of a vessel, Beecroft has used thought bubbles which trail off in the smoke from his pipe – “Did you hear about the time I fell overboard from my rowing boat and lost my hat; but wait, what about the time I rode in the steeple chase; but that was nothing to the time I rowed down.....” Note the fob-watch in the pocket of his waist coat and the pencil in the breast pocket. Naturally, Mr. MacKenzie is smoking a pipe.

Mr. Mackenzie was a man of many interests – Mason, politician, accountant, fisherman etc. Here are some articles which illustrate his varied career.

Wednesday, 31st October, 1900 - Referee
FISHING NOTES.
(By 'GLAUCUS.')

Some time ago I asked one of our best known and popular city amateurs, Alderman **T. F. H. Mackenzie** (Mayor of Strathfield) to tell me something of the fishing in the Shoalhaven district. The following letter is replete with information, and may be noted by those sportsmen who can afford the time and money for the extended trip necessary. They will be amply repaid for their outlay, as will be seen by reference to Mr. Mackenzie's letter: —
Dear Sir,— For three different Easters a party of us camped in the vicinity of Greenwell Point, Shoalhaven River, the only trouble in getting there being so far from Sydney. There are two ways of travelling, one by train to Nowra, then drive to where you intend to camp near Greenwell Point, or if you prefer to sleep in a house there is a hotel at the Point. It is a long drive. I forget the exact distance. If you prefer it you might like arrangements to go by pulling-boat from Nowra, or by steamer on certain days. The other route is by water, taking steamer at Sydney, but this trip of course requires more time, leaving Sydney at night, and arriving at Greenwell Point some time during the next day. Now, as to the fishing, I have never been at any spot where fish were so plentiful. Firstly, right at Greenwell Point there is a large expanse of water. Jewfish, schnapper, and by drifting you get whiting and flathead, and if you like beach fishing it is not far from Greenwell Point to the mouth of the river, where sea-bream can be caught. From Greenwell Point to the East, no distance, there are inlets in the river running round an island, just opposite the Point; there are also small mangrove islands, where the river runs in channels, and good fishing is to be had in these. But the ideal spot is up the Wollumboola Creek. You take punt from near Greenwell Point, and proceed eastwards, land, and walk about three quarters of a mile. You require to have someone who knows the locality with you, otherwise you might waste a lot of time wandering about. On arriving at the lake you take punt again, and pull across the lake, and up the creek, which is literally swarming with fine large black bream, and the lake is covered with swans and ducks. On one of our trips the lake was very low, consequently the black bream were forced to come down the creek, and at the mouth of the creek, the fish were congregated in thousands. Our party caught so many in about two or three hours that a spring cart was pressed into our service to bring the fish to camp. We took some hundred or two on board the Illawarra, to Captain Garde, as a present to the ship. While fishing up the creek we used both rod and hand lines. Without doubt it is a splendid fishing ground, the only trouble being you cannot utilise the fish caught. If you like to have a little shooting, there is a swamp to the south-east of Greenwell Point, where you get duck and a few wild fowl. If ever you leave the time to spare, and the opportunity offers, try the locality of Greenwell Point, &c.— I am, &c., T. F. H. MACKENZIE.

Wednesday, 10th July, 1901 - Evening News

The New Members

MR. T. F. H. MACKENZIE, member for Canterbury, is a Victorian by birth, but has been in this State since he was 5 years old. He was educated privately, and finished his education under Mr. Stevens, at one time head master of the Grammar School. When 15 years of age, he went to the South Sea Islands, and became interpreter and secretary to the Ra Coast and Ysawa Group. When annexation took place, Mr. Mackenzie returned to Australia, and had twelve years of bush life in Queensland. Then he bought a pastoral property on the Macquarie, but was driven out by drought. Coming to Sydney, he started business as an accountant, which he still follows. Mr. Mackenzie has been an alderman of Strathfield for ten years, and Mayor for four years.

Thursday, 2nd April, 1903 - Sydney Morning Herald

ADDRESS BY MR. T. F. H. MACKENZIE, M.L.A.

Mr. T. F. H. Mackenzie, M. L. A. for Canterbury, addressed a meeting of his constituents in the Canterbury Town Hall. There was a large attendance. The Mayor, Alderman J. Dennis, occupied the chair. Mr. Mackenzie, who was well received, said that his object in addressing the electors was to try to induce them to go in for political reform. On account of the extravagance of the present Administration he considered it was necessary for the people to take up the matter of reform, and to return members to the Parliament of the country who would carry out their pledges as given on the hustings. (Applause.) Many pledges which were given before the last general election had been ignored.

At that election the present Government pledged itself to a reduction of members recognising that it was advantageous to business men, and would affect an economy in public expenditure. When members who had pledged themselves to a reduction of members and economy of administration endeavoured to carry out their

pledges, they were simply "howled down." The present Government had increased the public debt from the time it took office up to the present month by £12,040,427. The Government had had the handling of £57,643,603. Several other matters were touched upon, and at the conclusion of his address Mr. Mackenzie was accorded a vote of thanks.

Tuesday, 26th March, 1912 - Sydney Morning Herald

SAVINGS BANK AMALGAMATION.

Mr. T. F. H. Mackenzie writes: I feel confident that the depositors in the Barrack street Savings Bank will feel very grateful to the members of the Legislative Council who voted against the proposed so-called amalgamation, and gratified to know there are some legislators who recognise the rights of individuals, and in this case to protect them from being compulsorily forced to accept a less rate of interest on their savings than they are at present receiving. As chairman of a meeting of depositors in the Barrack-street Savings Bank held in the King's Hall, which was packed to overflowing and hundreds turned away unable to gain admission, the meeting being unanimous in condemning the proposed amalgamation, I feel justified on behalf of those present in tendering their thanks to the Legislative Council for vetoing the bill, and to the "Sydney Morning Herald" and "Daily Telegraph" for their assistance opposing the measure.

The next article is a nostalgic record of the Anniversary Regatta in 1928, now known as the Australia Day Regatta.

Friday, 27th January, 1928 - Evening News

SPIRIT OF THE SEA

Behind the cordiality and brilliance of the annual regatta luncheon there is always a suggestion, caught sometimes from the speeches, from a sail passing on open sea, or from the men there, of the sea- power of the Empire.

*WHEN, as happened yesterday, men like the Governor-General, the Governor, and Mr. Consett Stephen, take the imagination to other scenes and regattas, widespread in the Empire, the feeling that our regatta is closely allied to a naval review becomes stronger. Yesterday, on board the Narkunda, was not lacking in any of the attributes which have made their functions famous. 'Collyer of Archangel,' the Narkunda's captain, must have been proud of his ship and her personnel. There were old hands in the assemblage who could tell interesting tales. Mr. Q. L. Deloitte, who was with the late Mr. A. O. Milson on many a regatta committee, sat in a corner beside the American Consul, while at a table nearby was Mr. David Reid, for many years manager for the Orient Line in Sydney. He told me that he thought the service done by the P. and O, the Orient, and other companies which have acted as hosts on regatta day by placing their great liners at disposal, could not be over estimated. They not only were flagships; they also brought the atmosphere of the oceans into the proceedings. Another old hand was **Mr. T. F. H. Mackenzie**, who said that he was the same age as was the late Mr. Milson, and, with Mr. 'Billy' Spain, who was present, he sailed with Mr. Milson in his boat Mackerel. Mr. Spain pointed out an open boat, the Happy Thought, which was built 60 years ago for the Spain family by Andrew Reynolds, of Balmain, and is still sailing, after having given him and his brothers their sea-legs. Shipping was well represented, though the various phases were scattered, with Mr. Dowdell of the Orient Line here, Mr. Coggins of the Cunard there, and other heads mingled with their friends in other spheres. There was one group of Australian men, including Mr. H. M. Blair, president of the Interstate Steamship Owners' Association, and Mr. R. R. Murdoch, past president; Mr. W. A. Gray, assistant manager of the Union Company; and Mr. Herron, of Lloyd's. —WILL LAWSON.*

Mr. McKenzie died on the 21st March, 1934 and the following day, it was reported in the press.

Thursday, 22nd March, 1934 - Sydney Morning Herald

MR. T. F. H. MACKENZIE.

Mr. T. F. H. MacKenzie, public accountant and for many years auditor of the A.M.P. Society, died yesterday at his home, Yeo-street, Neutral Bay. Mr. MacKenzie represented the old Canterbury electorate in the Legislative

Assembly from 1901 to 1907, and afterwards became an alderman of Strathfield, of which he was Mayor. Mrs. MacKenzie died some years ago. Mr. MacKenzie is survived by a daughter and a son, Mr. Keith MacKenzie, of Palm Beach.

September, 2015