

E J Bayly-Macarthur

One of the last paintings done by L. Herbert Beecroft for the RSYS was that of Edward John Bayly-Macarthur in 1930. The earliest reference I have been able to locate concerning Mr. Bayly-Macarthur and yachting is this charming piece in the Social Columns of 1894.

Saturday, 17th February, 1894 - Sydney Morning Herald

A yachting party is one of the most enjoyable of summer parties, provided the weather-god is propitious, and yet it would be difficult for more thorough amusement to be found in the same time than fell to the lot of Mr. Bayly-Macarthur's friends on board the Era on a very rainy day not a week ago. An excellent luncheon was served, and as the yacht did not leave her moorings there was not the danger of accidents from sudden waves, &c, and later, comfortably placed on the high seats, there was much enjoyment as the ladies chatted, whilst some of the party contributed excellent music. Mrs. and the Misses Pilcher, Mrs. Sahl, Mr. W. B. Mitchell, Miss Enid Macarthur, Miss Florence Binnie, Miss Clara Manning, Mr. Jay, Mr. A. G Milson, Captain Fowle, Count Schlippenbach, Mr. von Arnheim, Mr. Otto Bauer, Mr. A. W. Nathan, and the host of the day made up the party which, numerically, was much smaller than was expected, owing to the weather.

Afternoon tea followed at the usual hour, and so cosy were the visitors that not until 7 o'clock did the company separate.

In Beecroft's painting the title on the top left-hand side says, "Me and 'im", meaning "Me and Him." "Me", the bearded character standing on the foredeck, is pointing to "Him." "Him" is clearly Mr. Bayly-Macarthur by comparison to the photo from "**Sydney Sails**" and Me, is Beecroft himself. This is the only time when he appears in one of his paintings.

The gents are out for a good day's fishing with a fish on the hook and a tin of oyster sauce on the stern. Sadly, the painting is one that has deteriorated with mould and requires restoration. All donations towards restoration will be gratefully accepted by the Archive Committee.

On the back of the painting, it has been recorded that the yacht is the 28 foot "Nyria." I have found that "Nyria" is a Couta boat which is alive and kicking in 2015, sailing out of Sorrento in Victoria. The Couta boats are very popular, enjoying a resurgence in Victoria which has spread to the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club in Pittwater and the Royal Prince Edward Yacht Club in Sydney. Here is a description of "Nyria" at the time Mr. Bayly-Macarthur bought her.

Wednesday, 8th November, 1922 - Referee

NYRIA.

Nyria, Mr. Bayly-Macarthur's fine new cruiser, was built by J. B. Jones at Footscray, Victoria. She is stoutly built of Kauri pine, and has a length of 28ft, beam 9 1/2ft, and draught 3 1/2ft. She has been in Port Jackson several months, having been purchased locally by Mr. Macarthur. In the opening race of the season, for boats on the register of the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club, Nyria, although the only boat that started from scratch in a light breeze, was the winner.

It is amazing what you can find when you start looking. Here is the advertisement for the sale of "Nyria" in 1928.



Wednesday, 1st February, 1928 - Sydney Morning Herald

For Sale

FAST CRUISER, "Nyria," 28ft, racing, cruising, and storm sails, balloon jib, winner of S.A.S. Club races from scratch, including an ocean race. All-lead ballast. Rig spars, 2-cylinder English marine engine by Brooks and Co., Lowestoft, removable propeller.

ALL IN FIRST-CLASS ORDER.

Particulars with

*JOHNSTON and SON, Boatshed, Rose Bay,
or **BAYLY-MACARTHUR**, Tele, 1100.*

Golf was Mr. Bayly-Macarthur's other sporting love. Here is an amusing reference.

Monday, 13th July, 1931 - Sydney Mail

GOLFER TRAPPED IN BUNKER.

Mr. E. J. Bayly-Macarthur underwent an unenviable ordeal while playing golf on the Rose Bay links on Saturday afternoon. Unknown to him, the heavy rain during the week had saturated a sand pit forming a bunker, and, slicing a shot, the ball went on to the sand. Macarthur walked on to the bunker to retrieve it, but within a few seconds he commenced to disappear. He was up to his waist when his opponent arrived, and, with the aid of caddies, the player was extricated. It was later explained that some rocks had been removed from the bunker, because of the danger to Clubs, and the hole filled with sand. Players were not aware of this, but a notice was displayed after Mr. Macarthur's experience.

Mr. Bayly-Macarthur died on the 28th of October, 1933, at the height of the Great Depression. His obituary tells us so much more about him than just his sailing exploits. His portrait, shown here, is on the western wall of the 5th floor meeting room at the Clubhouse.



Wednesday, 8th November, 1933 - Sydney Mail

The Late Mr. E. J. Bayly -Macarthur

By the death of Mr. E. J. Bayly-Macarthur on the 28th October last, at the age of 65, a link in one of the oldest family chains in the history of Australia has been snapped. Mr. Macarthur was a grandson of that Hannibal Macarthur who made a considerable place for himself in our early annals, and who was a cousin of the even more famous John Macarthur, of Camden, the pioneer of Australia's wool industry. Mr. Bayly-Macarthur himself was also a man of very varied parts. A barrister of forty year's standing — he was admitted in 1893 — he practised with success, mainly in the Common Law Jurisdiction, until his retirement a few years ago. But it was in the arena of sport that Mr. Macarthur was most widely known. His interests in this field were exceedingly large, and he engaged successfully at one time or another in cricket, tennis, golf, yachting, and racing. His favourite sports were, however, undoubtedly golfing and yachting, and in both of these he gained a position of considerable eminence. Originally a member of the old Botany Golf Club, he learned the rudiments of the game there so well that in 1900 he was able to win the Hampden Cup championship of New South Wales and the championship of the Australian Golf Club. In 1905 he also won the championship of the Royal Sydney Golf Club. Mr. Macarthur was one of the founders of the Australian Golf Club and a member both of that Club and of the R.S.G.C. for many years. From his earliest youth Mr.

Macarthur had been interested in yachting, having commenced his active participation in the sport in 1875, at the age of eight, when he became a member of the crew of the Ella, and later of the Meteor, both 8ft dinghies, and both owned by the late Mr. John Gilchrist. A little later he was with Colonel Gascoigne's crew in the Carina and with the late Mr. A. G. Milson in the Era. He sailed at various times a number of his own yachts, including the Wanganella, the Nyria, the Gol Gol, and the Winji Winji. He handled them with considerable skill, in one season winning the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club's gold medal for the skipper with the best record for the year, and a little later also winning the Brothers Cup. When the 21ft restricted class was initiated, Mr. Macarthur sailed as mainsheet hand in the first E.O.J.; but latterly he had limited his association with the sport mainly to the administrative side. At the time of his death he was vice-commodore of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, of which he first became a member nearly forty years ago. A man of many friends and of many activities, of a singularly good humour and of wide and generous impulses, the loss of Mr. Bayly-Macarthur will be keenly felt by a large circle of friends throughout the social and sporting world of Australia.

After Mr. Bayly-Macarthur's death, a trophy was introduced to the Club in his memory. From **"Sydney Sails"**, in 1934, I quote:

"Vanessa reasserted her old supremacy by winning the Gascoigne and Norn Cups, and also the Bayly-Macarthur Cup, presented by Mrs. Bayly-Macarthur in memory of her husband. This trophy was for annual competition, for the yacht on the Squadron's register holding the best racing record in each year. In this first award, two other yachts, Morna (D. F. H. Packer) and A. Muston's Windward I, actually gained more points than Vanessa—they tied—but had failed to fulfill all the required conditions."

The trophy was last won by Zeus II (Jim Dunstan) in the 2006/07 Season.

August, 2015

