

## E P Andreas

Not all the characters painted by Herbert Beecroft for the RSYS were well known yachtsmen. Such a personality was Eheinreich Phillip Andreas, painted by Beecroft in 1925. Mr. Andreas was clearly a “larger than life” identity who was better known in fishing circles. The following biography is available in “**Wikipedia**” on the internet and explains:

*Ehienriech Phillip [Harry] Andreas was an Australian businessman and company director. As a big-game fisherman he pioneered the sport in New Zealand. He was the inventor of the Andreas Fortuna Game Fish Reel and is described in the 1935 edition of Who's Who in Australia as being of "Independent Means."*

*Harry Andreas was born in 1879 in Sydney, the first son of Australian-born Hannah Denning and English-born Phillip Ehenriech Andreas. During his childhood, the Andreas family lived in Palace Street, Petersham. Andreas was educated at Newington College where he was a talented sportsman and shot. From his earliest years out of school, Andreas was notable as a sportsman with his activities chronicled by the Sydney Morning Herald and other newspapers.*

*In 1902, Andreas married Alice May Burton, the daughter of William Henry Burton of Leicester, England. The marriage produced two sons and two daughters.*

*Leuralla was Andreas's house in Leura. In 1903 a house was built on the current site but was destroyed by bushfire in 1909. Between 1910 and 1914 the present house was built and is a notable example of an early 20th Century permanent residence for a wealthy family. The property is still owned by the family and now houses a toy and railway museum. Andreas also maintained a family residence on Sydney Harbour at Elamang Avenue, Kirribilli.*

*In 1905, Andreas applied to the Commonwealth Commissioner of Patents to register his improvements to an acetylene generator. Only 46 of his "Fortuna Reel Andreas Pat. No 123405/18 & 19 Ex Wide" were produced between 1934 and 1936 and one was sold at auction in London on 14 July 2012 for £5,200. His friend and fellow Old Newingtonian, George Harker, was the inventor of a patented system of extinguishing fires at sea and fumigation and in 1908 when the Harker Fire Extinguisher and Fumigator Company was formed, Andreas became a director.*

*During the 1927 Royal Tour of Australasia, Andreas acted as a fishing guide for The Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) in the Bay of Islands. Whilst her parents were fishing with Andreas the young Princess Elizabeth (later Queen Elizabeth II) was at home in London but during the 1954 Royal Visit to Australia, Andreas welcomed Her Majesty and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh as guests at Leuralla.*

*From as early as 1906, Andreas was the Country Vice-President in Leura for the Old Newingtonians' Union (ONU) and he continued to serve in that position until his death in 1955. Andreas presented annually a Hardy Brothers medal to the Newington College boy who was the highest scorer in the AAGPS shooting competition. From 1956 until 1969 the Andreas Medal continued to be presented in his honour by the ONU. In 1994, the*



*Andreas Medal was funded in perpetuity by his grandchildren. Harry Andreas died in Bowral in 1955, survived by his four children.*

Beecroft has celebrated Mr. Andreas's prowess at game fishing with the scale of the catch. For once, the painting is not dominated by the caricature of the subject. The title of the painting is "The Joy of the Deep Sea Fisherman." The ocean is calm, the sky is blue and the catch is enormous, so for what more could a fisherman ask? On the bottom right, it asks "Got Him"? One could ask "Who has got who?" It could be that the Fish has got Mr. Andreas rather than the other way around!

In the background on the left is Mr. Andreas's newly launched yacht "Prince Alfred." The following article describes its launch.

**Friday, 25th December, 1925 - Arrow**  
**THE PRINCE CLASS.**

*The new 28ft Prince class yachts, Prince Alfred (E. P. Andreas), Scarab II. (Dr. Cyril Shepherd), and Riawena (Dr. S. H. Kirkland) have been placed in the water, and their magnificent lines have won the affection of almost every yachting enthusiast. The new boats will be given their maiden race at Pittwater for a handsome cup, valued at £15, presented by Major Bros, and Co., Ltd. The performances of these boats will be watched with interest, as they are of the cruising type, suitable for racing and pleasure. If successful there will be a big increase in the fleet for next year's racing.*



The Prince Class yachts were designed by A. C. Barber in 1925 for the Prince Alfred Yacht Club, and were intended for both racing and cruising. As I write this essay, I have found that a fully restored "Scarab II" is currently for sale, listed at \$45,000. The photo shows a raised deck yacht, not unlike the Ranger Class in profile as can be seen in the painting.

I have noted that Mr. Andreas was clearly a character. The following articles are delightful to read. In the first one, Mr. Andreas has resolved the monotony of a train trip to Leura with a luncheon.

**Friday, 20th December, 1918 - The Blue Mountain Echo**

*Friends of the 'Fish' Fraternise.*

**LUNCHEON BY MR. E. P. ANDREAS.**

*Nearly a score of well-known patrons of the "Fish" train, comprising past and present residents of the Mountains, were entertained by Mr. E. P. Andreas, at luncheon at Paris House, on Wednesday last. The squire of "Leuralla", had conceived the felicitous idea of bringing together, at this festive period, those whom he had been accustomed to travel with in a well-known reserved compartment of the "Fish", famed alike for its hospitality, its fine traditions of personal conduct, and its inexhaustible resources for self-entertainment as an antidote to the tedium of the daily journey, to and fro. After a vigorous exploitation of a real, first-rank Paris House menu, which (it was subsequently learned) sorely tested the digestive powers of those of the guests wont to confine their mid-day repast to "a roll and tea," Host Andreas submitted the toast of "The King," which was*

received with thunderous acclamation and the singing of the National Anthem. "The Old 'Fish'— may she run forever!" was the succeeding toast. The company, to a man, obviously recalled the fact that the historical train had been running without a break for more than forty years, and, during the great railway strike, was the only passenger train that continued to run (thanks to the dutiful patriotism of driver, guard and fireman), the toast was honored with enthusiastic applause mingled with cries of 'Good old Fish'. Other appropriate toasts were duly honored, including 'Our Host,' whose popularity with the company was attested in unmistakable fashion. The casualties were nil, except that the richly decorated table was divested of its many golden baskets of delphiniums by those desirous of carrying off some souvenir of "the most ripping dinner ever." It may be mentioned that a well-known and popular Hazelbrook residence was 'fined' for addressing the chair with his mouth full, the line going, with others, justly levied, to the "tip" box. An immense two-gallon bottle that had held Schweppes' "best dry," was appropriated by an old gentleman from Springwood, whose subsequent struggles to carry it off to his home created not a little amazement, and even shocked some, who mistook the real character of the giant container.

## **Tuesday, 3rd September, 1935 - The Brisbane Telegraph**

### **BIG GAME FISHING**

*Veteran Angler's Lecture.*

**Mr. E. P. Andreas**, veteran game angler and world authority on the sport, in a lecture to the New South Wales Rod Fishers' Society recently, said that the Australian coastline offered unrivalled possibilities for the development of game angling, and the coming season would be one of considerable activity, particularly on the New South Wales coast (says the "Sydney Morning Herald"). Before showing and explaining a number of lantern slides depicting many phases of game angling, Mr. Andreas gave members some instructive points on the tackle and tactics necessary for the sport, and showed some of his own much-used tackle to illustrate many of them. One exhibit of particular interest was a very light rod which many would regard as being an excellent one for ordinary sea angling. Mr. Andreas explained that a mako shark weighing more than 500lb. had been taken on it with only 300 yards of No. 30 thread line. Among the pictures shown was that of the spear of a swordfish which had rammed a boat from which Mr. Andreas was fishing, and which had broken off, remaining in the planking. A little while afterwards, Mr. Andreas caught the same fish. Another slide showed the head of a mako shark protruding through the bottom of a dinghy. A friend of Mr. Andreas's had the fish on his line when it suddenly slackened. Reeling in furiously to take up the slack, the angler received a tremendous shock when the mako rammed the dinghy, smashing through it from directly underneath with terrific force. It was killed before it could release itself and both dinghy and sharp were taken aboard the accompanying motor boat. Mr. Andreas said he did not consider that either of these incidents was the outcome of deliberate action on the part of the fish; the boat in each case simply happened to be in the direct path of the fish during its wild rush.

In the following article, Mr. Andreas shows his community spirit.

## **Friday, 6th March, 1936 - The Katoomba Daily**

### **BARKING DOGS**

*(To the Editor).*

Sir, — Might I, through your paper, voice a state of affairs existing in Leura that is causing a great deal of annoyance and irritation to the residents concerned. I feel certain that if such a state of affairs existed in Katoomba, means would be found to stop it immediately. Over the last eighteen months a number of fierce Alsatian dogs, which are apparently locked up and left without attention for long periods, howl, bark, and whine fearsomely, making night and day hideous. It is impossible to get rest during the night and I, through your paper, and on behalf of the residents, respectfully implore the civic bodies to take steps to stop the nuisance. Yours etc.

**E. P. ANDREAS**

**August, 2015**

### **Postscript:**

The following additional information was provided by Squadron Member, Bill Manning in September, 2015:

*“E.P. Andreas’ two sons never had to work for a living. His eldest son Bill was a member of the Squadron as was his grandson and for a short time his great-grandson (all named Bill of Will). His son Bill lived in a very large house at 11 Elamang Ave, Kirribilli, until they moved to Eridge Park in Bowral. Each of these two houses had over 40 rooms. The second was Phil who lived in Killara, NSW. He made the ship models for the shipping companies (Burns Philip etc) and now held in the Sydney Heritage Fleet model room. His granddaughters married Harry Siedler and the politician Clive Evatt.”*