



ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON

“Read all about it!”

The origins and early history of the Squadron – as reported in the Press of the day

Saturday, 14th June, 1862 – Sydney Mail

Sydney Yacht Club. — Several gentlemen, friends of this institution (which, for some reasons or other, although once in a very flourishing state, has of late been all but extinct), met on Monday afternoon, at two o'clock, in the office of Captain Eldred, Exchange-buildings, Bridge-street, with a view to taking steps for its immediate revival on a satisfactory basis. The following gentlemen were present: Captain Towns (in the chair), Mr. J. J. Josephson, Mr. J. G. Ross, Captain Eldred, Mr. G. Lloyd, Mr. W. Walker, Mr. Milson, Mr. S. C. Burt, Mr. P. Lamb, Mr. Richardson, Mr. C. Cook, Mr. H. Dangar, Captain Pockley, Mr. Parbury, Mr. Dumaresq, Mr. F. Hill, and others.

The chairman said he was glad to see about him some of the old cloth on that occasion, having felt much regret at witnessing the way in which the old yacht club, formerly so successful, had been permitted to go down. He sincerely hoped that it would receive a stimulus from their proceedings, and again be as efficient as it had been, and as it ought to be. He was too old to "wear the buttons" himself, but he would do all that he could otherwise do in the way of cordial co-operation. The object of that preliminary meeting was to see if some system could not be shaped out on the basis of the rules of the old club, so as again to bring the Yacht Club into an efficient state. In doing this he would take upon him to premise that it would be necessary for them to take measures for doing away with old grievance — the obstacles as regarded clearances, &c., at the Customs to all out-going yachts.

What would be required was to do away with those obstacles now imposable by law, and to obtain the privileges enjoyed by yachts in England of going seaward without being obliged to go through all the formalities and delays of a clearance. They would also have to get up proper rules and regulations for the furtherance of the object for which they were met — the re-establishment of a club which encouraged the building and the handling of first-class fast-sailing yachts.

Mr. W. Walker then addressed the meeting, adverting to the difficulties offered to a free egress of all yachts under the existing law. It was proposed that a deputation should be appointed to wait upon Mr. Weekes, the Colonial Treasurer, for the purpose of requesting that Minister to move the passing of a short clause through the Legislature, which would have the effect of exempting yachts from the operation of Customs regulations to the same extent as was conceded to them in England. After some further discussion, of a conversational character, it was moved by Mr. F. Hill, 'That a deputation, consisting of Messrs. Walker, Milson, Lloyd, Burt, Josephson, Hill, Ross, Parbury, Eldred, and the chairman, be appointed to wait upon the Colonial Treasurer, with a view to an amendment of the present law in respect to yacht entrances and clearances at the Customs, at such times whenever it might be necessary to go outside, together with such other privileges as are conceded to yachts in England.' Mr. Walker seconded the motion, which was put, and carried unanimously.

The same gentlemen (with power to add to their number) were subsequently appointed a committee to get support for the yacht squadron. Various suggestions were thrown out by several gentlemen present as to the mode in which the club should be best re-organised, but details were left to the management of the committee.



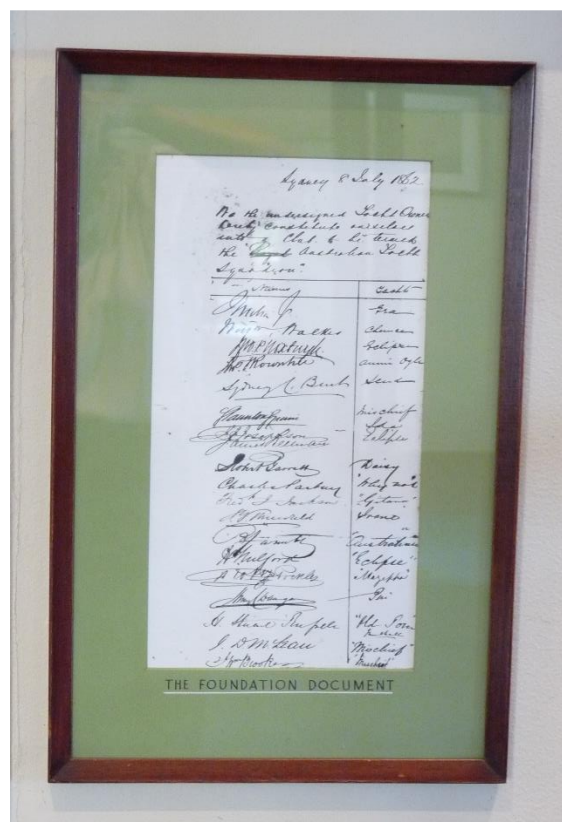
ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON

John Maclurcan's notes:

Alex Burt, a current Life Member, is a direct descendant of S C Burt.

On 8th July 1862, 19 yachtsmen of Sydney met at a merchant's office, in the Exchange Building, and subscribed their names to a resolution which now hangs in the Neutral Bay Verandah, as you enter the corridor at the northern entrance:

We, the undersigned yacht owners, hereby constitute ourselves into a club to be termed the Australian Yacht Club.



Stay tuned next week to find out what the Prince of Wales said ...