



ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON

“Read all about it!”

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

Part 2: About the Prince of Wales and how we became the Squadron.

Friday, 3rd July, 1863 – Empire (Sydney)

ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON.

The Lords of the Admiralty have been pleased to issue their warrant, empowering the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron to fly the blue ensign of Her Majesty's Fleet.

The following dispatch and correspondence has been received by Sir John Young on the subject -

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 27th June, 1863.

Sir.- I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to transmit, for your information, a copy of a dispatch, which his Excellency the Governor has received by the last mail, from his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, enclosing copies of the correspondence which has passed in reference to a communication forwarded by his Excellency in December last from yourself and the Vice-Commodore of the Australian Yacht Club, the members of which were desirous of obtaining the patronage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and of enjoying the same privileges as accorded to the Royal Yacht Clubs of the United Kingdom.

2. You will observe that his Royal Highness has signified his willingness to become the patron of the squadron of which you are Commodore, under the designation of the "Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron" and that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have authorised, by a warrant, herewith enclosed, the use of the blue ensign of her Majesty a Fleet by the squadron, as requested.

3. I am further desired to draw your attention to the particulars which should be furnished for transmission to the Admiralty, with respect to each yacht of the squadron.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. ELYARD. Under Secretary.

The Honorable William I Walker, Esq., M.L.C. Commodore of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Downing-street, 27th April, 1863.

Sir, - I beg to enclose for your information, copies of the correspondence which has passed in reference to the communication sent home in your dispatch, No. 114, of the 17th December, from the Commodore and Vice Commodore of the Australian Yacht Club, the members of which are desirous of obtaining the patronage of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and of enjoying the same privileges as are accorded to the Royal Yacht Clubs of the United Kingdom.

I felt some difficulty in submitting to his Royal Highness the proposal that the club should be named the Royal Australian Yacht Squadron, because it was pointed out to me, that there was nothing to show that the club extended beyond New South Wales, and that other colonies might feel aggrieved if the general term "Australian" were appropriated by Royal authority to an institution in which they had no part.

You will perceive, however, that his Royal Highness has signified his willingness to become the patron of the "squadron," under the designation of the "Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron," and that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are prepared to authorise the use of the blue ensign by the squadron, as requested. I must also call your attention to the particulars relating to each yacht required by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, as specified in their letter of the 6th instant.

I have the honour to be, &c, &c.

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.



ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON

To Sir John Young, Bart, Governor, &c., &c.

P.S.-Since writing the above, I have received the warrant, signed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, authorising the use of the "blue ensign", of her Majesty's Fleet, and forward it herewith.

Lieutenant-General Knollys to Sir F. Rogers, Baronet.
Sandringham, 14th April, 1863.

Sir, - I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st March, transmitting by desire of the Duke of Newcastle, the copy of a despatch from the Governor of New South Wales, and transmitting a request, to be laid before his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, from the "Australian Yacht Squadron," that he would be pleased to become the patron of the squadron.

His Royal Highness has directed me to reply, that it will give him great pleasure to accede to the request, and that the squadron should be designated in accordance with his Grace's recommendation - "The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron."

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. KSOLLYS, Lieutenant General.

To Sir F. Rogers, Baronet, Colonial Office, Downing-street.

Mr. Romaine to Sir F. Rogers.

Admiralty, 6th April, 1863.

Sir, - Having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 31st ultimo, with its enclosures from the Governor of New South Wales, transmitting an application from the members of the Australian Yacht Squadron "for permission to fly either the white or blue ensign of her Majesty's fleet, without any distinguishing mark on the same," I am commended by their Lordships to acquaint you, for the information of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, "that they have much pleasures in authorising the use of the blue ensign, with the distinguishing mark of the club on the burgee only, by the Australian Yacht Squadron; and they will issue their warrant accordingly, as soon as they have been informed by you whether the club has received permission to adopt the designation of the 'Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.'"

I am also directed to inform you that, in addition to their Lordships' general warrant, it will be necessary that each yacht should be furnished with a separate warrant, for which purpose the following particulars must, in each case, be furnished: - Name of yacht club; name of yacht; name of owner; tonnage, (if under fifteen tons, it will be sufficient to state that such is the case); length, in feet and inches; breadth, in foot and inches; how rigged: port of registry

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. G. ROMAINE.

Stay tuned next week for another instalment...