

W M Paul

After the first batch of caricatures painted by L. Herbert Beecroft for the RSYS in 1908/09 was completed, Beecroft became busy on other projects. In particular, he was employed in 1911 by the Australasian Pioneer Club, which was founded in 1910, to paint all the founding members. This was a unique occurrence and members were encouraged to pay for the portraits, thereby defraying the costs. Beecroft became an “Artist in residence” and even had rooms in the Club itself at Hunter Street, city. The prices were interesting. A framed portrait in watercolour was 10 guineas. By 1911, 90 portraits had been completed. Not long after Beecroft completed this commission, he completed (1913) the painting of this essay’s subject, William (Willie) Melvin Paul.



Beecroft’s caricature of Willie Paul indicates that Mr. Paul was a keen fisherman, possibly deep sea by the look of the waves though the lure is unusual and the fish are rather small. The lure looks like a snooker ball in a pocket so I assume Mr. Paul frequented the billiard table at the Club.

Mr. Paul was born in 1865. In the 1890s, he owned a 23 foot yacht called “Varuna” and was an active participant at the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club.

Wednesday, 26th March, 1890 - Sydney Morning Herald

AQUATICS.

A meeting of the Sydney Amateur Sailing Club was held in Aaron's Exchange last evening. The vice commodore (Mr. P. R. Pedley) presided. The prizes won by Mr. O. E. Fairfax's Norna, in the race for yachts 21 rating and under, on March 1, and by Mr. N. Johnson's Irex, in the race for 22ft, open boats, on the same date, and also

prizes won in the race for painted boats, were presented. It was decided to close the season on Saturday, April 26, with evolutions by the Club's fleet and a luncheon down the harbour.

Mr. W. M. Paul has disposed of his 22ft half-decker Varuna to Mr. Dangar. The Varuna has been successful in her races under Mr. Paul's ownership, and there is no doubt she will be equally so under her new owner in next season's races. It is Mr. Paul's intention of having a boat of the same class built from his own designs.

The following articles reflect the state of play prior to and during the First World War when the Club's activities ground to a halt. It is also notable that there were 11 gentlemen on the General Committee but only 3 flag officers. Many of those listed were subjects of Beecroft's artwork. Our Mr. Paul is on the General Committee at this time and practicing dentistry in Macquarie Street.

Tuesday, 27th August, 1912 - Sydney Morning Herald

SAILING.

ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The enthusiastic reception of the 50th annual report by the members of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron at the Club House, Kirribilli Point, last evening augurs well for a successful season.

Among the important items in the report is the record of the jubilee of the squadron on July 8 last, which event was marked by a dinner and the presentation of a silver cup and salver by Mr. E. W. Knox, an ex-commodore. The squadron roll numbers 251 members, an increase of nine during the year. The season opened on October 14, 1911, when the commodore, Sir James R. Fairfax, entertained the members at a garden party, and there was a rendezvous of yachts off the Club house. The racing programme comprised five events open to all yachts, one for yachts of 10 tons and over, one for 8 metre yachts, ladies race, and races for auxiliary boats, tuck boats, skiffs, and dinghies, £117 12s being distributed as prize money. The championship was won by Mr. W. M. Mark's Culwulla 111. The class championship by Mr. C. Trebeck's Petrel. Two cups were won outright, viz., the Squadron Cup, presented by Dr. A MacCormick (to be won three times by the same yacht); and the Lipton Cup, presented by Sir Thomas Lipton (to be won twice by the same owner); the former having been competed for by yachts of the squadron each season since 1897-8, and the latter from 1909-10. The Australian Cup, presented to the Yacht Racing Association by the squadron, the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, and the senior yacht Club of each of the other States of the Commonwealth, was won by Mr. Anker, who represented Norway with his yacht Rollo at the first European festival of international yacht racing. The thanks of the squadron are tendered to those members who so liberally gave trophies and donations to the prize and entertainment funds. The treasurer's statement and balance sheet show the squadron finances are in a very satisfactory state.

A letter was read from Sir James R. Fairfax, regretting his inability to continue in the office of commodore, and wishing the squadron every success in the future. Eulogistic reference was made to the retiring commodore, who, it was stated, had been at the head of the squadron for no less than 11 seasons, viz., 1884-89, 1893-95, and 1904 to date, during which periods he had done much to forward the interests of the squadron and materially had assisted in bringing the Club to its present prosperous position.

*It was decided by the meeting to hold over the election for the position of commodore until next month. Mr. Arthur J. Milson was re-elected vice commodore and declared the following officers elected for the ensuing year - Rear commodore Mr. T. W. Bremner, hon. treasurer, Mr. J. A. Minnett; hon. official measurer, Mr. Walter Reeks; committee, Mr. F. Butler, Mr. W. J. Creagh, Mr. E. Hungerford, Mr. C. Lloyd Jones, Mr. R. L. Massie, Mr. A. G. Milson, Mr. R. Old, **Mr. W. M. Paul**, Mr. J. A. Ross, Mr. W. Reeks, Mr. H. M. Shelley, election committee, Mr. O. Bauer, Mr. W. M. Cameron, Mr. W. J. Creagh, Mr. J. M. D. Goddard, Mr. E. Hungerford, Mr. R. L. Massie, and Mr. P. N. Russell.*

Prize money to the extent of over £200 towards next season's racing was promised by the members present, and a trophy was given by the retiring commodore (Sir Jas R. Fairfax.) Another trophy, to be known as the Thelma

Cup, was also presented by the owner of Thelma, Mr. C. Lloyd Jones.

In the following article, it is notable that the Club “decided not to carry out any racing.” The First World War was raging.

Wednesday, 6th September, 1916 - Referee

SAILING

By CORINTHIAN.

ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON.

*The annual general meeting of the R.S.Y.S. was held at the Club house, Kirribilli. The Commodore, Sir Alex. MacCormack, presided. The report and balance-sheet were adopted. Mention was made of the number of members on active service. The list included the following names: Sir Alex. MacCormack, Dr. H. J. Brennand, Dr. Gordon Craig, Dr. C. L. Macintosh, Dr. C. Retallack, Dr. J. B. St. V. Welch, and Messrs. C. M. Barker, G. F. Bestie, Herbert Binnie, P. Brown, R. D. Burns, William Cope, F. M. Coxon, L. E. Dawson, O. B. Dibbs, W. F. Forrest, R. M. King, R. L. Johnson, W. M. Marks, H. Millett, Stewart Milson, H. J. Preston, R. W. Potter, J. T. Toohey, and C. M. Young. The officials appointed for the season 1916 17 are: — Commodore, Sir Alex. MacCormack; vice-commodore, Mr. A. J. Milson; rear commodore, Mr. T. W. Bremner; hon. treasurer Mr. J. A. Minnett; general committee, Messrs. F. Butler, W. J. Creagh, F. J. Doran, E. Hungerford, C. Lloyd Jones, Alfred G. Milson, R. Old, **W. M. Paul**, W. Reeks, J. A. Ross, and H. M. Shelley. It has been decided not to carry out any racing programme this season.*

I have been unable to find anything in particular about Willie Paul but the following obituaries for his parents indicate the family from which he came. It makes interesting reading.

Tuesday, 28th October, 1922 - Sydney Morning Herald

DEATH OF MR. W. H. PAUL.

VETERAN NORTH SYDNEY RESIDENT.

One of the oldest residents of North Sydney, Mr. William Henry Paul, died at his residence, Altona, Paul-street, North Sydney, on Thursday morning. Mr. Paul was born 82 years ago, in a house with a water frontage to Circular Quay, and when four years of age he was taken to North Sydney by his parents. He was in the employ of Mason Bros. for many years in their shipping department, and later was associated with the London Assurance Company. An original member of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Mr. Paul was one of the crew of Mr. Alfred Milson's yachts Waitangi and Era, and for several seasons he successfully sailed Mr. W. C. Trickett's yacht Mabel. Fishing was another hobby of Mr. Paul's, and he was expert in that sport and in shooting.

Wednesday, 18th April, 1928 - Sydney Morning Herald

MRS. FRANCES PAUL

*One of the oldest residents of North Sydney, Mrs. Frances Paul, widow of the late Mr. W. H. Paul, of Altona, Paul-street, died last night after a brief illness. Mrs. Paul was born in Tasmania 88 years ago, but came to New South Wales as a child, and for nearly 70 years had lived at Milson's Point. She leaves four sons and two daughters - Henry Paul, of Lane Cove; **William M. Paul**, of Macquarie street; Frederick Luther Paul, of North Sydney; Robert Paul, of North Sydney, Mrs. Colin Wardrop, of Dee Why, formerly of Brisbane; and Miss Nellie Paul, of North Sydney.*

Willie Paul died on the 29th July, 1951, aged 86.

August, 2015