

Introducing Fred Teiffel, guest of honour at the 50th anniversary of the Port Hacking Ocean Yacht Club

Fifty years ago, in 1964 Fred was the first commodore of the Port Hacking Ocean Yacht club and after it's patron for many years.

Ken, Fred's son is in Canada at present and disappointed he is not to be able to welcome his dad to the club as guest of honour. I am delegated as I sail with Ken on Possible Dream and am Fred's son-in-law.

Fred had his 93th birthday last month and apart from being deaf and having poor eyesight is in great shape. If you stop by to say hello, remember to shout. He has asked me to speak on his behalf today

Before buying his first yacht Fred learnt to sail at Burraneer Bay VJ club. He was in his mid-forties and one of the kids sailed with him as the jib hand, sometimes his son Ken. He remembers Peter and Isobel Roche who were teenagers then and won most of the races.

After buying his first yacht Akuna a 28ft yawl Fred challenged 3 other boats in the port to a race.

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| Bruce Hart | Mil a 36ft masthead sloop |
| Bob Nairn | Nepenthe a Crown class 30ft masthead sloop |
| Dr Gerry Douglas | Veronique a 32ft masthead sloop |

Over several months they organized races to Wattamolla and overnight to Port Kembla and Sydney harbour. Fred remembers many overnight get togethers at Jibbon with roaring fires on the beach with timber collected from the National Park! Try doing that today! In 1964 they formed the PHOYC. The first register listed the 4 boats and the inaugural race was from a starting line off Jibbon Beach around the bell buoy in Botany Bay and return. The same course many of you sailed today.

Early meetings were held at Cronulla RSL, after Fred joined The Lions Club who met here at the RMYC Fred negotiated with the club for a room to hold meetings.

Three years later in 1967 the club had more doubled its size to more than 10 boats

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| Max Muller | Pipe Dream |
| Dr A. Brown | Odette 11 |
| Bruce Hart | Mil |
| Bill Johnson | Sari |
| B. Gooch | Electra |
| Fred Teiffel | Landseer 111 |
| W. Badge | Alma Mater |
| Bob Nairn | Nepenthe |
| Allan Sutton | Jolly Roger |
| Dr Gerry Douglas | Veronique |

I met my wife Margaret at this time and shortly after started sailing with Fred. He had his 2nd yacht by then Landseer 111 a 40ft yawl with a counter stern built in 1908. It was a narrow and wet boat. We sailed with 4 young crew all half Fred's age. We carried quite a lot of beer on board, and on calm days you could see a line of empty stubbies stretching way out down our wake. These we used to shoot at with .22 rifle we had on board! It was a different, less regulated, less environmentally aware Australia back then. We recently received some photos from Landseer's new owner. The yacht has been completely restored to its original condition.

I remember Fred frequently inviting other crews back for dinner after a race without telling his long suffering wife Gwen and turning up with 6 or 10 hungry crew expecting her to rustle up something out of thin air. Or he would find some lonely sailor who called into the port for repairs and take him home for a week while repairs were made.

Fred's 3rd yacht Reverie was a 30ft Morris Griffith designed bilge keel. I remember we used to run her up on the sand bank in Gunnamatta Bay next to the baths to scrape the bottom and antifoul her. Reverie has been restored by current owner and converted to a gaff rig, it is moored in Sydney harbour.

From its inception the club continued to grow and 10 years later in 1974 the yacht register lists 47 yachts.

That is as far as Fred's association with the club went. He sold his last yacht in the late 70's and went back to his first love, flying light aircraft which he continued until well into his 80's.

Fred has provided all the information he has on the club to John Barter who is compiling a history and has started a webpage on the clubs site. John would appreciate any anecdotes photos, copies of race information that will add to the archive he has started.

Fred would like to say thank you for the invitation to share this day with you

Ian Coles