



# **Ship and boat builders of Sydney**

**Mori Flapan**

# Topics

1. The register of Australian and New Zealand Ships and Boats
2. Sydney as a maritime centre
3. The boat and ship builders by location
4. Putt putt builders
5. Getting and giving information



# **The register of Australian and New Zealand Ships and Boats**



**Currently contains over 32,000 records**

# List of Sydney ship & boat builders

An updated list of Sydney ship and boat builders can be viewed on the Boatregister website



Morfarch

Built Berry's Bay in  
1927

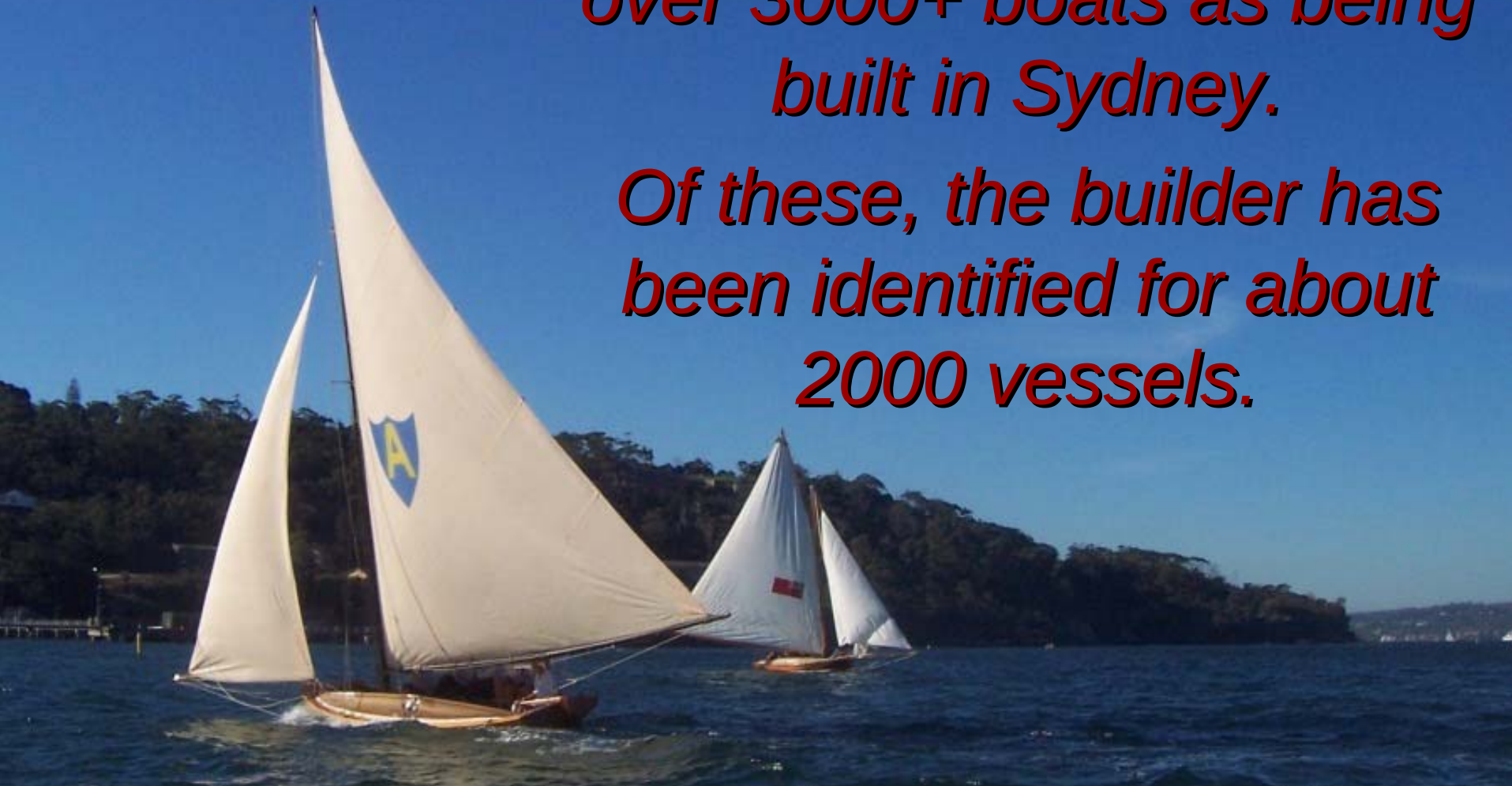
Do you know  
the builder?



# Magnitude of the industry

*The register has recorded over 3000+ boats as being built in Sydney.*

*Of these, the builder has been identified for about 2000 vessels.*



# Sydney—a major maritime centre





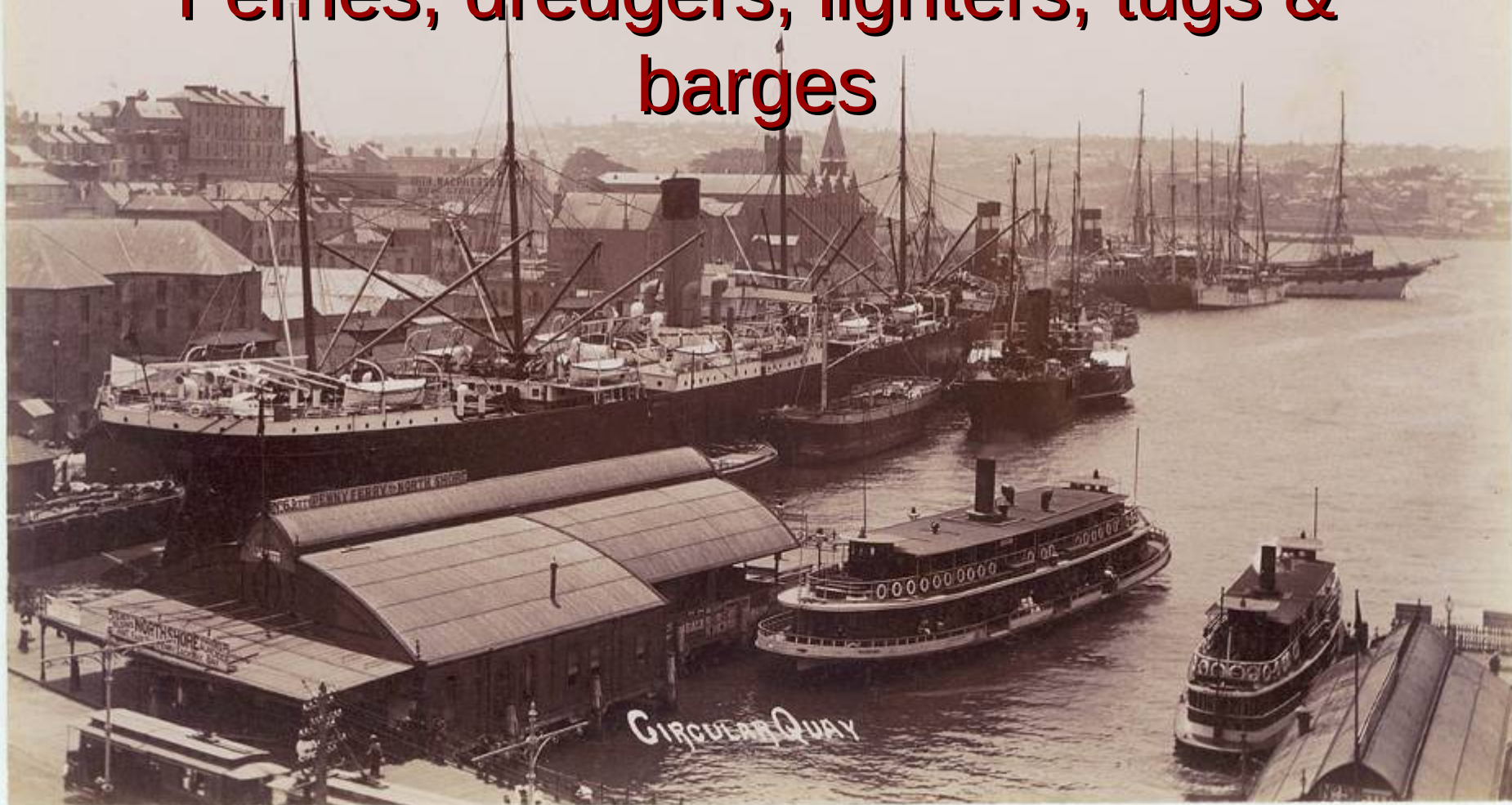
# Intercolonial & coastal shipping

*Passengers, produce,  
general cargo, coal and  
timber*



# Harbour shipping

Ferries, dredgers, lighters, tugs & barges





# Defence and government

The Australian Squadron, Colonial  
Navy, revenue, pilots, police,  
government departments



# Commerce

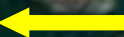
Whaling, sealing, pearling, sandalwood, cedar, fishing, indentured labour







Ryde



Woolwich

Drummoyne

Cockatoo  
Island

Long  
Nose  
Point

Goat  
Island

Berry's Bay

Lavender Bay

Neutral Bay

Balmain

Millers  
Point

Sydney  
Cove

Rozelle

Pyrmont

Cockle  
Bay

Woolloomooloo



# Sydney Cove

Ryde  
←

Woolwich

Drummoyne

Cockatoo  
Island

The King's Dockyard  
1789-1926

James Underwood  
1800-1805

Port Jackson  
Island

Inner Bay

Neutral Bay

Balmain

Millers  
Point

Sydney  
Cove

Rozelle

Parramatta  
Pyrmont

Cockle  
Bay

Woolloomooloo





# Sydney Cove

UNDERWOOD ST  
31 - 1



The first shipyards of the colony were established on the shores of Sydney Cove.



P  
P  
A  
R  
K  
I  
N  
G

# Early ships

The first ships were for government service. The Francis & the Lump

Restrictions on the building of ships to prevent escape from the convict settlement.

Underwood opened the first private yard. The Governor King.



# Cockle Bay and Millers Point

**Korff & Co 1844**

**John Robertson 1844**

**Laurence Corcoran 1847-52**

**John Cuthbert 1855-74**

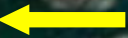
**Walter M. Ford 1870**

**Charles Griffin 1811**

**J. & W. Jenkins 1814**

**T.H. Bass 1835**

Ryde



Drummoyne

C

Island

Point

Island

Lavender Bay

Neutral Bay

Main

Millers

Point

Sydney

Cove

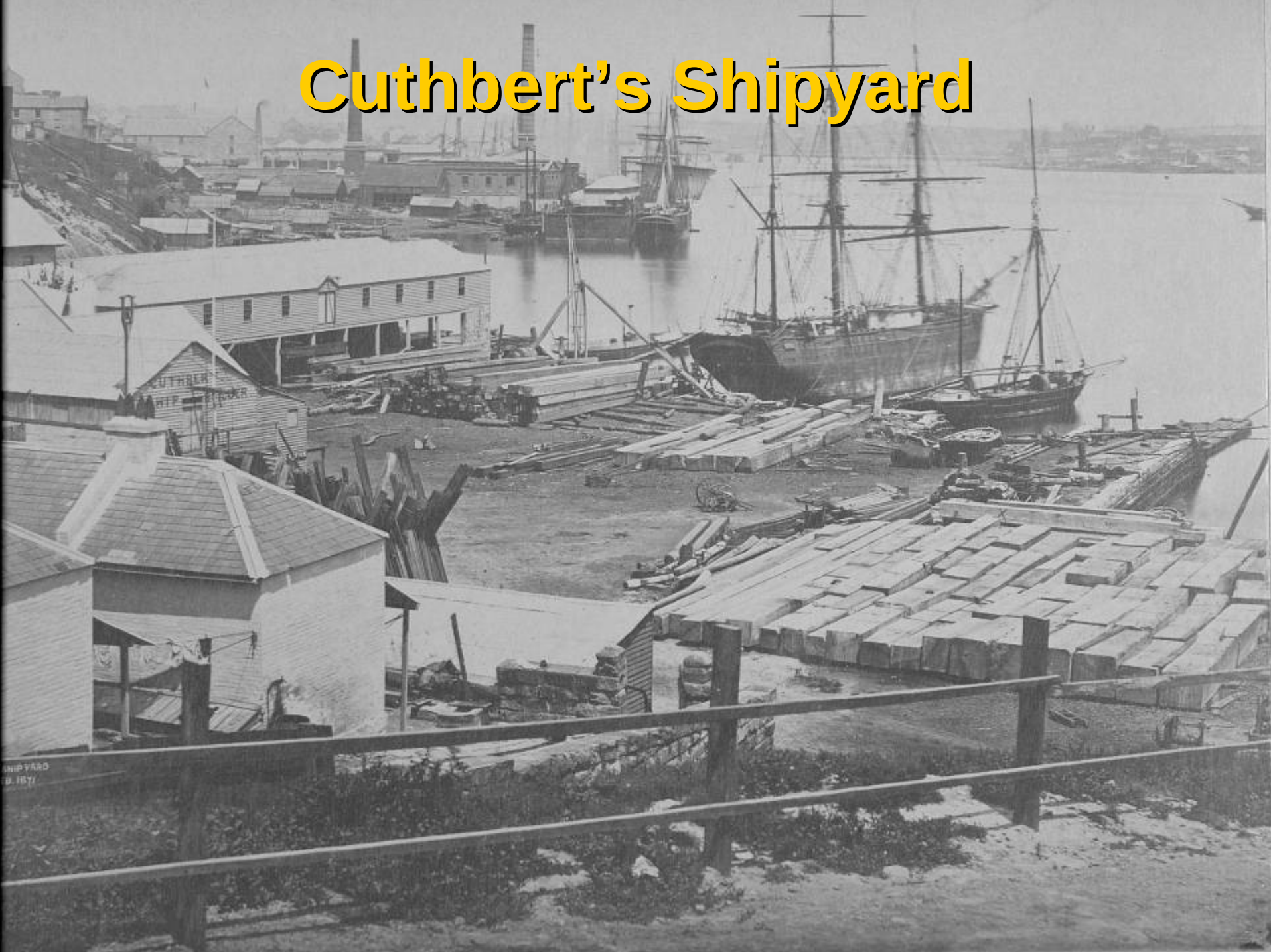
Point

Cockle  
Bay

Woolloomooloo

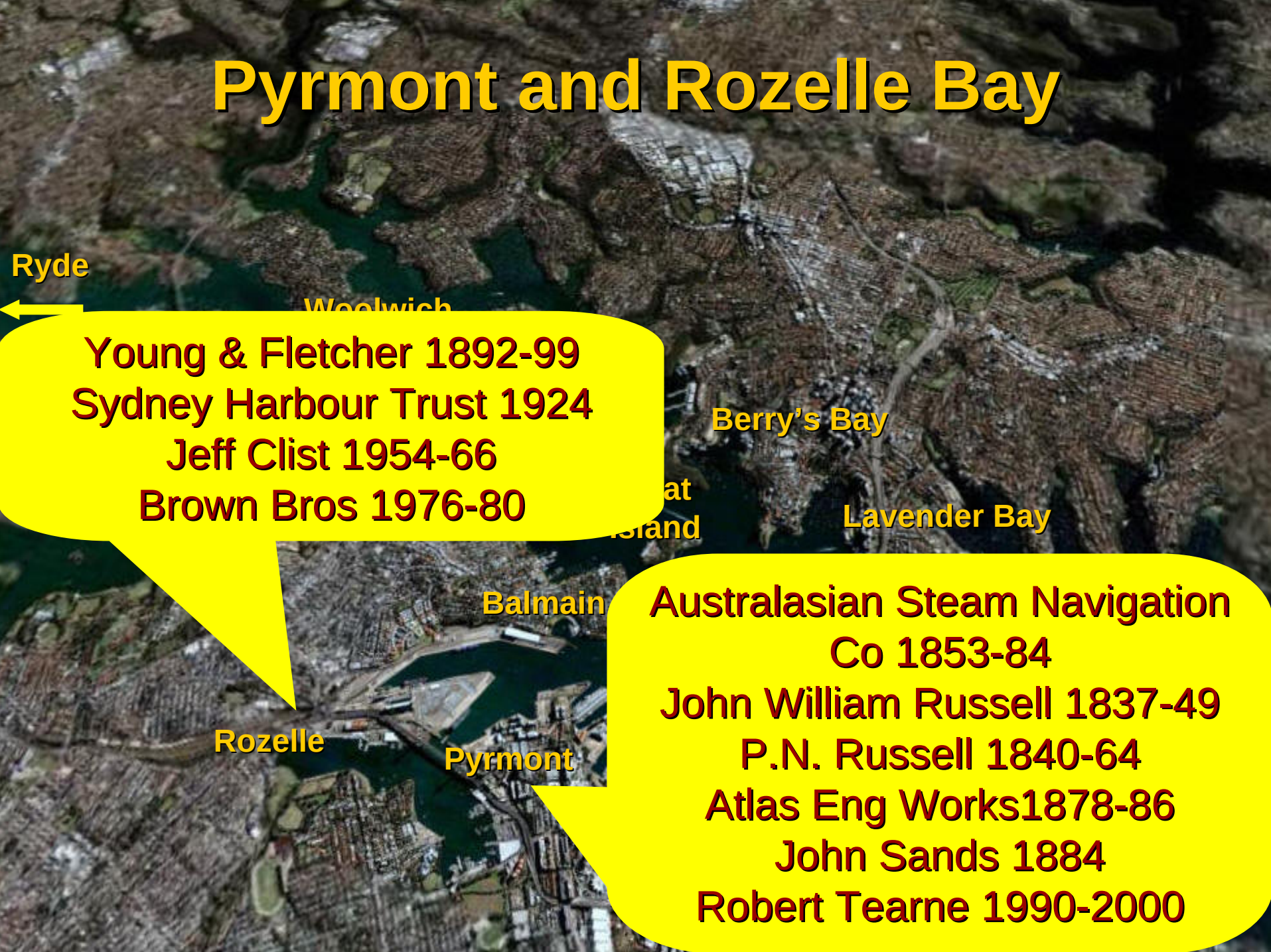


# Cuthbert's Shipyard





# Pymont and Rozelle Bay



Ryde

Woolwich

Berry's Bay

Lavender Bay

Young & Fletcher 1892-99  
Sydney Harbour Trust 1924  
Jeff Clist 1954-66  
Brown Bros 1976-80

Balmain

Rozelle

Pymont

Australasian Steam Navigation  
Co 1853-84

John William Russell 1837-49

P.N. Russell 1840-64

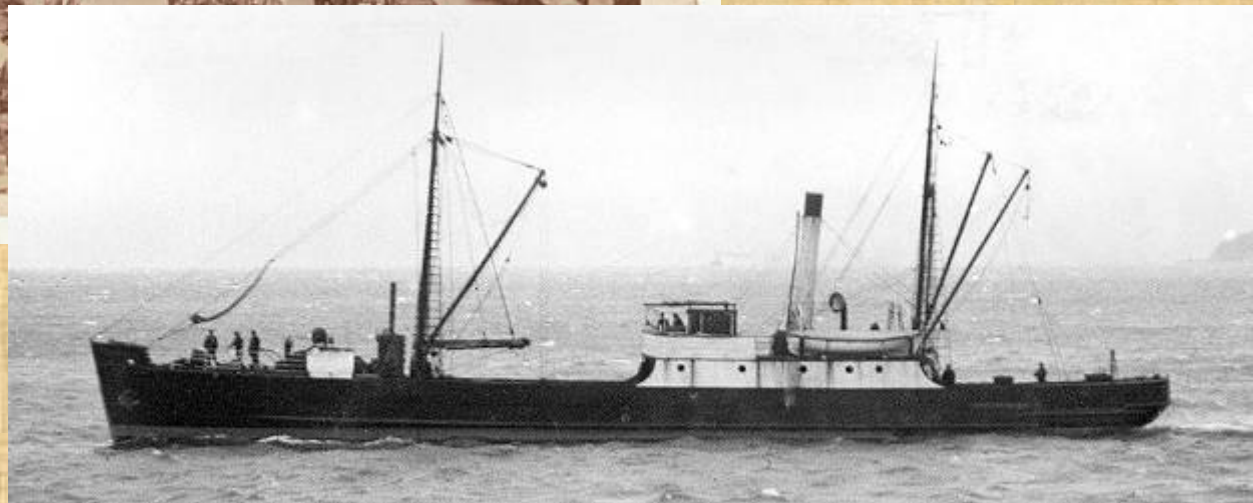
Atlas Eng Works 1878-86

John Sands 1884

Robert Tearne 1990-2000

# Australasian S.N. Co

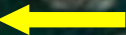
Located on Darling Island, Pyrmont





# Balmain

Ryde



Woolwich

Drummoyne

Cockatoo  
Island

Long  
Nose  
Point

Goa  
Island

Balmain

Rozelle

Pymont

Cock  
Bay

John Lihr 1844  
George Buddivant 1844  
James Entwistle 1852  
John Booth 1855-56  
Thomas Rountree & Co 1859-85  
G. Thompson 1866  
J. Milson 1866  
T.M. McArthur & Co 1867-74  
W. & D. Bates 1868-70  
Morts Dock & Engineering Co  
1874-58  
Duncan & Sorrie 1875-84  
H. Perdriau 1877-81  
George W. Ellis 1879-93  
Henry Beattie 1881-89  
William Golding 1880s-1910  
Ephriam Ward 1882-83  
Jonathan & Henry Piper 1882-85  
Allen & Ward 1883-84  
Alfred William Setttee 1883-97



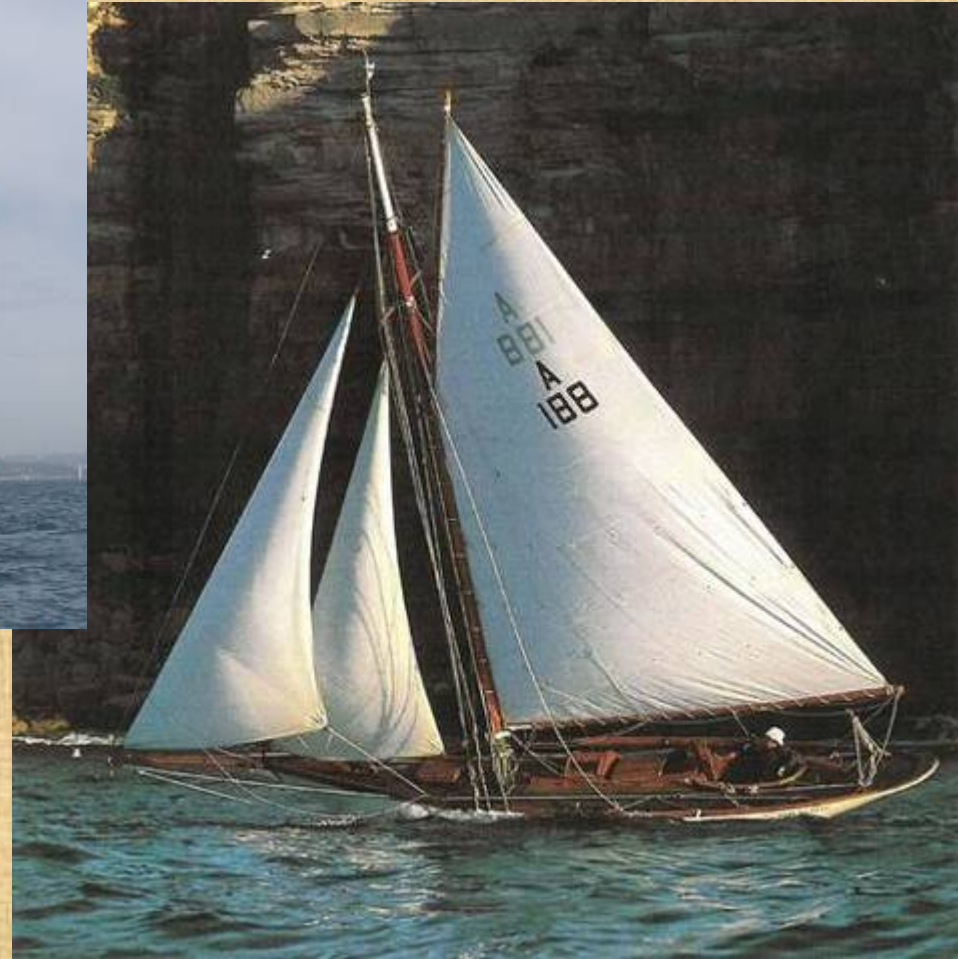
# Balmain-A centre of boatbuilding



**Rountree**



**Cooroyba**



**Killara**

**Kelpie**





# Balmain (cont)

J. Beatty 1936  
Gordon E. Beattie 1937-38  
Vincent Bros 1945  
Brown Bros 1946-70s  
G.W. Bowcock 1960  
L.L. Fountain 1967  
Bill King 1983

Goat  
Island

Balmain

Cockle  
Bay

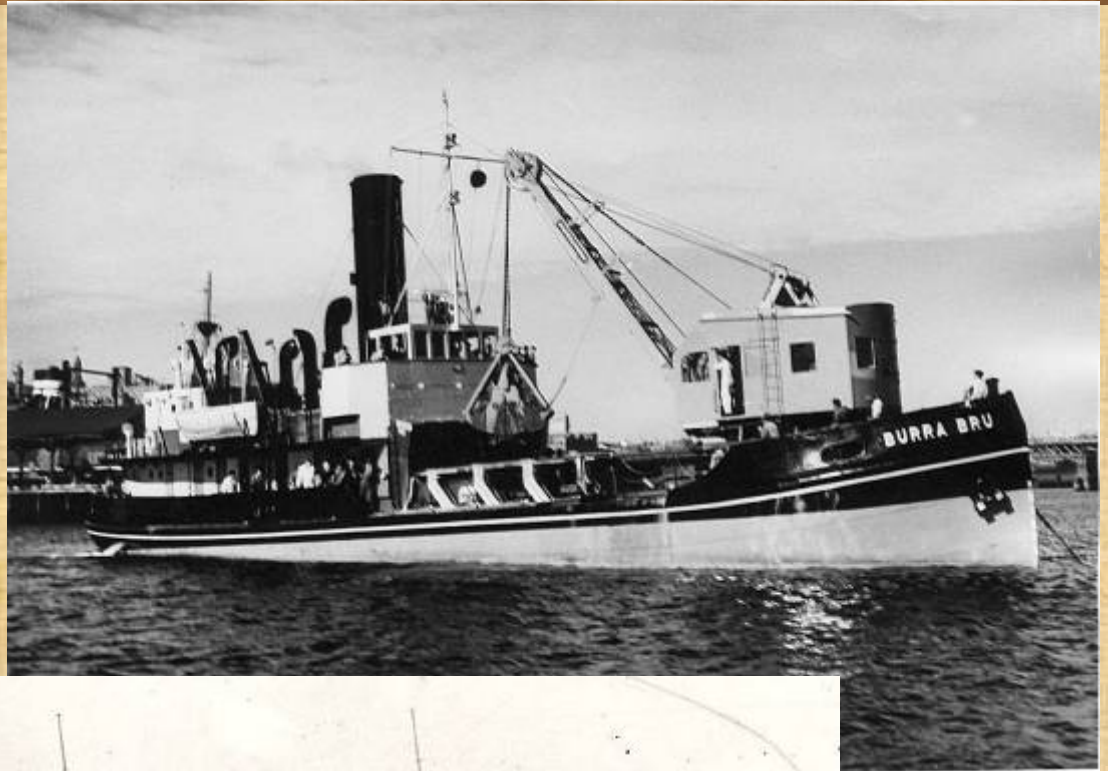
S. Briggs 1883-84  
James Lynch 1884-87  
Foster & Minty 1885-97  
John Fenwick 1885  
David Drake 1885-1934  
W.J. Watson 1886  
James Pashley 1886-89  
C. Benbow 1888  
J. Reynolds 1890  
James Cox 1895  
Joseph Conlon 1894  
James Scott 1896  
Morrison & Sinclair 1899-1958  
N. Emerson 1900  
Sydney Ferries Ltd 1900  
Poole & Steele 1912-54  
G.A. Washington 1913  
John Robinson 1922-37  
Morrow Bros 1928-52  
William Henry White 1929



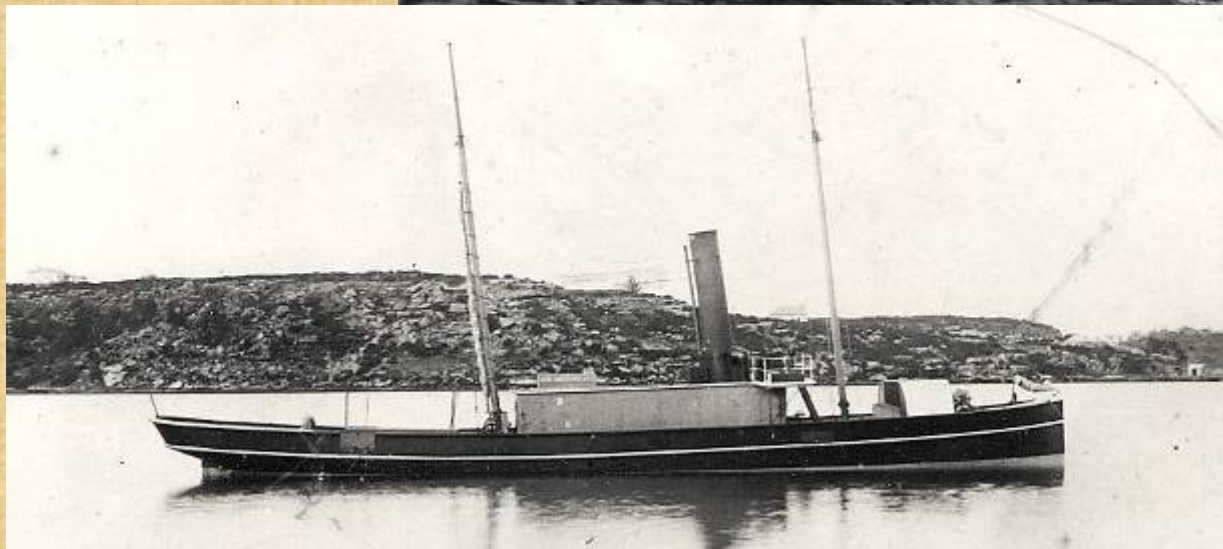
# Mort's Dock & Engineering Co



**Burra-Bru**



**Ajax**





# Cockatoo Island

Ryde  
←

Woolwich

Drummoyne

Cockatoo  
Island

Rozelle

Pymont

Cove

Cockle  
Bay

Woolloomooloo

**NSW Government Dockyard Biloela  
1875-1911**

**Commonwealth Naval Dockyard  
1914-18**

**Australian Commonwealth  
Shipbuilding Board  
1919-33**

**Cockatoo Docks & Eng. Co Ltd  
1933-84**

# Morrison & Sinclair

Morna



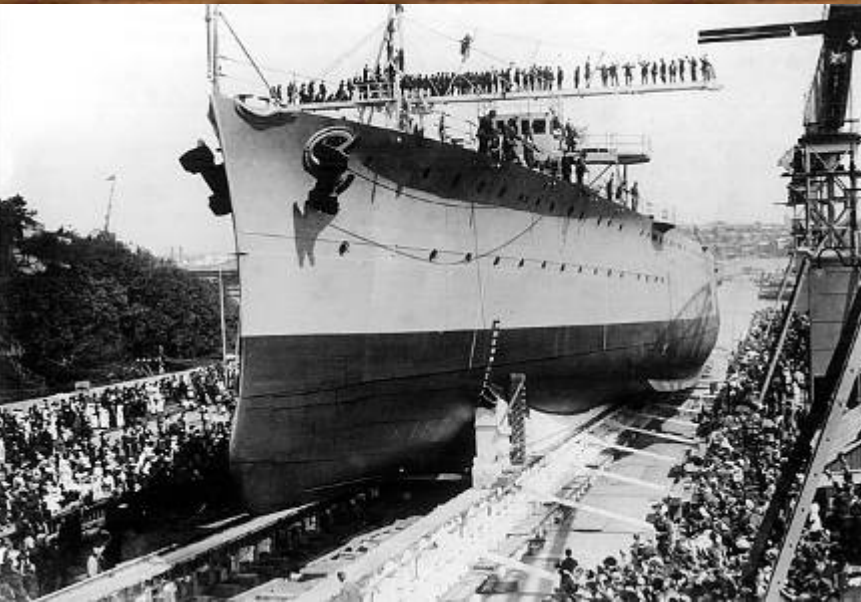
Karingal

Oomoobah





# **Ships built at Cockatoo**



# Lavender Bay, McMahons Point & Milson's Point

Wm.Dunn 1870s

James Halstead 1878-86

T. Peel 1891

Henry Green 1899-1902

Wm. Holmes 1901-1960s

George Griffin 1928-?

R.E. Campling 1928

Neptune Engineering Co 1939

Fisher Bros 1938

Wm.H. Barnett 1956-73

Tony Franov 1965-67

Ron G. Balkwell 1966-1968

Skoljarev & Zdaravko 1967

Bob Gordon 2005

Milson's Bay

Lavender Bay

Neutral Bay

McMahons

Point

Sydney  
Cove

Woolloomooloo



# Lavender Bay, McMahon's Point



Mischief

Ivy



# Berry's Bay

Wm. Langford 1866-85

Wm. Dunn & family  
1872-40

Watty Ford 1870-1930

Walter Reeks 1882-1900

Denis Moreland 1884

Sullivan 1884-85

T. Cubitt 1889-90

Woodley's Ltd 1909-72

Riddell Bros 1937-73

Adams & Co 1941-45

Ralph Andrews 1941

Lars Halvorsen Sons 1940s

Australian Fishing Ind. 1947

Dreadnought Eng. Co 1947

Bob Gordon 1961

Stannard Bros 1963-81

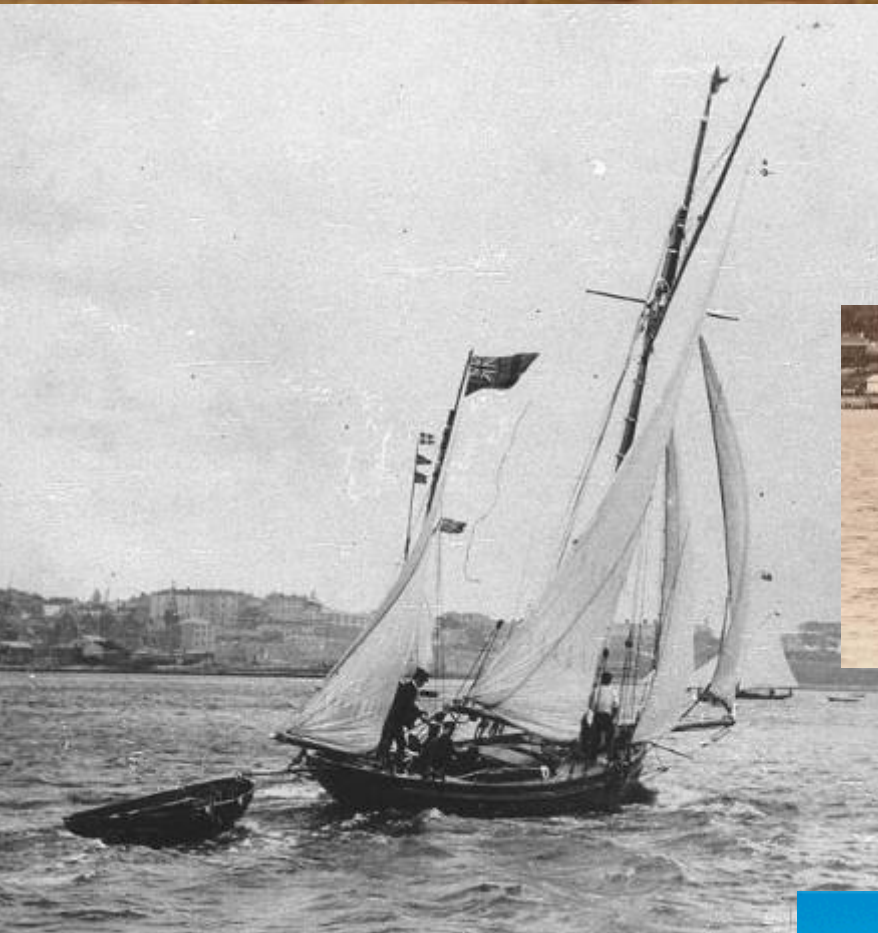
Peter Kenny 1970s

Noakes 2001





# Berry's Bay – Builders of fine yachts



**Daphne by Dunn**



**Pacific by Ford**

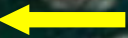
**Ena by Ford**





# Neutral Bay, Kirribilli, Careening Cove

Ryde



Woolwich

Drummond Bay

Berry's Bay

Goat

Lavender Bay

Neutral Bay

Robert Millard 1831

Wm. Langford 1860s

Fanner 1890s

James Hayes

Pritchard Bros 1909-39

Joyce Bros 1920-1956

Stewart Sandeman 1921

Lars Halvorsen 1924-39

Manly & Port Jackson SS Co 1947

Royal Sydney YS 1956-59

Millers  
Point

Sydney  
Cove

Rockle  
Bay

Woolloomooloo



# Racing sail and motor



C-Class launch

Acrospire III



# Woolwich & Ryde

Lars Halvorsen Sons 1940-76  
John Bott 1962-66

Ryde

Woolwich

Drummoyne

Cockatoo  
Island

Atlas Engineering Co 1886  
Mort's Dock & Eng. Co 1889-1950s  
G.F. Haddock & family 1948-61  
Boatspeed 1989-2004

Rozelle

Pymont

Point

Sydney  
Cove

Cockle  
Bay

Woolloomooloo



# Woolwich and Ryde



Wynstay



Kanangra

Lady Beutron





# Drummoyne and Gladesville

Charles Larson 1934-48  
W. & R. Simpson 1960

George Barnett 1887-94  
T.R. Dudley 1888-90  
Henry Curry 1891  
George Chapman 1920s  
A.G. Williams 1923-67  
Graham 1927  
Wm. Griffiths 1928  
Roderick & Griffiths 1928  
J. Lucas 1934  
Hegarty 1943  
Wal Skerne 1948

Ryde

Woolwich

Drummoyne

Rozelle

Pyrmont

Balmoral

ooloo



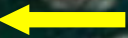
# Drummoyne & Gladesville





# Goat Island

Ryde



Woolwich

Drummoyne

Cockatoo  
Island

Long  
Nose  
Point

Berry's Bay

Goat  
Island

Lavender Bay

Neutral Bay

Balmain

Millers

Rozelle

Sydney Harbour Trust 1920s  
Maritime Services Board of  
NSW 1936-85

Woolloomooloo



# Goat Island Shipyard





# Woolloomooloo & Garden Island

Ryde  
←

Woolwich

Drummoyne

C

**Daniel Sheehy 1858-68**

**Yates 1860s**

**Batty & Sheehy 1884**

**H.C. Press 1910s**

**Royal Australian Navy 1937-62**

**Australian Defence Industries**

**2000-01**

er Bay

entral Bay

Rozelle

Pymont

Cockle  
Bay

Woolloomooloo



# Woolloomooloo and Garden Island







**Putt-putt launch builders**



# The beginnings of a list

F. N. Allsopp-Kogarah 1940s-50s

Chapman & Sherack-Erskinvile 1919-1930s+

Shevill Launch Co-Botany Bay 1930s

Vincent Bros-Balmain 1940s

William Fisher-La Perouse 1950s

Fisher Bros-Sydney 1950s

William Goddard-Palm Beach 1920s

MSB of NSW-Goat Island 1930s-1980s

Thomas Joel-Middle Harbour 1930s

A. Layton-Peakhurst 1930s

F. Morrow-Balmain 1920s



# Sources of information

Books

Newspapers

Magazines

Log books

Photographs

Artworks

Wrecks

Registers



Museum collections

Owners past & present

Recollections



# Getting and giving information

Website located at:

[www.boatregister.net](http://www.boatregister.net)



Data entry forms available today.

Enquiries answered personally



# The Aladdin



On Sydney Harbour and Pittwater  
recording and photographing boats



# The end

Phone—02 9977 8103

Website—[www.boatregister.net](http://www.boatregister.net)

Email—[mflapan@boatregister.net](mailto:mflapan@boatregister.net)

The author gratefully acknowledges photos from the following sources:

Buster Brown  
State Library of NSW  
NSW Maritime  
Google Earth  
ANMM website  
Sydney Heritage Fleet  
Mal Edmonds  
Afloat magazine  
Robert Raison  
Barry Graham

