



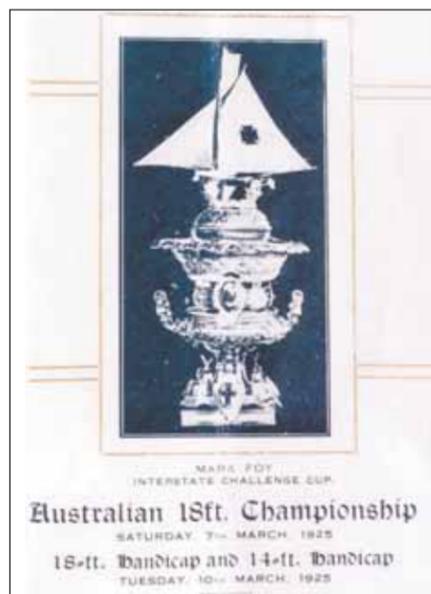
Australian 18 Footers Championship Trophy made by W J Sanders 2012



The reverse of the trophy



Perth Challenge Cup, raced 1906-1910
After being won three times by skipper Chris Webb on *Australian II* the cup was presented to boat owner Watty Ford. The whereabouts of this trophy is today unknown



Mark Foy Challenge Cup, raced 1911-1927
In 1911 Mark Foy put up the cup valued at 200 guineas. After being won three times in a row by skipper Chris Webb on *H C Press*, the cup was presented to the boat owner George Press in 1927. Sadly the trophy was all but lost in a fire that destroyed the Press family home in 1958. In 2011 the silver remnants of the cup were donated to the club and then refined and incorporated into the new trophy. The laurel supports for the model yacht on this trophy are the only surviving intact components

HISTORY AWASH!

It may have been a coincidence that while commemorations of the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge were being held, just around the corner in Milsons Point another significant part of the Harbour's history was celebrated on 19 March 2012. Australia's top yachtsman, boating enthusiasts, historians and interested people gathered at the Sydney Flying Squadron for the launch of Robin Elliot's *Galloping Ghosts* on the history of the 18 Foot yacht, together with the unveiling of the reborned Australian 18 Footers championship trophy.

HISTORY of Australian 18 Footers Championship Trophy

The first official race commencing the Australian 18 Footer championship was in 1906. If the championship was won three times by the same yacht, the trophy was then given to the owner to keep. However, the two sailors and their yachts that achieved the three time wins took home the trophies and so were not listed on subsequent trophies. As the early trophies were of significant value, it no doubt intensified the rivalry.

CHARTING the competition

To coincide with this book launch, it was decided that a new trophy would be made that would list every winner from the inception of the championship; this would serve as the major trophy to be awarded to future winners. It soon became obvious that this would be more than just a trophy, it would have to reflect the rich history of the race.

Concepts for the design and making of the trophy commenced when legendary sailor and 18 footer historian, John 'Steamer' Stanley arrived at W J Sanders with a bag full of molten metal and announced that he held the remains of the original Mark Foy Challenge Cup, destroyed in a 1958 fire. Stanley asked if any parts of this metal could be used in the making of a new trophy for the Australian 18 Footer championship.

THE MAKING OF THE TROPHY The brief

As part of the brief, names of winning boats and skippers were to be listed for every year of racing between 1906 and 2011, and winners far into the future had to be accommodated. Referring to our recent restoration of a 1920s aeronautical trophy with an art deco styled plinth, we sketched our concept of the finished trophy that would also have a similarly styled plinth.

DESIGN

John Stanley provided a design drawing from the 1940s of a classic 18 Footer by marine architect and 18 Footer yachtsman, Alf Beashe. The W J Sanders silversmith's interpretation of his design was created as a model on the trophy top. This model yacht, including rigging, ropes and sails, were made in sterling silver. The sails were given a satin finish to replicate canvas.

MATERIAL AND METHOD: working in silver

The molten silver from the Mark Foy Challenge Cup was refined and then milled into sheet silver for the front feature plate and the three large silver plates on which were listed all winners.

The outside of the yacht, keel and rigging were given a high polish finish. The silver yacht sits on two pieces of silver seaweed-type foliage. The silver base was the only surviving intact component recovered from the original Mark Foy Challenge Cup.

HISTORY RECORDED

Front silver plate

The silver plate on the front lists winners of the Perth Flying Squadron Challenge Cup (1906 to 1910) and the Mark Foy Challenge Cup (1911 to 1927). The plates on the side panels list all the winners of the Australian championships between 1928 and 2011.

STERLING silver badges

Attached on the reverse side of the new trophy are three sterling silver badges, replicas of the badges created in the 1930s for the Galloping Ghost trophy. These new badges contain photographs with engraved plaques beneath them that detail historic aspects of the competition.

All trophy components were made in 925 sterling silver and where appropriate stamped as such. The scribing was hand engraved, around 3500 characters and numbers. For W J Sanders this was somewhat a labour of love. For those interested in the history of the harbour and that of the Australian 18 Footer championships, a visit to the Sydney Flying Squadron at Milsons Point to view the 18 Footer memorabilia and historic trophies is a must.

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Further reading
Robin Elliot, *Galloping Ghosts*,
Boat Books Crows Nest NSW 2012

Chris Webb (1866-1948)
The Don Bradman of 18 Foot sailing, Chris Webb was the winner of the Perth Challenge Cup from 1907-1910 and also the winner of the Mark Foy Challenge Cup four times between 1911 and 1927

