



SYDNEY FLYING SQUADRON LTD

VALE BILL HUGHES

**SFS Life Member and former SFS
Board Member left our shores today**



A great loss to all who were lucky enough to have met him.





The real Bill Hughes. This photo taken by his SFS mates, Al (Robbo) Robertson and Leigh (Thommo) Thompson.

RACE REPORT - Autumn Heat 4

Matthew Flinders Cup

AUSTRALIA BY A WHISKER





Australia skipper, Marshall Flanagan and crew, being presented with the Matthew Flinders trophy by SFS President Rusty Debney. *Photo with thanks to Barley Stewart.*

Who says that starting late in a pursuit race is a bad thing? Perhaps it was the need for extra effort, or perhaps it got the competitive juices going? Maybe it was that they finally found the right amount of rake in the mast? Whatever it was, Australia (Marshall Flanagan), being almost 3 minutes late at the start, overcame all odds to beat Tangalooma by just one second to pick up the Matthew Flinders Cup for 2025.



These photos provided by SFS volunteer Tomoko Suga





For most of the final run between the Islands, it was a very close tussle with Tangalooma (Neville Turbit) that never ceases to surprise with its speed off a wind in lighter breezes. It really was a photo finish.



In just less than 10 knots of breeze, Mistake got away well to lead the fleet all the way to the top mark and then back down to Shark Island.

Tangalooma had missed her start with a bit of a kerfuffle in the final tack before the start but had recovered to round the gybe mark only a minute

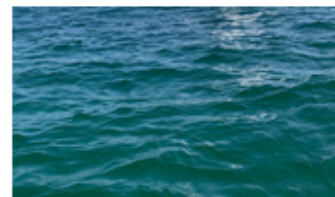




It is worth noting at this point that while all skiffs carried peakhead kites down from Beashal, only Yendys opted to gybe their spinnaker with the result that those who did not, gave away minutes to the back marker. While the breeze had increased to 12-14 knots, these were conditions where gybes can be safely made. – and we would like to see this happen more often in the future, perhaps after a bit of training organised by the Sailing Committee.

By the Chowder mark, Australia and Tangalooma were neck and neck. Neither carried a kite across the Shark Island. Nor did Top Weight, a minute and a half back. Yendys had looked like half a chance, but a lost jib in the water in their gybe stopped them in their tracks. At least, the Bavarian Prince Louis, guest crew on Yendys and out here as part of the Black Knight team for the JJs, was able to enjoy one of the lesser liked thrills of sailing traditional 19 footers.





Photos with thanks to SFS volunteer Tomoko Suga

But then to the finish and a one second victory to Australia over Tangalooma. Top Weight made the podium in third place with Yendys, Aberdare and Mistake bringing up the rear. (Alruth, incidentally, stayed ashore when her skipper, Alan Roberson, was called away to spend precious final minutes with his mate, Bill Hughes).

Finally, a word of thanks to Coral Taylor for her work in reminding us of the importance of Matthew Flinders (and his cat, Trim) in the history of Australia (or NSW as it was then). Flinders was born on 16 March 1774 and the Matthew Flinders Cup is sailed annually by SFS to commemorate his exploits.



Marshall Flanagan was presented with the Cup as we joined in the celebrations on a lovely Sydney Autumn evening. As the saying goes, where else would you want to be than on Sydney Harbour on a day like this.

Results for Saturday 15th March 2025

Autumn Series Heat 4 - Matthew Flinders Cup

Start Time:	2:30PM	Start	Course	Breeze	Strength	Tide
Fastest Time:	Yendys 1:41:28	Handicap	1	NE	10-15 kts	Ebb

Skiff	Skipper	Handicap (Mins)	Start Time	Finish Time	Race Time	H'cap Place	Ringtail
Australia	Marshall Flanagan	13	2:17:00 PM	4:03:48 PM	1:46:48	2	
Tangalooma	Neville Turbitt	14	2:16:00 PM	4:03:49 PM	1:47:49	3	
Top Weight	Terry Stewart	14	2:16:00 PM	4:05:54 PM	1:49:54	4	
Yendys	Michael van Stom	0	2:30:00 PM	4:11:28 PM	1:41:28	1	
Aberdare	Michael Chapman	7	2:23:00 PM	4:13:03 PM	1:50:03	5	
The Mistake	Jerry Tickner	20	2:10:00 PM	4:13:40 PM	2:03:40	6	
Alruth	Alan Robertson	10		DNC			
Britannia	David Paget	20		DNC			
Scot	Jamie Watt	19		DNC			
Australia IV				DNC			
Myra Too				DNC			

SAILING CALENDAR

SYDNEY FLYING SQUADRON 2024 – 2025 SAILING CALENDAR

DATE	H18'	12'	SOCIAL/Location
February 2025			
Sat 1 Feb	Harbour Marathon	No Racing	BBQ
Sun 2 Feb	No Racing	Point Score "Sprint"	SFS
Sat 8 Feb	No Racing	No Racing	GP Racing
Sun 9 Feb	No Racing	No Racing	GP Racing
Sat 15 Feb	Queen of the Harbour Summer Series H7	No Racing	BBQ
Sun 16 Feb	No Racing	Club Championship Ht 3	SFS
Sat 22 Feb	Autumn Series H1		
March 2025			
Sat 1 March	Sydney Harbour Regatta Autumn Series H2	No Racing	BBQ
Sun 2 Mar	No Racing	Port Jackson Championship	SFS
Sat 8 Mar	Autumn Series H3	No Racing	BBQ
Sun 9 Mar	No Racing	Club Championship Ht 4	SFS
Sat 15 Mar	Matthew Flinders Cup Autumn Series H4	No Racing	BBQ
Sun 16 Mar	No Racing	NSW Sprint Series Champ	SFS
Sat 22 Mar	Port Jackson Champ Autumn Series H5	No Racing	BBQ
Sun 23 Mar	No Racing	Point Score "Sprint"	SFS
Sat 29 Mar	Aust Championship H2 Club Championship H3 Autumn Series H6	No Racing	BBQ
Sun 30 Mar	No Racing	Club Championship Ht 5	SFS
April 2025			
Fri 4 April	No Racing	Australian Championships	TBA
Sat 5 April	Autumn Series H7	Australian Championships	TBA
Sun 6 April	No Racing	Australian Championships	TBA
Mon 7 April	No Racing	Australian Championships	TBA

May 2025

Presentation Night TBA

THREE races to go for the 2024-2025 season - don't miss out!

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