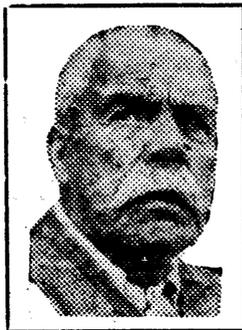


WILLIAM BEACH  
MEMORIAL



CABARITA PARK  
CONCORD, N.S.W.

JUNE 11th, 1938

*The Organising Committee  
and  
The Mayor and Aldermen of Concord*

*have much pleasure in inviting*

*Mr. ....*

*to be present at*

*the Unveiling of the William Beach  
Memorial Monument*

*by the Hon. E. S. Spooner, M.L.A.*

*at Cabarita Park, Concord,*

*on Saturday, 11th June, 1938,*

*at 3 p.m.*



*GUS MOONEY, Esq., Chairman.*

*S. H. P. BURNS, Hon. Secretary, 48 Louisa Road, Balmain.*

*Phone W 1325.*

# WILLIAM BEACH

BORN 1850 — DIED 1935

■

Born at Chertsey, Surrey, England, in 1850, William Beach came to Australia at the age of three years, his family settling near the shores of Lake Illawarra. His father was a cedar-getter in the nearby hills—and young Beach, later apprenticed to a blacksmith, early gained a reputation for his natural strength. He had his first race against a lake fisherman, one Clifford, in heavy boats—distance one mile, stake 5/-—which Beach won.

He came to Sydney first in 1878 to compete in the old Woolloomooloo Regatta, and thus had an opportunity of finding out how to correctly rig his boat. In training he accounted for some very good men, and, being naturally modest, he was inclined to think he was "having his leg pulled," but the actual races proved otherwise.

About this period he was on his way to compete in a handicap on the Parramatta River, and calling at the newly erected Balmain Rowing Club, was asked by the Club Captain what colours he intended to row in. This aspect had not occurred to Beach, so with the remark, "Use these," he was presented with the Club's black and gold cap—which colours and cap he retained till the end.

His first important race was with Ned Trickett; in the first race Trickett's experience gained the day, but shortly after the tables were turned. Beach was improving wonderfully every row.

Overseas sculling, then at the height of its popularity, was on a very high plane, and through it all moved the outstanding figure of Edward Hanlan, a Canadian, whose mastery of the slide—then a comparatively recent innova-

tion—put him in a class of his own. Such was the rhythm and ease of his action that the principles he applied have never been materially departed from, and the impression was general that all his races were won in a common paddle. That he was destined to thrice defeat this great sculler is the measure of William Beach's greatness.

Hanlan arrived in Australia in 1884, and the first race between them took place on the Parramatta River on 16th August of that year. Hanlan led for about half-way—but Beach eventually outstayed him and won a very hard race. Hanlan called on Beach that night and asked for another race. Beach's reply, "It's too late to-night, but to-morrow if you like," was characteristic.

After Beach had beaten Clifford, another Illawarra sculler of excellent physique, but no match for Beach, Hanlan was given another chance to regain the title on the Parramatta River on 28th March, 1885. Beach this time led from start to finish, and won in 22 mins. 51 secs.

On 18th December, 1885, he defeated Neil Matterson on the Parramatta River in 24 mins. 11½ secs., and the following year decided to go to England. In the summer of 1886 a large amount was subscribed for a series of sculling races on the Thames. The racing occupied three days, and Beach won his events right through to the final.

On 18th September, 1886, Beach met Gaudaur for the Championship over the Putney course, River Thames. In the colder climate Beach was having some difficulty in keeping his weight down, as this race showed. He took the lead and seemed to have the race safe at Chiswick, but Gaudaur came up to him and Beach stopped, apparently rowed out. After a blow he got going again, but Gaudaur, now just in front, could not draw away. Beach had another blow after

a mile or so, and still Gaudaur could do little better than paddle. Half-way up Horse Reach they drew level, and Beach, recovering, led at Barnes Bridge and then drew steadily away, winning his hardest race by three lengths in the exceptionally good time of 22 mins. 29 secs.

A week later he defeated Wallace Ross, a Canadian, over the same course in 23 mins. 5 secs., under weather and tide conditions that stamps this race as his finest in England.

He returned to Australia, and rowed his third race against Hanlan over a  $3\frac{1}{4}$  mile course on the fresh water of the Nepean River, regarded as favourable conditions for Hanlan. Beach led from the start, and won a wonderful race in 19 mins. 55 secs. After this race he retired, an unbeaten Champion, and handed the Championship over to Peter Kemp, who had accompanied him to England.

In these later years we are somewhat apt to underestimate the value of Beach's performances. At a time when it was very necessary to draw attention to Australia's population requirements, he was acting as the best possible ambassador, keeping Australia's name to the forefront of a sport then attracting major interest the world over. His natural modesty and integrity created a lasting impression on all who met him.

After spending the evening of his life in his beloved Illawarra, he passed on to meet the final Judge with the same courage that won him fame.

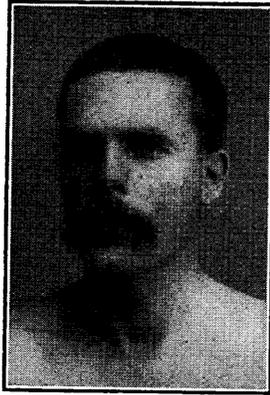
His monument, unveiled at Cabarita Park, Concord, N.S.W., on 11th June, 1938, is a tribute from those who were privileged to know him.

Balmain.

June, 1938.

J. ANDREOLI.  
JAMES BARNES.

GEO. TOWNS.  
J. BENNETT SHARP.



UNDEFEATED CHAMPION SCULLER  
OF THE WORLD.

Defeated—

E. Hanlan, Parramatta River .....	1884
T. C. Clifford, Parramatta River .....	1885
E. Hanlan, Parramatta River .....	1885
N. Matterson, Parramatta River .....	1885
J. Gaudaur, River Thames .....	1886
W. Ross, River Thames .....	1886
E. Hanlan, Nepean River .....	1887

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