



Lieutenant Commander W.J. WEATHERILL RANR

[1854 – 1928]



Lieutenant Commander Weatherill was the Honorary Secretary of the Club in 1919.

William John Weatherill was born on 23 August 1854 at Hexham, in the Hunter Valley of NSW. His father was Captain William Foxton Weatherill [1819-1906] a merchant sailor of Merewether, NSW and born in Whitby, Yorkshire. After retiring from the sea, he had become the Secretary of the Newcastle Marine Board. His mother - Lucy Dorton (nee Cole) [1827-1863] was born in Plymouth, England and had married in Gibraltar in 1846. Young William was their eldest child, with four younger sisters and one brother.

William was educated in Newcastle and Sydney and began work in a colliery company's office where he became an accountant. He joined the Naval Brigade in Sydney and then travelled abroad before settling in Brisbane – where he again joined the Naval Brigade.

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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His naval career was erratic – in May 1900 he was a Lieutenant on the Retired List of the Queensland Naval Forces. This was subsequently transferred to the RAN when in 1904 he appears on the Navy List as a Commander. In August 1904 he was a Lieutenant Commander in the Reserve at age 50.

While his business was an accounting practice, William, who never married, was energetic in social and community circles. It was reported that his favourite pastime was sailing, and he was also a keen motorboat owner.

Amongst his prominent interests in the early decades of the century was the Institute of Social Service – which aimed to develop social responsibility and service amongst the community. He influenced the Naval Cadets' relationship with the Institute.

He was Secretary of the Brisbane Chamber of Commerce; Vice-Consul for the United States of America; and His Majesty's Trade Correspondent for Queensland – a position he held until his death.

In addition to being a member of the Club, and Secretary in 1919 (and possibly also in 1920-21); he was a member of the Royal Queensland Yacht Club; a Commissioner of the Sea Scouts; and Treasurer of the Boy Scouts Association.

William lived at "Wyreema" in Butler Street Albion, and he died 18 March 1928 and was buried Toowong Cemetery.

During his tenure, Lieutenant Commander Weatherill served President Pye

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports, and sundry documents
- NAA