Sydney Flying Squadron, founded in 1891, is Australia’s oldest open boat sailing club and the birthplace of the famous Sydney Harbour sailing skiff classes. The home of the Historical 18 Foot skiff, it was founded by Mark Foy to allow people to enjoy skiff sailing regardless of financial background and remains today first and foremost a club for its members.

Situated at the end of Careening Cove, Milsons Point; the Squaddy features spectacular water views and is situated next to Milsons Park which provides a large grassy rigging area.

Facilities include a Boatshed, Wharf, Balcony, Bar and Foy’s Kirribilli Restaurant, the perfect location for all your social events.

During the summer months, the Squaddy hosts racing of skiff sailing classes on Saturdays. A spectator ferry runs on Saturdays during the sailing season providing a magnificent harbour cruise whilst following the racing.

Membership is open to both social and sailing members and offers the best value of all amongst Sydney sailing clubs.

The Sydney Flying Squadron clubhouse has benefitted from extensive renovations and we are well worth a visit. Foy’s Kirribilli Restaurant presents for you a menu range of new dishes to explore and savour, as well as some traditional Squaddy favourites. Enjoy a meal in the stylish new dining room or a refreshing drink on the terrace of the Flying Bear Café enjoying the waterfront views. The location cannot be bettered.

The clubhouse is an excellent choice as the venue for functions, offering a range of rooms perfect for anything from a wedding reception or birthday party to a conference or board meeting.

The club’s staff and members are friendly and welcoming and we look forward to seeing you soon.
A BRIEF HISTORY

The rich history of the Sydney Flying Squadron can be traced back to October 1891, when Mark Foy's 20 footer "Kannanook" and Chris Webb's "Mantura" took part in their first race representing the Squadron.

Foy was a successful businessman and best known at the time for the department store which bore his name. Today at the Sydney Flying Squadron the restaurant is affectionately named "Foy's Kirribilli" in honour of his contribution to the club and the sport of sailing.

Foy was a trendsetter and pioneer in many ways. He was disappointed that, unlike many other sports, there was little interest in sailing in those early days, but quickly came to realise that it was the sailors themselves who were largely to blame.

Competing boats were out of sight for long periods and even when they were in view, the public often had no idea who was who and who had won because the complicated handicapping system necessitated the winner be calculated in the clubhouse afterwards.

His solution? Make the racing more exciting and the boats more colourful so they could be more easily identified.

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While both of those ideas are still with us today, it was his revolutionary new system of handicapping that was to take the sailing world by storm—Foy’s eureka moment was to set the boats off at different times depending on their capabilities, with the fastest starting last, meaning that the first vessel to cross the finish line was the winner.

Sheer brilliance in its simplicity! These initiatives were to capture the imagination of the public. The sailing hierarchy of the time, however, were not convinced. The Squadron’s boats were banned from the 1892 National Regatta because they carried coloured emblems. It was claimed that the emblems encouraged gambling and spoiled the look of the white sails that adorned Sydney Harbour.

Undeterred, Foy organised his own regatta, investing substantial time and money to publicise this rival event. The expenditure proved worthwhile, as the biggest crowd to watch a sailing event on Sydney Harbour to that point thronged to the waterfront to see what all the fuss was about.

A shorter course ensured everyone could follow the action and a bow-to-bow finish involving around a dozen boats ensured a thrilling finale. It’s fair to say, sailing in Australia has never been the same since! While Foy himself was a man of means, he was also someone who wanted to make sure that skiff sailing was enjoyed by everybody regardless of their financial or social background. The Squadron men had little money and free few days—but they had enthusiasm, no little skill and were fearless and rebellious. With Foy at the helm, they and their club never looked back.

While the boats racing today are mainly the replicas of the wooden boats that have sailed Sydney Harbour since the 1890s, they still carry distinctive emblems to make them instantly identifiable to spectators. The Squaddy also still has a spectator ferry following the races every Saturday during the sailing season.

Squadron members also race more modern 12-foot skiffs at weekends. Rugby legends of the day such as the South Sydney’s Norman brothers were crew members at the Sydney Flying Squadron during the sailing season when the rugby season was over.

It is no accident that The Men of League chose the Squaddy to announce their 100 greatest rugby league players as part of the Centenary of Rugby League on 22 February, 2008.

The Sydney Flying Squadron’s values remain the same to this day, a club for the everyday man or woman, while every competitive sailor worth his salt across the world knows what a Mark Foy Start is. It is indeed a lasting legacy.
Sydney Flying Squadron members have been racing on Sydney Harbour since the 19th century. We celebrated our 125th anniversary in October 2016 with a special regatta held over the original courses on which those pioneering sailors competed all those years ago.

The Squaddy embraces the best of both worlds - fiercely loyal to the boats on which our great club was founded but also with one eye on the future and the developments that have transformed the sailing world in recent years.

You can have it all here at the Squaddy, sailing the historic 18-footers, with their coloured designs on the sails for easy identification, and handicapped starts so that the first boat over the line wins the race, keeping alive the best traditions of sailing on the Harbour.

Racing for senior skiff classes is held on Sydney Harbour on Saturdays during the summer months (October through April) with a smaller and more modern skiff class, the 12-Footer, holding races on Sundays and some Saturdays. Other open boat classes can also be sailed.

Only by coming to the Squaddy on a Saturday during the racing season will you fully appreciate these magnificent vessels and the chance to witness first hand what is in essence a magnificent working piece of history.
Sydney Flying Squadron wants as many people as possible to join our boats or volunteers who follow the boats. We are always looking to provide opportunities for people to join us. Don’t worry if you are a first timer, there are plenty of old hands to teach you.

If you want to be a volunteer on one of the support boats, or just with social events, there are lots of opportunities to get involved. Our sailors and volunteers range from teenagers to 80-year-olds. Boats have a range of male and female crew and everyone is welcome.

Get involved. You can be a spectator, try crewing or be a volunteer. Get in touch with the club and experience what sailing was like 100 years ago.
SAILING PROGRAM - OUR BOATS

18-FOOTERS

Sydney 18-footers have raced on Sydney Harbour for more than 120 years. They evolved from heavy wooden boats with a crew of 15 to the three-person carbon fibre speed machines of today. The peak of their popularity was in the early 1920s and 1930s when thousands came out to watch the racing. It was as big as cricket or football is today.

Those boats required a unique set of skills to manage. They carried ridiculous amounts of sail. Crew were ballast, constantly working to keep the boat upright. One stray puff, or rogue wave, or miscalculation and it was all over for the afternoon.

Like most of the past, you would expect it to only exist in museums and books. In this case, that could not be further from the truth. A fleet of boats have been built over the last 20 years that are based on the designs of their famous predecessors that were constructed between 1900 and 1950. Each has been the subject of research through drawings, photographs, and prodding the memory of the few remaining who sailed the original.
They are constructed and sailed by members of the Australian Historical Sailing Skiff Association (AHSSA) which was formed in 1991 by a group of ex-skiffies with the aim to preserve the history of Sydney’s classic open skiffs.

Races featuring 18-footers take two forms. Long harbour races optimise the use of the crowded Sydney Harbour environment, and localised short races focus on in-close spectator viewing and commercial ferry participation.

Sailors from all around the world travel to Australia to sail on one of these boats. It is a key item on their “bucket list”. The way they are rigged and sailed is a whole new world for even the most seasoned sailors. Watching the fleet steaming down the Harbour under spinnakers is like going back in time.

Sailing on one of these unique craft is like no other. The current fleet sails with somewhere between 6 and 12 people. Imagine that many people in the confined space of an 18 footer and you get some idea of the teamwork involved.

Our history of sailing, building and maintaining the skiffs is an integral part of the heritage of the Harbour and something of which we are very proud.

12FT SKIFF
The 12ft skiff is a development class that is sailed in New South Wales, Queensland and New Zealand. They sail at the Sydney Flying Squadron on Sundays throughout the summer season. Racing starts at 2pm and on a number of Harbour courses.

The major regatta is the Inter-dominion Championships normally held in January, which alternates between Australia and New Zealand. There are also State and Australian Championships.

NSW also holds interclub regattas during the season at Lane Cove, Abbotsford and The Sydney Flying Squadron.

For more details, visit: www.skiff.org.au.
SAILING PROGRAM - OUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The sailing season at the Squadron starts in October with Mark Foy Opening Day, which is a fantastic social event in its own right as well as heralding the start of another much-anticipated year of competition.

Spectators can get an up-close view of the events on the ferry, there is a BBQ and raffles and the emphasis is very much on the three “Fs” – fun, family and friendship.

While the camaraderie between members is a constant throughout the year, once the sailing gets under way the competition is fierce but fair, with all skippers and crew looking to make their own indelible mark in the club’s history books by landing one of the annual championships or special trophies on offer.

Squadron events include:
- Club Championship – A series of scratch races throughout the season.
- Season Championship – Based on all the championship races over the season excluding the Australian championships.

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Spring, Summer and Autumn point score – There are three season handicap point scoring series, Spring, Summer and Autumn, which run for about two months each.

Australian Championship – Run around the end of January. It consists of three or four races usually run over a four or five consecutive day period.

Ladies’ Day – Ours is called “Queen of the Harbour”. The practice arose from the days when sailing was an all-male affair. Women won the right to sail on the 18-footers by raising money (serious money it was too) for charity.

Handicap – Each boat is given a time handicap. This varies week to week based on the performance of each boat on the previous weekend. The scratch boat starts at 2.30pm and other boats start before that time based on their handicap. The maximum handicap is 15 minutes, so a boat with the maximum handicap would start at 2.15pm. These handicap starts are also known as Mark Foy starts as originally devised by the Club’s founder Mark Foy.
SAILING PROGRAM – OUR TROPHIES

GALLOPING GHOST TROPHY
This magnificent trophy has pride of place in the SFS trophy cabinet. It was donated in 2002 by Robert Hart, son of Fred Hart who owned Aberdare.

Named after a famous Queensland coal mine, this historic 18-footer won the Queensland championship in 1933, 1934 and 1935 with legendary skipper Vic Vaughn at the helm. “The Galloping Ghost” was the nicknamed given to her by thousands of adoring fans.

Truly, it is worth a trip to the Squaddy just to see this beautiful trophy – which has been lovingly restored – though of course it would be criminal not to enjoy a coffee and a slice of cake in the Flying Bear Café while you’re here!

The Galloping Ghost is a prestigious trophy and it’s no surprise that sailors from across the globe come to the Squaddy each year in the hope of adding their name to the list of winners.
RAW MEAT TROPHY
Made from an old bumkin off the original Britannia, this trophy features, and is named after George “Raw Meat” Pearce, a character from a past with a history full of characters. It is awarded to the handicap winner of the series. George Pearce was a jovial man liked by all and a mentor for younger sailors. Crows Nest, skippered by Bill Hayward with George as an outstanding crew member, won the 1948 World Championship for the J.J. Giltinan Trophy in Auckland – a first for a Sydney Flying Squadron boat.

THE GRAEME “FERGY” FERGUSON RINGTAIL TROPHY
This beautiful new trophy has been created in the shape of a traditional “rum tot” and is in memory of Graeme “Fergy” Ferguson, a stalwart of both the Club and skiff sailing, who died in 2016 after a brave battle with cancer.

When he could no longer sail, Graham volunteered as commentator on the spectator ferry, and will long be remembered on the deck at the after-race presentations for telling us what a ringtail is (it’s a special type of sail unique to the Historical 18-footers if you didn’t know!) The SFS commissioned the Fergy Ringtail trophy in his memory. It is awarded for the H18 that sets the most ringtails in a season. As well as featuring Fergy’s photo, it displays the SFS life member badge of his father as well as his own.

Fittingly, it was Graeme’s partner, Suzie Conway, a stalwart crew member on Britannia, who received the inaugural trophy on behalf of Skipper Ian Smith and the rest of the crew.
BECOMING A MEMBER

The best way to enjoy all that Sydney Flying Squadron has to offer is to become a member.

The Squaddy's Membership fees are amongst the best value of any Sydney sailing club. The club has much to recommend it, with excellent facilities and an active sailing calendar. It is the people who form the club, however, that sets us apart and new members can expect a warm and genuine welcome.

If you like sailing and have a love of the water, meeting people and making new friends, you're just the sort of new member we're looking to encourage!

Please note, though, that if you are a landlubber yet to find your sea legs, then you will be made equally welcome.

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Sydney Flying Squadron has a range of memberships to cater for most requirements, for boat owners and skippers right through to those less interested in spending time out on the water but wishing to enjoy the clubhouse facilities and the fantastic social atmosphere. There are excellent rates available to Juniors.

The membership year runs from 1st June-31st May. Here is a summary of our membership categories:

- Social membership
- Senior and Pensioner card holder
- Sailing membership
- Sailing membership with Australian Sailing*
- Junior Sailing membership (under 21)
- Junior Sailing membership (under 21) with Australian Sailing
- Local Membership (Five Years)**

* In order to race, registration is required with Australian Sailing.
** Local membership is for people living within a 5 km radius of the club. It allows entry to the club, however you are not eligible for any discounts on food and drinks. You are also not entitled to vote or to stand for election to become one of the club’s board of directors.

The joining procedure is easy. Go to www.sydneyflyingsquadron.com.au and you will find all the handy forms and information you will need to get your application under way. Simply fill in the application form and forward it by post, fax or email and pay your annual fees either by post or in person.

Existing members can renew their application online through the club website.

A small club like ours relies on its members for many skills and we really appreciate all their support. Having a committed sailing, social and maintenance volunteer base is vital to the continuing success of our club, so please email us and let us know if there are any areas in which you can assist us.
MEMBER BENEFITS

Some of the compelling sailing and social reasons to become a member at Sydney Flying Squadron include:

- Spectacular location, with expansive views out across Careening Cove and out to Sydney Harbour
- Belong to a historic club – one that dates back to 1891 – and feel part of something very special
- Wonderful refurbished clubhouse offers a spectacular place to relax and bring guests
- Year-round access to superb facilities for entertaining, with Foy’s Restaurant and Bar Kirribilli and the Flying Bear Café
- Best news of all – discounts for Bar, Restaurant and some social events!
- Extensive social calendar with events to appeal to all tastes, including regular live musical entertainment
- Member’s raffles and Badge Draws featuring generous prizes
- Generous birthday vouchers
- Big screen TV showing major sporting events
- Priority access to all club events
- Ability to sign in guests
- Opportunity to vote on important issues and stand for election to the board, thereby playing a key role in the future of the club
- Variety of membership options
- Discounts on spectator ferry

We are a friendly, welcoming club, with members and staff who will make you feel at home and be genuinely pleased to see you. New members will soon find they have a whole new circle of friends with which to enjoy sailing and socialising.
While there is no formalised training structure in place as such at the Squadron, we are still hugely passionate about introducing newcomers into our wonderful sport.

If you would like the thrill of sailing on an 18-footer, we would love you to come along. Sailing experience is not essential but you must be able to swim. Age is not an issue – our sailors range from teenagers to an octogenarian. We will make sure you are paired up with someone who can take you through the day and show you what you need to know.

Most sailors wear a wetsuit, wetsuit boots, hat or cap, and lots of sunscreen. Over the wetsuit you can wear shorts, and crew members sport distinctive football jumpers.

We have a limited number of spare wetsuits you can wear for the day if you just want to try out sailing before investing in a wetsuit.

You can sail three times before being required to join the club so you have a chance to see if you like sailing these boats before making a commitment.

We are also always looking for volunteers to help with everything from rescues, to race control, to the after-sailing barbecue and raffles.

Volunteers are the glue that holds the Squadron together and without their efforts the Squaddy would not be the great club that it is today.

If you would like to try your hand at sailing, or fancy becoming a volunteer, the contact method is the same. Simply drop us an email at: info@sydneyflyingsquadron.com.au and someone will get back in touch to welcome you aboard.
Sydney Harbour is one of the world’s most iconic locations and the subject of many millions of photographs each year.

Everybody knows about the Opera House, the Harbour Bridge and the Manly Ferry. But even the many people who have lived in the city all their lives might not have discovered Sydney Harbour’s best-kept secret – the Sydney Flying Squadron Spectator Ferry.

Leaving from the Club’s wharf at 2pm and returning approximately at 4pm each Saturday during the sailing season, the Spectator Ferry gives passengers a Sydney Harbour experience like no other, as it follows the Historic 18-footers up close and personal, taking spectators right into the heart of the action.

It offers a unique vantage point on the water to sample some thrilling sport and provides a great chance to take some wonderful photographs.

Passengers are also taking part in a piece of history, because the spectator ferries were the brainchild of some of the founding fathers of the club including Mark Foy, who saw the opportunity to showcase their boats and club to the wider population of Sydney.

An added bonus is that the tickets are a fraction the cost of other Harbour cruises. Tickets can be booked at the bar ahead of time, there is a great value family ticket and Squaddy members receive a discount.

Sip on a glass of wine, enjoy the offerings on board and the commentary. Meet new people or bring your own crowd. Come aboard for the experience. You won’t be disappointed. Please, though, remember to check the ferry is running before making a special journey.

SPECTATOR FERRY
Social activities

The Sydney flying Squadron has a full and varied program of social events throughout the year which highlight the friendly nature of our club and provide the ideal opportunity for new recruits to better get to know their fellow members.

Some of the social events to have been enjoyed in recent times include:

- Meet the maker/brewer events – with a talk from the people behind the great local wines and beers we promote (and drink!) so impressively at the Squaddy.
- Live music – jazz days and our sunset sessions have hit the right note and proved to be a huge hit with members and visitors.
- Winemakers dinner – lavish four-course meal to accompany wines from the legendary Heathcote Winery, Jasper Hill.
- Events to celebrate key dates in the diary such as the Melbourne Cup, Father’s Day and Mother’s Day.

Chilling out post-race enjoying a BBQ and a drink of choice each week is something of a club institution, as is the annual presentation night at which the year’s outstanding performers are recognised.

We love our big sporting occasions and it’s much more fun to watch events such as the State of Origin on the big screen surrounded by mates. The atmosphere’s so good it’s almost like being there!

Sometimes, though, it’s not just about having fun. It’s about making a difference. We’re a big-hearted bunch here at the Squaddy too. Take, for example, the charity luncheon we hosted to raise money for Daughters of Cambodia, a campaign against Human Trafficking and Sex Slavery.

All funds raised went directly to the charity, with staff at Foy’s Kirribilli Restaurant and the Flying Bear Café donating their wages and our suppliers donating their produce.

Visit facebook.com/foyskirribilliflyingbear for news of all the upcoming social events at the Squaddy.
If you are looking for a place to relax after a hard day’s sailing (or even a hard day’s work!), or somewhere to meet friends, then head for the newly-refurbished Sydney Flying Squadron clubhouse, which features Foy’s Restaurant & Bar Kirribilli and The Flying Bear Café.

We’re family friendly, with excellent facilities. Best of all, a warm welcome awaits from our members and dedicated and conscientious staff who make the Squaddy the special place that it is.

Enjoy a cup of great coffee or a glass of fine wine as you savour the spectacular views out across Careening Cove to the Harbour. Even words like “stunning” and “breathtaking” don’t do our location justice — you need to come see for yourself and make sure you bring your camera!

Hungry? No problem. Filling meals and tasty snacks are available at reasonable prices with everything on offer from a simple sandwich to a lavish three-course meal to celebrate that special occasion. Lunch and dinner may be enjoyed six days a week, from Tuesday to Sunday (subject to change, please check website for current opening hours).

Foy’s Restaurant & Bar Kirribilli offers the very best of casual dining showcasing the iconic beauty of Sydney Harbour while embracing the hive of the north shore working waterfront.

Our restaurant presents for you a menu range of new dishes to explore and savour, as well as some traditional Squaddy favourites, all prepared by our talented Chef and his team.
Come in for a drink on the terrace. We have a fully stocked bar and the location cannot be bettered.

The Flying Bear cafe is Kirribilli’s best kept secret – nestled on the wharf of the Sydney Flying Squadron with the water so close you could practically dip your toes in.

Serving up healthy (but scrumptious!) breakfasts and lunches, alongside great coffee, freshly squeezed juices and a tempting selection of pastries and sweets, the Flying Bear brings inner city cafe hospitality to the lower North Shore. Open daily from 7am.

Check out our two Instagram pages: flyingbear_kirribilli and foyskirribilli to get a feel for the wonderful location and what a special place this is.

There is always something going on - see our Facebook page to check upcoming attractions and specials: facebook.com/foyskirribilihungbear.

Current menus and wine lists can be viewed on our website: www.sydneyflyingsquadron.com.au.

Bookings can be made via the website, or by calling (02) 9955 8350.

Remember, too, that the restaurant, boardroom and sunset deck are available to hire for corporate or private functions – large and small. It’s the perfect location for your event or special occasion.
FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS

The spacious and well-appointed Sydney Flying Squadron clubhouse – featuring Foy’s Kirribilli Restaurant and the Flying Bear Café – is the perfect venue for just about any function. Birthdays and Christmas parties, lazy long lunches, end of year functions, engagement, christenings or farewell parties, elegant wedding receptions, team building events, business seminars and conferences, receptions and cocktail events – all can be celebrated in style with us.

Our waterfront location with uninterrupted, spectacular views to Sydney Harbour provides an amazing backdrop for any function. With good food and conscientious staff, it ensures that we tick all the boxes when it comes to function hosting.

We are highly experienced in running both corporate and private events and know exactly what it takes to put the special into a special occasion.

Our dedicated team are on hand to organise anything and everything you may need for your event, providing personal and professional service from the time that you first call to the time you say your farewells.

Food and beverage packages are available to suit all tastes and style of event, with a wide choice of catering from traditional sit-down dinners to canapés, platters or food stations to greet your guests on arrival. The latter make excellent choices if you are looking for a stylish but relaxed option for a buffet while ensuring that your invitees leave both satisfied and fulfilled.

We don’t do rumbling tums at Foy’s Kirribilli!
If you are looking to host your special event with us, smaller groups may find themselves best suited by making a group dining booking. This comes with a set menu, but not exclusive use of the restaurant.

For larger events, choosing one of our food and beverage packages with an accompanying minimum spend guarantees you and your party exclusive use of your desired function space.

Our all-inclusive packages include full waiter service and associated labour costs as well as exclusive use of the booked area for three hours, which can be extended upon payment of an additional service fee.

We have a range of spaces available to suit everything from small, intimate affairs through to large functions and events:

**PRIVATE DINING ROOM**
A private dining room is available for intimate social and corporate events. The room can accommodate up to 30 guests for a stand-up cocktail party or a sit-down meal. It is available to book for lunch and dinner events.

**SALOON BAR**
Adjacent to the Private Dining Room is the Saloon Bar, giving you private access to the bar and a larger stand-up area for your guests. Together with the Private Dining Room, the Saloon Bar area can accommodate 40 people cocktail-style and 40 guests seated. It can be visually sectioned off from the Main Diner.

**MAIN DINER**
The Main Diner is the central room of Foy’s Kirribilli and can accommodate up to 150 guests for a sit-down event or 180 guests for a stand-up cocktail event. With commanding views across the water and adjacent park, this is the ideal space for larger functions.
FLYING BEAR DECK

A relaxed outdoor setting overlooking the water; the Flying Bear Deck is available to hire after 4pm Tuesday to Friday. Saturdays and Sundays can be booked outside the sailing season (which commences the first weekend of October and finishes after the Easter long weekend). This area is perfect for casual cocktail events of up to 70 guests. We recommend our Canapés Packages and additional shared platters.

An information pack containing full details of packages and pricing is available to download from the Sydney Flying Squadron website, www.sydneyflyingsquadron.com.au.

Our suggestion? Come down to the Flying Bear Café for a coffee or enjoy a meal at Foy’s Kirribilli Restaurant first (and if you really need an excuse to sample some great food and the relaxed atmosphere, call it a scouting mission!)

Seeing our tastefully and stylishly refurbished venue in person is the only way to appreciate fully our magnificent setting and the world of function hosting possibilities that suddenly open up to you.

For more details about hosting a function with us, email: bookings@foyskirribilli.com.au or call (02) 9955 8350.
HOW TO FIND US

Sydney Flying Squadron – the “Squaddy” – is situated at the end of Careening Cove, Milsons Point (next to the Ensemble Theatre).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTIONS

Train – to Milsons Point Station then walk to club.

Buses – No 263 to Clark Road or High Street, North Sydney or Bus No. 269 to Broughton Street near Pitt Street, Kirribilli then walk to club.

Ferry - Neutral Bay Ferry to North Sydney (High Street) then walk to club.

Visit www.transportnsw.info to plan your trip.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Sydney Flying Squadron
76 McDougall Street
Kirribilli
NSW 2061

Postal Address:
PO Box 577
Milson’s Point
NSW 1565

Tel: (02) 9955 8350
Fax: (02) 9956 7173

Email: info@sydneyflyingsquadron.com.au
Website: www.sydneyflyingsquadron.com.au

Social Media: Keep up to date with all the latest news from the Squaddy by liking our Facebook pages:
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