



Club Captain's Report

Sailing Season 2017-2018

Quick Facts:

McCrae Catamaran Championships – 66 entries
International Contender Australian Championships – 79 entries
International Contender World Championships – 90 entries
Taipan Victorian State Championships – 27 entries
“A” Class Victorian State Championships – 30 entries

In total, 292 competitors visited McCYC this season to compete in five regattas compared to 172 boats the previous season over four regattas. If the additional World Championship regatta is eliminated from the comparison, the season hosted an additional 30 visitors.

The domestic season saw the club run the Aggregate and Skipper of Skippers series over the course of 20 heats and 12 race days. A total of 118 boats signed on over the period of the series compared to last season when 127 boats signed on to compete over 22 heats.

On water infrastructure was tested during the season; the first manifestation being the significant hull failure of *Craefish* just before the Catamaran Championships in November. Your Sailing Committee (with the endorsement of the General Committee) decided that this venerable craft had reached end-of-service and was rapidly replaced by the more robust *Pogy*. This new boat is identical in terms of specifications except that it possesses a far more enduring aluminium hull (as per *McArthur*) and is well suited to the rough and tumble tests meted out during Sailing School duties in addition to rescue work. *Craefish* has been repaired and serviced with her sale set to significantly off-set (halve) the new purchase.

Also put to the test was race management gear in the form of two sets of TackTick anemometer equipment which required sudden replacement due to the built-in redundancy of the original power supply design. Thanks to our Bosun, Cam Dunwoody, this problem and all other fleet issues have been resolved; ensuring patrol boat reliability for the next season and well beyond.

I am pleased to report that the rescue boat fleet has sustained ZERO hull maintenance costs for the season. This is attributable to the enforcement of boat retrieval protocols and the superior “Transtyle” trailer which was matched to *Jubilee* at the start of the season. Although a heavy aluminium trailer, it has suffered no corrosion as galvanised steel does and has proved a dream to load and unload. Consequently, the Sailing Committee has undertaken to mate *Bunurong* with a

Transytle trailer due to her more tender fibreglass gel coat hull. (*Bunurong's* current trailer will be re-assigned to *McArthur* as hers has reached end-of-service).

For a Sailing Committee, running major regattas relies on a great many volunteers. Particular thanks go to Peter Merritt (PRO – Contender Worlds), Bronwyn Evans (PRO – McCYC Cat Champs) and Alistair Watson (PRO – “A” Class States) as well as Regatta Managers, Steve Berryman, Mark O’Brien and Andrew Barrett. Naturally, the race-related volunteers who have loyally served on patrol boats and in the tower throughout the season, although too numerous to mention here, have the Sailing Committee’s humble thanks, as always.

The Sailing Committee would also like to thank each and every club member (particularly the sailing cohort) for enduring such a heavy regatta impost over the last two seasons. Hosting nine major events in this time means that your domestic sailing calendar and opportunities get time on the race track have been curtailed to some degree. The Sailing Committee recognises this fact and has sought to keep next year’s programme of additional events to a minimum.

Consequently, although the Sailing Committee will consider any requests to host regattas, the Club has not pursued any events except for submitting an expression of interest to host the World F18 Championships in 2020. This would be a major catamaran event for this country which would likely see a request from the F18 Association to host the national championships in January, 2019.

The Sailing Committee sees the departure of Bronwyn Evans after more than a decade of service to the Club in terms of on-water Race Officer duties and presentation night preparation. Also leaving the group is Dave Parker and Jamie Caithness who have been staunch contributors throughout the season. Thanks to you all.

The good news for the Sailing Committee is that quite a few new faces have nominated for next season. Good luck to you all and thank you for stepping up to give something back to your Club.

How do you thank all the volunteers at this wonderful club? It’s not really possible as so many contribute in so many ways. I will simply say that, as is the case of each of us, we each contribute our bit because we wish to, not because we have to. It is this ethic which hopefully instils a humility and sense of gratitude in all of us and will hopefully continue long into the future.

Stay warm. See you on the water in October.

Col Dods.

Club Captain.