# HERON NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1. No. 1
June. 1963

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
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| "Confussion" | 2nd | NSW 14' Championship |
| "Sachiko" | 1st | NSW Yachting World Keel Boat Championship |
| "Carmen" | 1st | CYC Ocean Point Score |
| "Galatea-M" | 1st | Hobart Race 2nd Division |
| "Salacia" | | Winner of many ocean races |

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# WINTER NEWSLETTER

With this issue of the Newsletter we blossom forth in an attractive new format which owes a lot for its ideas to "Mains'l", the journal of the Canberra Y.M.C.A. Sailing Club. We are also indebted to one of the active members of that club, Ralph Westen, who has given us the plates for the cover. This issue also sees a new stern in the editorial chair. Harry Richards, who occupied it so well for so long, now having moved to a bigger bird (a Blue one, to be precise). Thank you, Harry, from us all and may the winds favour you.

It is planned to publish the Newsletter quarterly in future with news not only of the Association but of clubs and individuals as well. Will all club Publicity officers please note and keep me abreast of their clubs' activities and if any individual members have anything at all they think would be of interest, please send it in.

Before moving on to the news of the Association it might be timely here to put members in the picture on how the Heron Association actually operates. Unlike most Class Associations which conduct their affairs solely through sailing clubs, the Heron Association deals directly with individual members in everything except sailing matters. Plans, registration, measurement, sail numbers and publications are handled by the Australian Association. With growing membership various State Associations are formed by the Federal body to conduct racing within each state, arranging inter-club fixtures, championships and the like and representing Herons with the controlling authority in that state. For example the N.S.W. Heron Association is a member of the Y.A. of N.S.W. and speaks for Herons in all matters concerning sailing in N.S.W. The State Association, in turn, advises and co-ordinates the racing of Herons in the various recognised clubs. The effect of this is to provide all members, whether they are on their own in some remote country area or joined to a large city club, with direct representation to the Australian Association on all matters pertaining to the class, rules, measurement, etc. while enabling those members wishing to take part in organised racing to have the benefit of the facilities offered by clubs, regattas and state sailing authorities.

Now for some news of these various bodies:-

## Y.W. HERON SAILING ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

At the end of May there were 427 members of the Y.W.H.S.A. of A. distributed as follows:-

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sydney City | 277 | N.S.W. Country | 75 | Victoria | 52 | South Aust. | 6 | | |
| West Aust. | 1 | Queensland | 11 | North. Territory | 1 | New Guinea | 3 | Singapore | 1 |

This represents a growth of about 250 members in the last 12 months alone, which is phenomenal. The figures do show how far we have yet to go in states outside N.S.W. if the class is to become truly national and there is a lot to be done in promotion interstate. We are fortunate in having acquired from the A.B.C. a short film taken at the last Championships which is useful for lending to distant clubs to give them an idea of how a Heron looks and performs. Peter Dabbs, the indefatiguable Plans Secretary, is also preparing a series of films for television on "How To Sail" in which Herons feature prominently. There may be some members who are not aware that the Association publishes an excellently illustrated book on how to build a Heron, available from the Secretary at 8/- posted. This is a valuable aid to those who live in more distant parts. We hope that a Heron will be on display at the forthcoming Adelaide Boat Show in October and that this will result in the eventual formation of a

South Australian Heron Association. If any member going interstate would like to meet local Herons and spread the gospel, would he please get in touch with Bill Youll who will be delighted to shower him with addresses.

To encourage clubs already sailing Herons, the Committee has agreed to make grants of up to £25 to help with establishment costs, racing gear, trophies, etc. A number of clubs have taken advantage of this offer already.

The next Annual General Meeting of the Australian Association will be held at the Shell Theatrette, Carrington Street, Sydney at 8.00 p.m. on Monday, August 12th. There will be a programme of films after the meeting to be followed by supper. Cost 7/6 a head. An official notice will be sent out shortly but make a note of the date in your diary NOW. August 12th.

There was a lot of discussion at the last Committee meeting about the venue for the Fifth Australian Championships and it was finally settled that these would be sailed on Pittwater Sound, Sydney, from Sandy Point, Palm Beach on January 25th - 27th. (Australia Day holiday weekend)

## NEW SOUTH WALES HERON ASSOCIATION

This Association has decided to hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday, July 18th at the Middle Harbour Sailing Club, The Spit, Mosman (next to the old Spit Baths). Time will be 8.00 p.m. N.S.W. members please note. The officers for the coming season will be elected then and the plans for the Sailing Programme presented. As an experiment it has been decided to conduct the State Championships for 1964 over a series of heats sailed at various clubs in the Sydney area in conjunction with interclub events.

There was an animated discussion at the last committee meeting on the question of handicapping. One school of thought maintained that as the Heron was a 'One-Design' class with all boats theoretically equal in performance, racing was a test of individual skipper's skill and ability and should not, outside of club events, be restricted by handicapping. This is the pattern of sailing in a number of other 'One-Design' classes such as Finns and Flying Dutchmen. The other view was that scratch racing would discourage less experienced helmsmen (who make up a greater proportion of the field in Heron racing than they do in 'hot' International classes) leading to reduced fleets in regattas and other open events. As there was a lot to be said for both sides a compromise solution was reached whereby it was agreed that in addition to the normal trophies for the first three places on fastest time three extra prizes be awarded for the placegetters on handicap corrected time in all interclub and invitation events. If the provision of the extra trophies placed an unfair financial strain on the host club the Association would come to the rescue with a subsidy. Handicaps will be fixed by the Association Sailing Committee in consultation with the clubs and will be subject to a system of automatic adjustment.

## VICTORIAN HERON ASSOCIATION

In the sunny south, with the guiding hand of Jon Smeeton, Herons are sailing in force from St. Kilda under the aegis of the Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron. They follow the pattern of the Sydneysiders in making their sailing days family affairs and are racing once a month right through the winter. The first event in this 'frostbite' series on May 19th was won by NONSUCH (M. Gower) with TINA (J. Sutherland) and JULIE (B. Woinarski) second and third.

placings on handicap being 1. JULIE, 2. BRALGAH (R. Duncan) 3. TINA. On the last weekend of April four of the Melbourne Herons joined with Bill Just of Wangaratta to take part in the windup regatta of the Yarrawonga Yacht Club on the Murray. A good time was had by all and this fixture is already on next year's list. By the way, in case any Victorians don't already know Jon Smeeton's address it is, for the time being, Flat 4, 2 Grattan St. Hawthorne. I say 'for the time being' because Jon is a busy bloke just now as besides doing a mighty job organising Herons he is moving into a new house soon, awaiting the arrival of a new forward hand and has just finished a new boat for him/her to sail in! Congratulations and all good wishes, Jon.

In other states Herons are still thin on the water but it looks as though Queensland may be the next one to get organised. The liaison officer there is John Godfrey, Sunnydene Rd. Capalaba (rhymes with 'Malabar') Brisbane. Other states' liaison officers are:-

| | |
|---|---|
| SOUTH AUSTRALIA | Mr. A.N. Blackburn,<br>41 Currie St. Adelaide |
| WEST AUSTRALIA | Mr. T. Matthew, Hon. Sec. Crawley Bay S.C.<br>491 Great Eastern Highway, Greenmount |
| NORTHERN TERRITORY | Dr. P. White,<br>Darwin Hospital, Darwin. |

In Tasmania Herons have been sailing for some years but so far have not affiliated with the Y.W.H.S.A. of A. although a number of approaches have been made.

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## NEWS FROM THE CLUBS

First, let me thank those Club Publicity Officers who have already sent in material for this part of the newsletter. With the Newsletter having grown from a few lines added to a notice to members to the status of a small magazine, editors' typing fingers (both of them) get pretty sore. So, as I said earlier, let's have your news and views.

### Middle Harbour Heron Sailing Club

This club has had an active programme this season which finally culminated in a Carnival Weekend on May 25th - 26th at Clontarf. The Northbridge Senior Dinghies came along and although the weather was atrocious with virtually no wind and quite a lot of rain there was a fair turn-out. A member was observed sticking pins into a wax model of WINDOO after the Dearnley tribe made an abnormally heavy raid on the trophies, which were presented at afternoon tea on the Sunday. Hugh Dearnley won the Forward Hands Race on the Saturday with 8 year-old brother Martin taking second place in Grahame Badgery's NOOK. Their mother came first in the Ladies' Race next morning so it was almost an anti-climax when Dad came second in the afternoon Family Race.

The Point Score Races have finished for the season, and the results show some very close competition in the first five places. They were:-

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | 2977 | 321 | B. French | 4. | 2786 | 303 | L. Hewish |
| 2. | 3016 | 309 | T. King | 5. | 2275 | 300 | N. Corvisy |
| 3. | 3530 | 305 | G. Perkins | | | | |

As usual, a winter programme is being run and it is being organised by Peter Field, Laurie Schneider, Frank Buckley and Randall Jenvey. Races are set down for Sundays 23rd June, 14th July, 14th August and 25th August, all to start at 1 p.m. from Clontarf. A Slide evening and a Bowls evening are also being organised.

The Balmoral Herons have very generously invited any members who would like more winter sailing to come to their Sunday morning races which will be running for the next ten Sundays. The races will start at 10.55 a.m. from Balmoral, and you must contact John Shipton at 2 Orchard Street, Pymble, Phone 44-8315 before 9 a.m. on the Sunday, so that he can arrange handicaps. Good sailing is promised, but you won't be eligible for prizes.

A pick-up launch has now been purchased, 'experts' called in to advise on what is to be done, and working bees are hard at it with paint brushes and scrubbers.

Balmoral Sailing Club

During the 1962-63 Season, Heron growth at Balmoral has been spectacular. From 3 boats at the beginning of the Season there are now 20 boats registered in the Club at the end of April with promise of almost 12 more next season.

Standard of racing has improved and the newcomers to sailing by way of the Heron are acquitting themselves well. Boats from Balmoral are quite prominent in inter-club competition.

Arrangement was made by the Club to rack 12 Herons. These racks were quickly filled and the waiting list is growing.

A feature of Herons at Balmoral is the way in which the Club has not only retained but gained senior members and their families.

Balmoral was Host Club for the Australian Championship and we thank the Heron Association for giving us the privilege of holding them.

Club Championship for the year was - John Shipton in Quicksilver with Tinkerbell B. Dunn 2nd, and Aphrodite G. Patterson 3rd. Point score results were the same.

A vigorous safety and educational programme was conducted by the Club which was reflected in fewer capsizes and a higher standard of competition.

Philip Hordern, 4 Simpson St. Mosman, is the Hon. Secretary, and will be glad to hear from prospective members.

Western Suburbs Sailing Club

This is the latest club in the Sydney area to sponsor Herons. At present they sail V.S.'s, Moths and O.K.'s, and in taking on Herons will provide convenient sailing for many members in the Western Suburbs. The Club's address is 37 Dorking Rd. Cabarita and is on the western shore of Hen and Chicken Bay on the Parramatta River between Ryde and Gladesville Bridges. The Robinson's map reference is: Map 9. A 7.

The club's history dates from about 1948 when V.S.'s began racing. There is a membership of about 50 and roughly 26 boats hit the water each Saturday for the race which always starts at 2.30 p.m.

The club's facilities include one major and two subsidiary rigging lawns, a concrete ramp which reaches the water except for the bottom half of the tide when it is separated from the water by about 20 yards of sand. Unfortunately storage facilities are strained by existing

boats and they are not able to offer storage for Herons.

Membership fees are £2/12/6 for seniors and £1/1/0 for juniors, race entry is 3/- for each crew member, i.e. 6/- per Heron. The club meets on the second Monday of each month and prospective members are very welcome. The Hon. Sec. is Mr. C. P. Thorne and he is on the 'phone at 75-7035.

Connell's Point Sailing Club

Bert Wright, the club's Publicity officer, reports that their Heron fleet increased from 4 to 16 during the sailing season just concluded.

Extraordinary interest was displayed by visitors to the club in the Herons and it will be surprising indeed if the Connell's Point fleet does not increase by at least 50% in the coming season.

Scratch performer, Fred Hall, in Craven Belle confirmed the handicappers assessment of his and his boat's ability by easily annexing the Club Championship for Herons run over five heats during the season.

Terrific improvement was shown by many of the new members as soon as they got the feel of their boats and a knowledge of the intricacies of the course. Neville Fulthorpe in Wendy Lu and Doug. Hammond in Rikky, in particular, were vying with Fred Hall in all the later races for line honours.

Doug. Hammond feels that he could do even better and already has a new boat shaping up. Ken Dane, who has disposed of Kingo, also has a new hull under construction.

An interesting addition to the fleet towards the end of the season was Bob Wood's Fu-too. Made by Ken Betts, almost entirely from cedar, it is extremely light and from its early outings is a flyer. The keen and active interest shown by the C. P. S. C. Herons in inter-club and regatta events this past season was most noticeable.

Cronulla V. S. Club

This is another new club to take up Herons. They sail in Gunnamatta Bay every Sunday afternoon with V. S. 's and Moths. Lunch and afternoon tea are available at the club house which is soon to be enlarged. Neville Fulthorpe at 23 Cronulla St. Cronulla (tel: 523-5884 bus. or 523-5688 home) has all the gen. and reckons that they will have 8 or 9 boats to start off the new season.

Woollahra Sailing Club

This is the ideal spot for those members who like sailing on the main Harbour, especially if they live in the E. or S. E. Suburbs. While a number of Herons are attached to the club it will not be possible for them to be sponsored unless they turn up regularly for races with a reasonable fleet of boats. To this end Dr. John Apted (tel. 36-6781) is trying to drum up a proper fleet so will any member who would like to sail from Woollahra next season please give him a ring NOW. Racing is conducted every Sunday morning and the club subscription is 3 gns. for a "senior male" down to 10/6 for "Associate (girls)" ---hmm---

Kyeemagh, Palm Beach and Bayview Clubs are also sailing Herons but, apart from hearing that Kyeemagh have moved their venue to Yarra Bay, there has been no news from them.

Moving out of Sydney for news of the country clubs:

Eucumbene S. C.

There are a dozen Herons on the register here and they sail from a clubhouse at Old Adaminaby. Noel Walter, 18 Jerrang St. Cooma North, will be glad to hear from members in the area and also to see any visitors. The club hopes to stage a regatta during the next Christmas holidays - a good opportunity for Sydney and Melbourne Herons to meet.

Canberra Y. M. C. A. Sailing Club

This club has a publicity organisation which puts most others to shame. Twenty-two boats in the water or nearly so, twelve of them Herons, and they put out a monthly club magazine, "Mains'l", worthy of a club with ten times the members. They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery so we make no excuse for modelling this Newsletter along the lines pioneered by "Mains'l". The hardy types are still braving the vagaries of Lake George though by March next year they should have their own Burley Griffin Lake to sail on. The plans of the new Lake look terrific, showing a triangular sailing course 2-3/4 miles round and it says a lot for this active club that they have such a large membership already before they even have their own water. They are putting on a Boat Show in Canberra again this September which will probably attract even more people than last year when over 6,000 people visited it.

One of our most senior and venerable Herons, Lionel Kendall finally pickled for the first time in his life recently -- after 63 years of sailing! Gxxmxxne Mxxdxch please note!

Lake Macquarie Yacht Club

The Heron fleet here is still growing with 10 or 12 boats sailing regularly. The visit en masse of the Sydney contingent the weekend before last Easter was a huge success and marked by the warm hospitality shown to the visitors by the club. Until now Herons here have been considered mainly as training craft but I think that some of the older hands are now having second thoughts, having seen how the elderly Sydney skippers enjoy themselves.

In other country areas of N. S. W. Herons are sailing on Glenbawn Dam near Scone and on Lake Minindee. In Nowra the fleet has grown from one to six boats since Christmas and they are now forming themselves into a club. Sailing is mainly on the Shoalhaven River with occasional excursions to Jervis Bay where the Heron's ability to stand up to heavy conditions has attracted much favourable comment. The Nowra boys would like it known that any Herons visiting the Shoalhaven or Jervis Bay district would be made very welcome and that they can promise good races and bay cruises. The chap to get in touch with is Jim Dallaway at 82 Douglas St. Nowra or Bert. Wright at Vincentia, Jervis Bay.

So much for the Clubs - now for news of some members:

Bryce Mortlock and John Dixon-Hughes made two epic expeditions recently, one from Palm Beach to Brisbane Water and back in the day and the other from Windsor to Wiseman's Ferry at Eastertime. In each case they were both carrying a boatload of boys.

Dr. & Mrs. R. Pearce en route to Melbourne recently, stopped off for a sail at Lake Eucumbene in their Heron TONNANT. Stuck a spinner over the back and promptly hooked a 3lb. trout, their first ever. Try that in a Finn! Incidentally, it was TONNANT which went out to meet BRITANNIA at the Heads when the Queen came to Sydney and the weather was stinking - so now you know which Heron it was which appeared on ABC/TV and hogged the camera.

Frank Jones is building a Northbridge Senior (or 'Javelin) but his many friends will be glad to know that they are not really losing him from the Association as his son, Devon, will continue to belt around the courses in orange-sailed SARANGA.

Bill Youll is harder at it than ever and in between coping with the voluminous correspondence manages to produce all sorts of extra pieces of bumph for the edification of members. The only time he is nonplussed is when he gets involved in correspondence with a member who wants to name his boat after one of the innumerable ornithological names for a Heron. Practically every one has been used already and one has to go pretty far out to get something original nowadays. Some odd things crop up in Bill's mail, too: for example:-

The boy stood on the burning deck,
It was a bloody Heron
He'd spent three years constructing it
And now was well past caring.

The boy stood on the burning deck,
At last he'd done his lolly
And watched the flame ignite the name
He'd called it "Crompton's Folly".

The boy stood on the burning deck,
And dreamt of crap and pool,
But wondered how he would explain
All this to Billy Youll.

This gem of deathless doggerel, by the way, was from the pen of one, K. M. Crompton, sail no. 3618.

There were to have been a few pars here on sailing and building hints but they will keep to the next issue. As Mr. Macmillan said to Mr. Profumo recently, apropos of Miss Keeler, 'this has gone on long enough'.

GOOD SAILING

STOP PRESS

For some months the Association has been negotiating with the Department of Customs and Excise for the duty free entry of English manufactured Buoyancy equipment. The result of this negotiation has been that a much higher proportion of members have been required to pay the 30% ad valorem duty payable on "P. V. C. Bags", which, in the most strict sense, the Buoyancy equipment is.

In an attempt to prove the point that the equipment was not available from local manufacturers, wide enquiries were made, and this has the result of a quotation being received by the Association from a local firm. It is expected that the Buoyancy Kits will be available off the shelf by mid July. This is cold comfort for those who have had to pay duty recently but is a step in the right direction for the Association as a whole.

On the subject of Buoyancy, Rule 19 provides that "Sufficient Buoyancy must be carried to ensure the safety of the crew at all times." Although this applies only to boats while racing, it is a fact that assistance is probably nearer at hand when one is in an organised Regatta than when one is "mucking about in boats". It follows that BUOYANCY SHOULD ALWAYS BE CARRIED. The leaflet on Buoyancy is being redrafted and expanded in the light of the availability of local equipment. A copy will be sent, on request, by the Secretary.

## COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The cover photo was provided by Jack Young (2785 POLLY). As a relaxation from his normal activities behind the cameras with J.C. Young & Richardson at 133 Walker St., North Sydney, Jack likes to shoot Herons and Girls. The Secretary has a good collection of the results and can arrange to get copies of those which appeal to you.

## ACCREDITED BUILDER SCHEME

Not every potential Heron Owner is a handy-man. Those that are not turn to the Professional Builder to have a boat built, or partly built.

If you are a new member and need the services of a Professional Builder, or if one of your friends is similarly placed, get in touch with the Secretary who has a list of all the Builders who have undertaken to guarantee that their product will measure within the tolerances specified by the Association.

Remember, even if you only want the boat for cruising or to teach the children to sail, the chap who buys it from you will, most likely, have other ideas. A boat with an "A" class registration commands a better price than the "not quite good enough" job.

## NOTES

Address for all contributions to the Newsletter

11 Upper Cliff Rd.
Northwood
SYDNEY.

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and at

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Y.W. Heron Sailing Association of Australia

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Introductions to Clubs and other members

If you have a problem or enquiry about the Heron - write to the Secretary, 10 Reid Street, Seaforth.

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