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NEXT ISSUE

Deadline is MAY 1ST, 1980.

COVER PHOTO

Winners of the 21st National Title, Don Jamieson and son, Scott, get the gun in Heat 4 of the series at Hervey Bay.

Photo – Mary Clarke

HERVEY BAY and the 21ST NATIONAL HERON CHAMPIONSHIPS – *by Mary Clarke*

A series not without drama – Len Ralph (Victoria) almost didn't make it when a confrontation with a kangaroo necessitated a 100km tow and much re-arranging of car body work; fortunately his Heron ZORAIDA escaped undamaged.

A series not without excitement – Sandra Verrall chose the middle of the series to present husband, Colin, with his first son.

A series not without disappointment for one young lady. Mary Ann Robertson, Brisbane skipper and Australian representative for the Tasman Cup (selected on her performance in the Invitation Race) was disqualified from all heats when her Heron failed a measurement inspection at the end of the series.

Before Christmas Day sailors, families and Herons began converging on Hervey Bay on Queensland's FUNCOAST, described in the travel brochure as "a huge expanse of water enclosed, in the east, by the world's biggest sand island – Fraser Island." The Bay proved to be a real surprise – 19 kms. of sandy/rocky foreshore, tide receding 200 yards or more then returning to lick the tucks of boats resting on the grassy bank.

SATURDAY, December 29th saw entrants and families gather at the Hervey Bay Sailing Club, which in 12 years has grown from a tent on the beach to an impressive two storey brick clubhouse, to be officially welcomed by QHSA President, Alan Timmins, Mr. Clarrie Millar, M.L.A., Councilman Mel Campbell and other dignatories. In suggesting that the Championship meant many things to many people Alan Timmins summed it up by saying "that not everybody can win but one of the greatest features of sailing is that everybody can set their own individual goals based on current sailing ability and development" – he hoped these goals could be attained during this series.

Mr. Millar, M.L.A. likened the Heron Titles to the dessert following a main course, the main course being the Sydney/Hobart Yacht Race, and suggested that there could be no better place to hold the 21st Titles than in his electorate. Past National Champions and present officers of the National and State Associatioms were introduced and all appreciated the blessing bestowed on the fleet by Father Coote. In officially declaring open the series, Mr. Millar wished all participating smooth sailing and good luck, and all was now in readiness for the traditional dress rehearsal to any National Titles:–

THE INVITATION RACE. A 16 knot wind from the E.S.E. confronted the 77 skippers and crews as they got away to an incident-free start and by the time the first boats had rounded the windward mark the distance between first and last was a good half leg length of the course. Last year's winner, Jim Armitage had OUTCAST (9282) moving cleanly through the chop closely followed by Ian Cull, NSW CHAIN VALLEY BAY (7472), Don Jamieson, NSW ABRACADABRA (9525) and Phil Bessell, SA EIGEN VECTOR (8998). Cull eventually snatched victory over the line followed by EIGEN VECTOR and ABRACADABRA.

A real "first" was established for this series when Phil Bessell of Whyalla, SA. despatched EIGEN VECTOR by road (in care of his son) while he and wife, Judy, sailed their recently completed steel yacht half way around Australia to take his place in the fleet. Phil has only been sailing for five years and is absolutely "hooked", so much so that JUDE was left at anchorage in the Hervey Bay Boat Harbour while the family returned, by road, to Whyalla to compete in the State Titles at the end of January. After that, it's 3 years cruising the near and distant waters of the Southern Hemisphere.

SUNDAY, December 30th – HEAT ONE. Yesterday's carefree attitude had been replaced by a tense determination by skippers running the line, seeking the most advantageous starting position for the first race of the series. This same determined anticipation caused many skippers to be well over the line at the start resulting in GENERAL RECALL NO.1. It was fairly evident that not all

skippers had read their sailing instructions nor were they familiar with procedures following a General Recall and this, together with an "early" sound signal denoting the one minute period, led to GENERAL RECALL NO.2. By now the Race Officer, Lionel Simpson, was doing a quick count of the remaining ammunition.

Third time proved lucky for all but 12 competitors who were caught on the wrong side of the line in breach of the one minute rule and immediately disqualified. Once again Cull showed form by taking CHAIN VALLEY BAY first around the windward mark with CETUS (Peter Davis of Tasmania) in hot pursuit. Unfortunately a shattered mast led to his early retirement from this race. Bessell was closing the gap in EIGEN VECTOR and Armitage moved steadily through the fleet gaining a place on every leg of the course and finally overtaking Bessell and Cull to take the gun. Maryborough skipper, Colin Verrall had KURINANA placed comfortably in 7th position around the first weather mark but faded against some pretty strong opposition.

Result of Heat one –

1.	9282	OUTCAST	Jim Armitage (SA)
2.	8998	EIGEN VECTOR	Phil Bessell (SA)
3.	7472	CHAIN VALLEY BAY	Ian Cull (NSW)
4.	9569	VORTEX GENERATOR	Don Cranch (NSW)
5.	9208	TRIANA	Geoff Jenkinson (NSW)

Best Junior/Lady Performance – 7942 FINESSE – Anne Shipton (NSW)

MONDAY, December 31st – HEAT TWO. A very warm night was followed by a morning which could offer nothing better than a very light sou'easter of 3 or 4 knots. The heavy-weather boys, delighted with the 16 to 18 knots of yesterday, were re-thinking rigging and quietly praying for a big blow. It was not to be, and the disorderly start of yesterday gave way to a perfectly behaved fleet which got away right on time. The light breeze provided some 'new' faces at the first mark and Don Maxwell, S.A. (and Jim Armitage's cousin's son!!) had an armchiar ride in QUE I (6522) around the first two marks only to lose his lead to Mike Arbon, SA STARGAZER (9429) at the third, who, in turn, lost it to Don Jamieson, ABRACADABRA at the fifth.

Meanwhile, back on the Committee boat elapsed times for leg lengths made it clearly evident that the course would have to be shortened to achieve a race result. The decision made, it became a race to the new finishing line to fire the gun and record a winner. While all this had been going on a dramatic change had taken place in the first five positions and 2 hrs. 24 mins. after the start the following results were recorded:

Result of Heat two –

1.	6522	QUE I	Don Maxwell (SA)
2.	9525	ABRACADABRA	Don Jamieson (NSW)
3.	9628	TIME PASSAGES	Bob Lock (NSW)
4.	9429	STARGAZER	Mike Arbon (SA)
5.	9282	OUTCAST	Jim Armitage (SA)

Best Junior – Chris Carey – LITTLE AUSSIE 9671 (Qld.)
Best Lady – S. Robertson – STORMALONG 9181 (Qld.)

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Armitage recovered from a shocking start to be 20th at the first mark and 5th over the line and it seemed that he was in with a real show to capture his third Title.

Being NEW YEAR'S EVE little time was wasted in de-rigging to prepare for what transpired to be a really swinging and informal celebration. Tropical dress ranged from Zulus, to sarongs, to fig leaves (large) to painted faces and, for good measure, our New Zealand guests rendered a Maori Haka.

On the stroke of 9, to the skirl of pipes and the swirl of the Piper's kilt, two burly chefs carried into the hall two magnificently roasted pigs bedecked in candles; a wonderful surprise, the applause actually drowning out the sound of the pipes! Resolutions were made, Alan Taylor of Nth.Qld. actually throwing his tobacco pouch out of the window and vowing never to smoke again! The late hours of 1979 gave way to the early hours of the first day of 1980 and Auld Lang Syne was sung not once, not twice but three times to welcome the appropriate State's New Year.

TUESDAY, January 1st – LAY DAY. Not really – this being the day on which is held the traditional cricket match between the Host State and THE OTHERS. Dundowdran Beach was the venue and those who didn't join in convoy took some time to locate the "fleet". With much pomp and ceremony the wicket ends (Westminster carpet) were laid on sandflats recently vacated by the tide – what you might call "a sticky wicket" where one could easily be "caught in slops."

King of Kurrimine, Geoff Higham, was elected CHIEF UMPIRE and gave some highly questionable decisions, not always supported by the dozen or so other umpires scattered around the "field". Running between wickets was positively dangerous and in a quick run between wickets Phil Owens, Qld. managed to take carpet, stumps and bails with him well into the outfield. Many a fine delivery was foiled by a non-rising ball and, with the home team in for first bat, it seemed that some dastardly plot was afoot to prevent THE OTHERS from ever getting a knock. Strength of numbers prevailed and I'm pleased to report that the record remains intact, a victory to THE OTHERS - Victoria, be prepared.

The heat of the day, fatigue from New Year celebrating and vigorous cricket play saw many Heroners departing early to prepare for tomorrow's race.

WEDNESDAY, January 2nd – HEAT THREE. Confronted with a 4-knot breeze struggling in from the east, 76 hardy souls prepared for another slow race and a perfect start was marred only by the disqualification of Peter Davis in CETUS for failing to answer an individual recall. But his was not to be the ONLY disqualification that day.

Mike Arbon had STARGAZER moving smoothly, was first around the windward mark and held his lead for the next four legs. Jamieson had moved through the fleet to join him and first one, then the other, led the fleet until the final work when Jamieson crossed the line for a very short-lived victory. To quote the Chronicle's headline of the following morning "RACE BLUNDER – WINNER WAS NOT ENTERED". It was true, Jamieson returned victorious to the beach only to discover that he had failed to sign on and therefore did not rank as a starter.

Amended result of Heat three –

1.	9429	STARGAZER	Mike Arbon (SA)
2.	9620	BEJUGARAWAY	Ray Hale (VIC)
3.	7472	CHAIN VALLEY BAY	Ian Cull (NSW)
4.	9230	HAKATERE	John Stannard (NSW)
5.	7003	KURINANA	Colin Verrall (QLD)

Best Junior/Lady Performance – 7942 FINESSE – Anne Shipton (NSW)

By this time ace New Zealander skipper, Colleen Worters, was totally perplexed with her results, disqualification in the first heat, 53rd place in the second and retirment from the third due to a broken rudder.

Don Maxwell, winner of Heat two, was also pondering his future; broken mast in the first heat, winner of the second, retirement from the third due to a stripped shackle thread.

Colin Verrall, Qld. had had his best result of the series with a 5th placing and Peter Carey, Club Commodore, finished 12th.

After a woeful 35th in Heat One, Cull had come back into contention with a creditable third and the series appeared to be wide open at this point.

THURSDAY, January 3rd – HEAT FOUR. Having finally made up its mind to change direction from the sou'east to east of north, the wind dropped out altogether and even the locals were bemoaning the lack of "normal" breeze. This was quickly turning into a light-weather series. A combination of tide and frustration caught many of the 78 starters over the line for a General Recall. Only five were caught the second time and at the end of the first work a whole new crop had stolen a march on the now familiar leading faces. North Queensland skipper, Mark Higham, had CLARISSA in front around the first mark closely followed by Alex Cawsey, NSW (WENDAL), Chris Carey, Qld. (LITTLE AUSSIE), A McIntosh, NSW (BUNA BAROO) and Richie Imlay, NSW (INFERNO). But at the end of the first triangle Jamieson was making his own form of magic in ABRACADABRA and had moved into third place. By the second triangle he had gained the lead and an unfortunate shift of wind back to the sou'east made it impossible for him to be overtaken on what had become a soldier's course. The blunder of yesterday had not been repeated today and he was duly recorded first place getter.

Results for Heat four –

1.	9525	ABRACADABRA	Don Jamieson (NSW)
2.	8777	CLARISSA	Mark Higham (NQ)
3.	5731	WENDAL	Alex Cawsey (NSW)
4.	9500	DAEMON	Ian Cook (NSW)
5.	9628	TIME PASSAGES	Bob Lock (NSW)

Best Junior – 8559 INFERNO Richie Imlay (NSW)
Best Lady – 6912 COLSAND – Colleen Worters (NZ)

With only one heat remaining it seemed that the Silver Heron would fly from its previous home in South Australia to a new nest in New South Wales.

FRIDAY, January 4th – HEAT FIVE. High tide reduced the rigging area to a narrow strip of sand and, having launched through a 2' surf most were anxious to be out on the water and away from the shore heat. Where there had been some wind previously, now there was none and at 9.45 a.m. the Postponement flag was hoisted and another hour went by before the first suggestion of a breeze fluttered in from the north. A starboard course was signalled (a change from all others sailed to port) and 75 starters were off in search of the 4 knot zephyr puffing, intermittently, from the sea. ABRACADABRA was first around the windward mark and never headed; in fact, at the end of the 6th leg Jamieson had opened up a 3 minute lead from 9620 BEJUGARAWAY, Ray Hale, 9569 VORTEX GENERATOR, Don Cranch and 9643 CATHY-O Alan Timmins. A freshening breeze towards the end of the race came far too late for either Cull or Armitage to improve their finishing places of 5th and 8th respectively. Chris Carey appeared to have a firm grasp on the Junior Title (a first for Queensland) and Anne Shipton was shaping up as the Best Lady Skipper for the series.

Results for Heat five –

1.	9525	ABRACADABRA	Don Jamieson (NSW)
2.	9620	BEJUGARAWAY	Ray Hale (Vic)
3.	7411	ZORAIDA	Len Ralph (VIC)
4.	9643	CATHY-O	Allan Timmins (QLD)
5.	7472	CHAIN VALLEY BAY	Ian Cull (NSW)

Best Junior 9671 LITTLE AUSSIE – Chris Carey (QLD)
Best Lady 7942 FINESSE – Anne Shipton (NSW)

As is the usual practice the winning boats were check-measured following the fifth and final heat and after much discussion and deliberation the Race Committee announced the disqualification of Mary Ann Robertson for use of a short-length gaff and upheld the Jamieson first placing.

NOTE: The final placings appear on pages 7 and 8.

PRESENTATION DINNER – THE PLACE, URANGAN. A time to re-sail every race between long, cool drinks and to deliberate on individual performances. A time for the giving of prizes, both serious and humorous, which Margaret Higham and Helen Carey did with much charm and warmth. A time for the cutting of a magnificent 21st birthday cake, an honour bestowed on your humble scribe. A time for thanking so many people, identified amd unidentified, who made this 21st series happen.

As does an army march on its stomach so do Heron sailors perform at their best when well victualled and those dedicated Canteen ladies saw to it that no man, woman or child went hungry or thirsty. We also extend our very grateful thanks to Colin Loney and the gang aboard the M.V.LAURA (affectionately known to all as THE AFRICAN QUEEN), the boys who manned the rescue boats and those who anchored, in the heat, at rounding stations giving leg-by-leg placings, course setter extraordinaire, David Lewis, my fellow pencillers Oopsie Jones and Nev Robinson, Dianne and Trevor Jones, two people thrown into a difficult job which they did extremely well.

Much of the preliminary work for this series was set in motion by the Brisbane based Queensland Heron Sailing Association but I'm sure that Alan Timmins, John McKeown and Lionel Simpson will join with the National Committee in extending a very big thank you to a relatively small group of people at the Hervey Bay Sailing Club who turned in a very big effort when it was required.

And finally our thanks must go to two modern-day pioneers of the HERON CLASS, Peter Carey and Colin Verrall who, three years ago, convinced the Association that this 21st anniversary series should be held at Hervey Bay when the total Heron population at that time was just one boat. Three years of hard work have seen the Heron fleet grow and I'm sure this growth, on QUEENSLAND'S FUNCOAST, is absolutely assured for another 21 years.

The Heron has a magnificant record, offering much more to families than any other centreboard class in Australia and we should all be justifiably proud when celebrating this, the twenty-first year of Herons in Australia.

FINAL PLACINGS –

1.	9525	ABRACADABRA	Don Jamieson (NSW0	18 pts.
2.	9282	OUTCAST	Jim Armitage (SA)	36
3.	9429	STARGAZER	Mike Arbon (SA)	36.7
4.	7472	CHAIN VALLEY BAY	Ian Cull (NSW)	40.4
5.	9620	BEJUGARAWAY	Ray Hale (Vic)	41
6.	9230	HAKATERE	John Stannard (NSW)	47.7
Best Junior:	9671	LITTLE AUSSIE 24th overall and	Chris Carey (QLD)	114 pts.
Best Lady:	7942	FINESSE 29th overall and	Miss Anne Shipton (NSW)	121 pts.

Best skipper over 50 – Jim Armitage – S.A.

Encourage trophy to – 9430 – EASY LIVING – D. Postan (junior)

FULL RESULTS NEXT PAGE.

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21st NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - FULL RESULTS

Pl.	No.	BOAT NAME	SKIPPER	Best Four Heats				Pts.
1	9525	ABRACADABRA	D.Jamieson (N)	9	2	1	1	18
2	9292	OUTCAST	J.Armitage (SA)	1	5	7	7	36
3	9429	STARGAZER	M.Arbon (SA)	11	4	1	6	36.7
4	7472	CHAIN VALLEY BAY	T. Cull (N)	3	3	12	5	40.4
5	9620	BEJUGARAWAY	R. Hale (V)	14	9	2	2	41
6	9230	HAKATERE	J. Stannard (N)	8	8	4	6	47.7
7	9569	VORTEX GENERATOR	D. Cranch (N)	4	7	8	7	48
8	9500	DAEMON	I. Cook (N)	6	9	4	9	49.7
9	9628	TIME PASSAGES	R. Lock (N)	3	16	5	12	55.7
10	9643	CATHY-D	A. Timmins (Q)	12	14	10	4	63
11	9208	TRIANA	G. Jenkinson (N)	5	14	11	16	69
12	9506	CAREW	P.Carey (Q)	11	12	AP.21	10	72
13	8985	MARAMA	C.McPhee (SA)	18	6	12	15	74.7
14	8777	CLARISSA	M.Higham (Q)	20	22	2	19	82
15	7003	KURINANA	C. Verrall (Q)	12	5	21	22	83
16	8088	KOALA	M. Groves (N)	24	6	14	17	84.7
17	5703	DEFT	A. Imlay (N)	19	15	18	9	85
18	8976	DEES-YAH	R. Goldfinch (SA)	7	27	15	15	88
18=	9171	DELIVERANCE	R. Burgers (N)	17	18	8	21	88
18=	9517	TERRI-LOU	D. Quinn (Q)	16	21	13	14	88
21	9576	RASTUS	D. Llewellyn (N)	21	12	19	18	94
22	7411	ZORAIDA	L. Ralph	29	23	20	3	95.7
23	9646	DOONEY'S FIDDLE	D. Straker (Q)	23	31	20	13	111
24	9671	LITTLE AUSSIE	C. Carey (Q-J)	27	16	25	22	114
25	9601	REVENGE	A. Palfreyman (T)	42	10	17	23	116
26	8559	INFERNO	R. Imlay (N-J)	40	19	16	31	130
27	8775	DOMINO	A. Morgan (T)	32	20	26	33	135
28	8913	PICCOLO	J. McKeown (Q)	13	46	11	43	137
29	7942	FINESSE	A.Shipton (N-J-F)	25	17	35	38	139
30	8028	TIRA VENTO	P. Quinn (Q-J)	30	40	21	25	150
30=	9113	EST	T. Higham (Q)	33	32	32	29	150
32	9110	CETUS	P. Davis (T)	10	28	DSQ	11	152
33	9660	CIELITO	K. Guttler (Q)	45	39	23	26	157
34	8738	ONEDIN	R. Pearce (N-J)	36	47	18	36	161
34=	9606	FLAMBOYA	A. Reed (Q)	44	33	30	30	161
36	6232	TARI	K. Gregory (Q)	35	21	26	57	163
37	9608	WIND DANCER	T. Robertson (Q)	26	41	29	44	164
38	9484	JIMPY-Q	J. Quinn (Q)	31	34	28	48	165
39	7451	BUNABAROO	A. McIntosh (N)	52	17	31	40	166
40	9220	RADAR	R. Holmes (N)	39	22	42	41	168
41	9484	DRIFTALONG	A. Bullock (Q)	48	26	39	35	169
42	7653	SKADI JNR,	G. Birch (Q)	43	36	40	27	170
43	6763	ANDEVE	G. Clifford (Q)	28	30	34	56	172
44	9582	TWILIGHT	P. Timmins (Q-J)	37	27	36	54	178
45	7390	TIGER	I. Dorward (Q)	29	44	47	39	183
46	9181	STORMALONG	S. Robertson (Q-J-F)	54	25	51	39	193
47	9489	RAPAD	R. Watts (N)	59	36	32	44	195
48	6522	QUEI	D. Maxwell (SA)	DNS	1	DNF	20	196
49	8521	RUM JUG	D. Malcolm (SA)	46	49	33	46	198
50	9430	EASY LIVING	D. Postan (Q-J)	58	55	29	34	200
51	9592	DING-HO	J. Owens (Q-F)	43	44	49	42	202
52	9607	TOUCHE	A. F elding (Q-J)	50	41	45	49	209
52=	6186	MIKA	T. Jackson (Q)	53	48	47	37	209
54	8206	UNITY TOO	D.McDonald (Q)	49	50	50	41	214
55	9166	LINCOLN	B. Neeley (Q)	52	37	69	33	215
56	8998	EIGEN VECTOR	P. Bessell (SA)	2	37	DSQ	DNS	216
57	5731	WENDAL	A. Cawsey (N)	DNS	35	3	DNF	216.7
58	9187	BULL JOE	J. Burgers (N)	41	45	49	58	217
58=	9523	DYNAMITE	P.Owens (Q)	42	38	61	52	217

Results continued:

60	6912	COLSAND	C.WOrters (NZ-F)	51	DNF	27	45	226
61	9639	FRENESI	P.Robinson (Q)	47	55	54	51	231
62	9476	PAKAJAS	P. Gilchrist (SA)	38	64	45	61	232
63	9526	WATERLOO	D. Cresswell (Q)	65	42	48	59	238
64	9231	ANNACONDA	A. Timmins (Q-J-F)	62	57	54	47	244
65	9264	PIPPAPIM	R. Sim (N)	55	54	53	62	248
66	6791	SHEZAGOA	S. Koch (SA-J)	34	66	65	67	256
67	9656	TAKARI	B. Timmins (Q)	70	56	55	53	258
68	9415	THE SEA EAGLE	B. Makins (N)	57	56	62	64	263
69	9587	PARDON ME	M. Ralph (V-F)	53	67	62	61	266
69=	9591	SEA JADE	C. Simpson (Q-J)	51	68	63	60	266
71	8244	PAX DOMINI	G. Higham (Q)	60	53	58	DSQ	274
72	7165	NAUTILUS	L.Holborow (Q)	66	59	59	66	275
73	9427	PURPLE PERIL	C. McKeown (Q-F)	69	58	64	63	278
74	9654	K-05	G. Farry (Q-J)	72	68	57	65	286
75	9425	TULLAMORE DEW	D. Fielding (Q)	56	67	67	DNF	293
76	4205	WIKI WIKI	C. Thompson (N)	DNF	DNF	63	68	313
77	8378	CORAL SEA	R. Anderson (Q)	73	DNS	DNF	DNS	334
78	6219	BLUE JACKET	W. Fielding (Q)	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	340
78=	8365		T.McDougall (T)	"	"	"	"	340
78=	8743	LIZZIE	S. Foster (Q)	"	"	"	"	340
78=	9275	SHARLIS	R. Jones (N)	"	"	"	"	340
78=	9518	FALCON	J.Miller (Q)	"	"	"	"	340
78=	9534	RENEGADE	L. Morris (N)	"	"	"	"	340
78=	9644		M.Robertson (Q-F)	DSQ	DSQ	DSQ	DSQ	340

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22ND NATIONALS VICTORIA 1980/81

In this column we have been trying to get across to you that the next Nationals will be one not to miss. In addition to fine competition, good sailing and wonderful fellowship there are some good side attractions in Melbourne and surroundings, at that time of the year.

One such attraction is F.E.I.P. which stands for Free Entertainment in the Parks. It is the world's biggest free entertainment programme and was introduced by the Melbourne City Council Parks Gardens and Recreations Department in the summer of 72/73 when 80 artists performed. This year 28,500 artists will present a varied programme throughout the summer in 219 festivals.

For example, this year the 3rd to 6th January was "Kingdom of Pop" week with lunchtime concerts on each day and a Sunday afternoon concert in the Myer Music Bowl entitled "The Elvis Presley Story". The 7th to 13th January was "Jazz Week" when Australia's top jazz bands gave two-hour lunchtime concerts and assembled on Sunday at the Myer Music Bowl for a non-stop five hour programme. All free.

We draw your attention to some safety requirements specified by the V.Y.C. which may not already be on your boat.

Yachts shall be fitted at the bow with a solid stainless steel ring of not less than 25mm internal diameter and 4mm thickness through which a towing line can be passed.

Rudder pins or pintles shall be drilled and fitted with a stainless steel retaining pin to secure the rudder.

All yachts shall have placed on the hull, externally, preferably on the transom, in letters and figures of minimum height of 20mm –

(a) The name of the Club in full.
(b) Registered name of the yacht.
(c) Registered number of the yacht.
(d) Class name.

e.g. Heron 8000 Big Bird Elwood S.C.

ACCOMMODATION FOR THE 1980/81 NATIONALS

Caravan and Camping Parks

Springvale: 870 Princes Highway (approx. 20Km from Elwood). 120 sites, 18 on-site vans approx. $18 per night. No tent sites.

Dingley Village: Tootals Road, Dingley (approx. 20Km from Elwood). 150 sites, 16 on-site vans (more coming), approx. $18 per night, have tent sites.

Braeside: Lower Dandenong Road (approx. 22Km from Elwood). 70 sites, will take tents; no on-site vans.

There are other parks at Brooklyn, Footscray, Sunshine, Doncaster East, Aspendale, Chelsea, etc. However, all of these are further afield than the three above and some are of doubtful quality.

Hotels – Motels – Flats.

There are many motels etc. in the Elwood area, too numerous to list. We suggest that you consult a copy of the "Accommodation Guide" published by the R.A.C.V. & R.A.A. and available from your local motoring club. Look for accommodation in the following areas –

Elwood, St. Kilda, Melbourne, Middle Park and South Yarra.

Should you require any specific advice please contact our "Titles Secretary", Miss Cheryl Clarke, 5 Bella Court, Mulgrave, 3170.

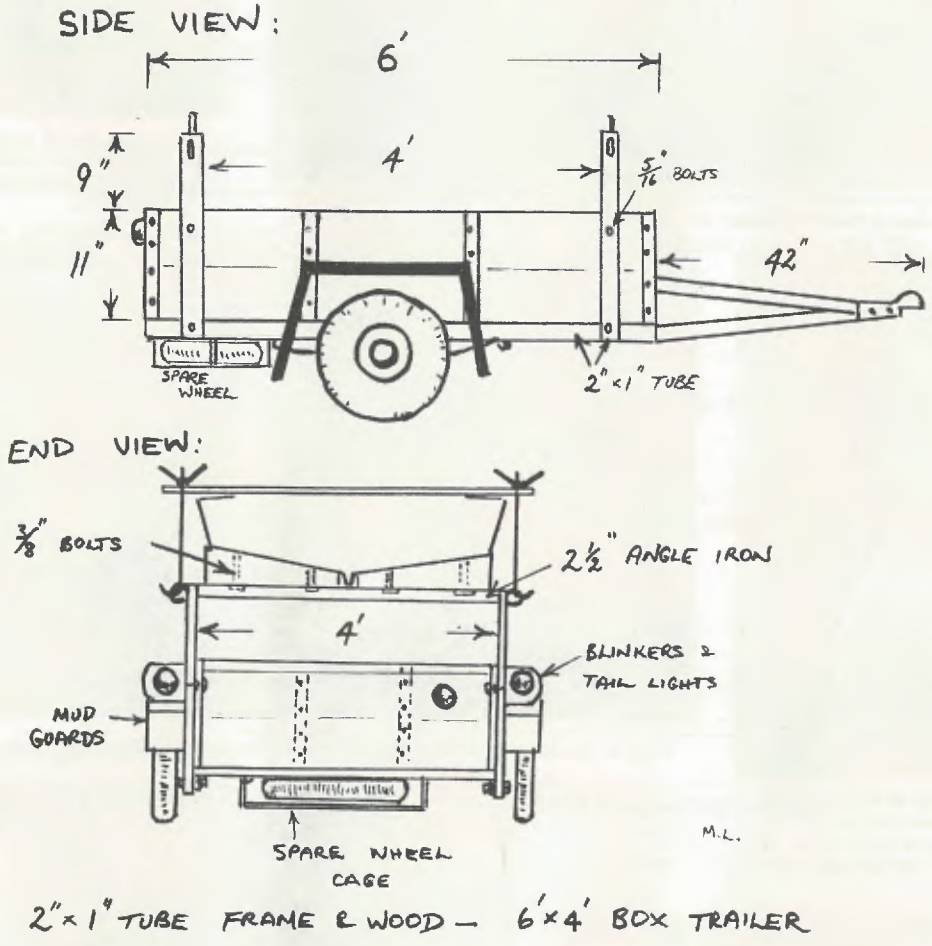
We strongly suggest that you make your bookings as soon as possible, particularly if you want on-site caravans.

HANDY HINTS AND IDEAS SECTION – BOX TRAILER CONVERSION

With the price of boat trailers sky-rocketing, you might like to convert a standard box trailer into an extremely efficient work-horse. Max Luders, long-time member of the Association, provides us with some fine drawings.

The frame is of 2" x 1" steel tube welded together with the bottom and sides of hard wood bolted on with ¼" R/H gutter bolts, the tray size is 6' x 4'.

He did recommend that the mud-guards need to be sturdy and bolted on as you have to stand on them quite often when loading and unloading or making adjustments.



YOUR TREASURER REPORTS –

For four years, from 1976 to 1980, your annual subscription has remained at $8 but due to a continuing reduction in membership (by one-third over the last 10 years) and continuous increases in all costs including printing, postages and administrative expenses I was obliged to recommend to the Management Committee that the annual subscription for 1980/81 increase from $8 to $10 and the registration fee increase from $4 to $5. This recommendation was accepted and takes effect from 1st February, 1980 (including the two months carry-over period to 1st April.)

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Almost the entire fleet at the start of a heat of the 21st Nationals at Herbey Bay.

Tasmanian entry, Anthony Morgan's DOMINO almost looks as it's sailing itself at the 21st Nationals. Anthony finished 27th.

Don Maxwell (S.A.) had QUE I moving smoothly in the second heat of the 21st Nationals — he was rewarded with a win.

Start of the Invitation Race preceding the 21st National Championships at Hervey Bay

A sticky wicket and alert fielding by Roger Shipton halted the progress of Tom Robertson, hope of the Queensland team.

First Lady, and a charming one at that, ably assisted by father, John, and coached by grandfather, Alec Barrett (too shy for the camera!)

Don Jamieson and son Scott sailed ABRACADABRA to win the 21st National Titles.

Mike Arbon, proving that it really is a family class with son and daughter crewing STARGAZER to 3rd place.

John Stannard (sixth place), not content with a borrowed boat, HAKATERE, had a choice of crew with the Higham girls plus one.

1st Junior Chris Carey and crew – if you think his is a big grin, you should have seen proud parents, Peter and Helen Carey.

Father and daughter combination, Jim and Sharon Armitage, runners-up in OUTCAST.

Ian Cull another consistent performance to finish fourth in CHAIN VALLEY BAY ably assisted by his young crew.

Ray Hale and his charming daughter kept the Victorian flag flying in BEJARAWAY and finished fifth.

Colin Verrall – had probably the most exciting week of anybody at the series. A brand new son right in the middle of the event plus a lucky 21st place prize in the 3rd heat and finishing 15th overall.

THEY DON'T FEEL THE COLD – THEY'RE BRITISH!

During a recent trip to Britain, Heather and I attempted to take in some of the sailing scene of that country.

As a point of interest, we saw varnished dinghies, yachts, cruisers etc., many of them quite old, but with varnish in good condition due to their lesser dosing of ultraviolet than we experience here.

Herons were encountered at Longleat, home of the Marquess of Bath, whose private Lake Shearwater is in his front yard about 2km from the mansion. Shearwater is 120 metres wide and continues some distance upstream, but we were fascinated to see craft other than Herons hoisting spinnakers for reaches of only 100 metres. The speed and efficiency of the for'ard hands is amazing.

Kingsmead near Heathrow Airport is a water-filled gravel pit of 100 acres and dotted with islands. Due to the islands, a complex course involving up to 9 buoys is used, the fleet is often out of sight of the start (which is a shack on an island) and many laps are sailed per race due to the confined water space available.

Competitors rounding the start island were passing within 2½metres of the shore. The start line was 35 metres long and I gaped at a scratch start involving 30 odd Herons, GP 14's, Solos, Optimists, Graduates, Mirrors, Fireballs etc, scrambling, luffing and calling 'starboard' until they were sorted out. For all that confusion there were no collisions – the sailing skill under these conditions was unbelievable.

Sailing is on all through the year except when ice is too thick on the water. In winter 1978/79 the ice was five inches thick. (I did not let on that at Speers Point we do not sail Herons in winter because we find the weather too cold.)

Wet suits are worn at all times and in the event of a winter capsize the crew must be rescued within 30 seconds.

Races are organised to last 75-90 minutes.

Kingsmead has 200 craft all stored in the open, most have a tailored canvas cover with the permanently rigged mast and gaff protruding through. Few boats are trailed home due to traffic and insufficient yard (garden) space so repairs are effected only on race days.

Herons are equipped with metal stem and keel bands, and bilge rubbers. Finish and refinement of English Herons is often less than ours but full marks go to their sailors who will race in any sort of puddle and in all weathers.

We in the land of Aus. are blessed with beautiful lakes and waterways of massive expanses, good weather, good winds, boundless sunshine (the Poms really envy our suntan – even mine) and immaculately prepared Herons, so do be grateful for what we take for granted in our wonderful country. If and when you go to Britain contact Heron sailors who will surely treat you to the great hospitality that we received.

Heather and Alan Davidson,
CINCHONA 9292 – Speers Point.

At the Middle Harbour Children's Christmas Party every year is a special event – the children's model yacht race – the prize being a coveted shield. Handicapping such an event is always difficult – this year it was even more so, when Scott Hatfield entered a Heron (C class) – a handicapper's nightmare. It sure looked the part – unfortunately the performance was disappointing, as a matter of fact it was on the verge of drowning. Next year's Mark II we are told will be more buoyant. (see photo)

WELCOME TO WHYALLA – *by Mary Clarke*

And what a welcome – to the venue for the 15th S.A. State Titles. A venue not very well patronised by Metropolitan sailors who will assuredly regret their decision when word gets back to them about this fantastic Championship week-end.

The Tourist brochure mentioned quite a lot about the scenic attractions of the district, being the coastal gateway to white sandy beaches and fronting the warm waters of Spencer Gulf but it did not prepare you for the overwhelming friendship and hospitality extended by "Whyallians"!!

My visit to Whyalla was instigated some 6 months ago, encouraged further by the South Australians competing at Hervey Bay and culminated in my being driven from Adelaide by George Richardson, President of the S.A.H.S.A. and his charming wife, Marj, along the North Road, past the Flinders Ranges, over the top at Port Augusta and down the other side to Whyalla.

The B.H.P. Steelworks dominate the town, and in fact, the Whyalla Yacht Club stands on land owned by B.H.P., a company which has fostered the Club's growth with very tangible evidence of support. Launching is from a wide steel ramp (see photograph) and throughout the week-end the Sea Cadets did a magnificent job transporting boats and crews on and off the water. The 31 actual starters (there were 35 entries) were treated to the most efficient on-water protection from 7 power boats regimentally controlled by "Alf" in SEA RESCUE.

Not to be outdone, the ladies on land provided Chicken lunches and steak dinners which meant that those long suffering, land locked wives and mothers who tend the needs of wet and hungry sailors were able to enjoy a well-earned rest.

Mother nature did her bit by providing a variety of sailing winds over the week from 35 knots on Saturday to a light 8 knotter on the Monday morning resulting in a closely contested series won by that OUTCAST, Jim Armitage from PAPRIKA sailed by Jeff Jones of the Wallaroo Sailing Club and Brian Caddy from Lake Bonney Club in STORM BOY.

I would like to congratulate, most sincerely, Cec Pudney, Commodore of the Whyalla Yacht Club and his more than willing band of helpers, (too numerous to name here) for providing me with a most enjoyable week-end and, more importantly, for restoring my faith in the belief that the Heron class can be the most successful and respected Dinghy class sailing in Australia today.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Most of the long travels are over for the season and we are now looking for some home sailing. Some of the restless members, however, are already thinking about going to Lake Boga for Easter (they'll be there by now). Eight boats made the trip to Hervey Bay for the National Titles and had a very mixed bag of luck. Congratulations to Jim Armitage (OUTCAST) and Mike Arbon (STARGAZER) for coming second and third. Both have expressed their thoughts on the superb wins in the last three heats by the eventual winner Don Jamieson (ABRACADABRA).

To Don Maxwell goes the "ups and down" trophy. His first four results were 1. D.N.S., 2. 1st, 3. D.N.F. 4. Disq. Mike Arbon must have used his astral navigation (thus the boat name) to steer a great course through the coral reefs of Hervey Bay for a great heat win. To the Hervey Bay Club and to all of the Queenslanders we offer our thanks for a great social week.

If you see a Heron steered from the top of a gaff it will be Stephen Koch (SHEEZAGOA) because he has been there ever since a dugong passed under his rudder and he jumped that high with fright.

It is with very mixed feelings that I write now about the State Titles of Whyalla. Those who have been around for a long time say that they were one of the best organized there has been. The Whyalla Club could not have done a better job. The weatherman did his best too. After a bit of helter skelter first heat in puffy up to 30 knots, the wind settled down to steady 5-10 for three most pleasant sails.

The tragedy was that only 31 Herons were there to enjoy it, and almost all of them from four clubs; nine from Port River. State titles are the focus of the year's sailing and it is sad that so few took part in them. I am sure that next year at Grange many amends will be made. There could (should) be 100 boats if enough talk is about, we certainly hope so.

We were very pleased that Mary Clarke could make the trip because it is always a pleasure to enjoy her company. Finally to the two Georges (Richardson and Robertson) thanks for your work for the States.

Results:
1st OUTCAST (Jim Armitage); 2nd PAPRIKA (Jeff Jones); 3rd STORM BOY (Brian Caddy).
1st Vicitor: GUNNAGETYA (Alex Hayter).
1sr Junior: EDITH J. (R. Butt).
1st Lady: MALUNA (Anne Robertson).
Largs Bay Shield for best team: Port River Sailing Club.
OUTCAST (Jim Armitage); DEES YAH (Roger Goldfinch); MARAMA (Craig McPhee); MALUNA (Anne Robertson).

Congratulations again Jim Armitage and to the rest of the teams at the State Titles at Whyalla. Our eight entrants are all to be thanked for representing the Club so well.

The new rescue boat (George Robertson) is now through its trials and is a credit to the club.

VICTORIAN NEWS — *from Alan Clarke*

The pre-Christmas season saw varying conditions as is usual with some clubs getting in more sails than others.

Peter Williamson is suffering from lack of competition at Mordialloc and would like to see some of the old faces on the water, new faces will of course also be welcome.

The Westernport Christmas sailors were back at it again and doing well according to Jim Douglas.

At Beaumaris Keith Hepworth managed to drag the Lockwoods down to the water (not that they needed much dragging) and he is pleased to see newcomer Alex Langford at the Club. Another sailor he has sent out a search party for is Jane Hall who rumour has it is restoring her boat.

Elwood boys are busily flying around their waters with Rear Commodore Graham East doing quite well, giving the veteran Len Ralph something to think about.

The only place where Heron sailors have not missed a Saturday sail is Albert Park and their numbers continue to grow. Ex Moth sailor Raymond Martin has added a new dimension this season and when he can get his boat to stay together he will be a force to be reckoned with. New members Joe Archibald, Chas Todd and Chas Hock are going well. John Carter ex President S.A.H.S.A. has been sighted in Melbourne and says he may be sailing soon.

Another growing fleet is sailing at Lake Boga where Ray Hale has gathered around him quite a number of new sailors. News from the Lake is scarce because Ray has lost his pen, but we do congratulate him on his performance in the Nationals in Queensland.

Bob Lewis in Portland is also trying to add to their fleet and recently added another boat to the club register.

By the time this newsletter goes to press we will have completed our Junior Championships which are held on 10th February when our juniors up to 18 years will do battle on Albert Park Lake.

We remind all members of our State Titles to be held at Mordialloc on the Labour Day weekend 8th, 9th and 10th March.

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS – *Bruce Morrissey (9191)*

The State Championships were hosted by Dobroyd Aquatic Club over the long weekend in January. With only one recall and not one protest the series turned out to be a very friendly and successful weekend for all.

Spectators who gathered on Rodd Point had a marvellous view of each heat and were able to encourage or abuse their boats as they rounded the point.

The only unfortunate thing to happen during the series was that Chris Lloyd-Owen suffered a mild heart attack, he was taken to hospital by ambulance and we have since learned that he is recovering at home. We look forward to seeing RUFUS on the water in the near future.

It's not very often that a champion can successfully defend his title, but Don Jamieson proved he's a champ by finishing the series with a point score of zero. Winning the first head in a fairly stiff breeze, to winning the third, fourth and fifth heats in varying wind conditions, Don proved his worth as a helmsman.

The results of the heats were:

Heat 1.	1.	ABRACADABRA	9525	Don Jamieson
	2.	CHAIN VALLEY BAY	7472	Ian Cull
	3.	DAEMON	9500	Ian Cook
Heat 2.	1.	DAEMON	9500	Ian Cook
	2.	VORTEX GENERATOR	9569	Don Cranch
	3.	CHAIN VALLEY BAY	7472	Ian Cull
Heat 3.	1.	ABRACADABRA	9525	Don Jamieson
	2.	TICKLED PINK	9580	Warwick Jacobson
	3.	CHAIN VALLEY BAY	7472	Ian Cull
Heat 4.	1.	ABRACADABRA	9525	Don Jamieson
	2.	TRIANA	9208	Geoff Jenkinson
	3.	CHAIN VALLEY BAY	7472	Ian Cull
Heat 5.	1.	ABRACADABRA	9525	Don Jamieson
	2.	ENTERPRISE	9585	Bill Parry
	3.	DAEMON	9500	Ian Cook
Final Placings:				
	1.	ABRACADABRA	9525	Don Jamieson
	2.	DAEMON	9500	Ian Cook
	3.	CHAIN VALLEY BAY	7472	Ian Cull
	4.	TRIANA	9208	Geoff Jenkinson
	5.	TICKLED PINK	9580	Warwick Jacobson
	6.	VORTEX GENERATOR	9569	Don Cranch

TASMANIAN NEWS – *Peter Davis (9110)*

Nationals:

Congratulations to Don Jamieson and other leading Heron skippers on their success in the very well run and enjoyable National series conducted by the Queensland Heron Sailing Association. Three Tasmanian skippers made the long trip North to compete in the titles this year, namely Andrew Palfreyman (9601, REVENGE), Anthony Morgan (8775, DOMINO) and myself (9110, CETUS).

A feature of the Championships for the Tasmanians was the tremendous welcome extended to us, and the number of friends made from the different States. Sailing in the big fleet also proved to be great experience, and we gained placings of 25th, 28th and 31st respectively. Andrew had some trouble keeping his mast in one piece, and I had a few problems keeping CETUS on the right side of the line at the start. . .

State Championships:

At the time of this newsletter the 1980 State Titles will have been decided. Yet another different venue is to be tried this year, as we are being hosted by the Lauderdale Yacht Club.

Lauderdale is only 25 kilometres from Hobart, so it will not be necessary for the entire Lindisfarne contingent to camp beside the beach, as was the case last year at Spring Bay.

The club is situated on the shores of Frederick Henry Bay, and so different conditions will be experienced from those on the Derwent. Thus no-one will have any home ground advantage, and a close series is expected. SNOWBIRD (Mark Rasmussen), JAPHER (John Bridley), WIWIRRI (Kevin Robinson), REVENGE and CETUS have all displayed some form this season and may be among the placegetters.

Another skipper to watch will be past State Champion James Andrewartha (WOT NOT). James has decided to leave his other boats in the garage (a 470 and a Laser) and make a temporary return to the joys of sailing a Heron.

The lady skippers will also be out in force, with at least four intrepid girls taking to the water to do battle with the men (and the wind). At this stage Vivien Coleman (JACARILLA) looks a strong chance for the ladies' trophy, as she has been sailing very consistently each week and successfully completing the course the right way up in some very strong wind conditions. Andrea Lock, Cathie Lawrie and Helen Davis are all expected to sail well.

Club Racing:

Racing at Lindisfarne this season has been quite interesting, with several different skippers finding themselves at the head of the fleet. The first line honours pennant was won by WIWIRRI from JACARILLA and REVENGE and in the handicap pennant these same three boats found their consistency rewarded, with the order being JACARILLA, WIWIRRI, REVENGE.

At the time of writing the approach of the regattas has seen an upsurge of interest in the class, with good fleets of around 15 boats being entered in each event. So long as some better wind conditions arrive, good racing is expected (the Kingston Regatta saw us attempting to sail in gusts recorded at 50 knots).

Other News:

The main social cum sailing event planned at the moment is a fun day at Orford in company with the Spring Bay Boat Club on 23/2/80. These excursions have become an annual feature for Heroners sailing in Tasmania, and provide an opportunity for getting together for some non-serious sailing in a social atmosphere, something which is not seen in many other dinghy classes.

Novelty events in the past have included a race under jib and spinnaker only (in a drifter!) and a race in which the crew of each boat was increased from one to three on successive laps of the course. Another annual event is the Heron-Mirror teams race, and this year a fleet of 10 Herons travels to the Kingston Beach Sailing Club to defend the title they won at Lindisfarne last year.

The number of GRP Herons in Tasmania will be receiving a welcome boost next season as Stuart Camm has purchased the first floppy hull from the Association's moulds. Stuart's sailing is already showing improvement, and his keenness is exemplified by the fact that OSPREY (751) now has all new thwarts, and a gleaming coat of paint throughout. It is expected that the fibre-glass builder Mike Snook will be producing a run of a further two new GRP boats in the near future.

A number of Heroners are also taking advantage of the newly-created boat storage facilities at the LSC.

See you on the water.

A VERY SPECIAL PARTY

What began as a Middle Harbour Heron Club Christmas Party ended in a stroll down memory lane when 21 years of Heroning were celebrated at the Wildgarden Restaurant, St. Ives, Sydney.

I'm not sure just who instigated the joint celebration but I do know that much of its success was due to the efforts of Viv Picman, organiser extroardinaire and her many willing helpers.

There they were, the founding fathers (and mothers) to whom the years had been very kind, mixing with the young, new breed of Heron sailors, swapping tales (vintage and current) in the true Heron spirit and, generally, epitomising the character and success of the Heron Class. This same type of atmosphere was being experienced as other State Associations and Clubs were holding Christmas reunions for a rather unique group of people known as Heroners.

Commodore Ian Cook welcomed guests, calling upon Bill Imlay to honour the pioneers of the Heron class, many of whom were present. Bill accepted his task with pleasure and particularly emphasised appreciation of all Heroners, past and present, for the effort and foresight of those early few in establishing a Class unique in centreboard sailing. A Class which achieved the honour of National status and one which continues to maintain its popularity and strong appeal to the family sailor. A Class which has survived where many others have failed, due, largely, to the thoroughness of those early pioneers who, in 1958, saw the wonderful potential of a Holt yacht designed for the needs of a young family. Not only did they promote the Heron but they established a sound administration which has continued to the present day and which is the envy of many Classes around Australia.

Stephen and Jo Dearnley were delighted with the Coming of Age celebration of their "baby", bringing together many old friends. Familiar names of those early days; the families Jones, Watkins, Corvisy, Shipton, Buckley, Barrett, Clarke, Allen, Grimwood and Campbell, just to mention a few, were there to reminisce on the good old days, reliving those wild weekends at Nowra and those memorable blow-outs at Lake Macquarie and the many other experiences shared while mastering the art of sailing THE HERON.

But it wasn't only past memories, across the table the Dyers, Morriseys, Coys, Sims and a host of other "new" members were sharing experiences of some recent drama, the "blow" at Narrabeen Lakes and the wild Jax Trophy Race at Dobroyd.

So it seems that really nothing changes, the fun of yesteryear continues to be the fun of today and today's children, sharing those experiences, will grow up, as did those in the early '60's, with a genuine regard for a great little family sailboat and will, if the pattern runs true, introduce their children to a grand old lady who will continue to be around for a long time to come.

MARY CLARKE.

Middle Harbour Club Members watch with interest as a founding father, Stephen Dearnley, cuts the birthday cake celebrating 21 years of Heron activity in Australia.

Photo – C. Grimwood

PORT LINCOLN YACHT CLUB NEWS

Our Heron fleet has declined in numbers this season, but we continue to have keen and close racing amongst the 9 to 10 starters who contest each programmed race. Hopefully with a little bit of work and a few get-togethers we can rekindle the old, and bring some new families into our midst.

All the following Herons have sailed 2 races or more to date this Season:–

5533 – DIGIT – Charmain Weibrecht, Junior Skipper sailing Club Heron and improving fast.
5690 – SAHLI – Dr. Colin Parker, light boat which performs well, now sold to Chris Trethewy.
7026 – REDWITCH – Paul Bates, having numerous gear problems, promising young skipper.
7490 – TSUNAMI – Ian Abbott, our Club Sailing Rep who finally took to his mast and gaff with a plane after much prompting, two 2nds in Club Heats.
7825 – TARA – Chris Howard, steady sailor enjoying the atmosphere.
7846 – TEENA TOO – Jamie Kilpatrick, top boat not sailing regularly, skipper has potential.
7968 – PINK PANTHER – Tony Lukin, heavy boat holding back excellent skipper and crew.
7991 – CARAVELLE – Andrew Dickie – Consistent Junior Skipper and crew.
8744 – BREEZE – Paul Giadresco, Junior Skipper who will become a top competitor.
9183 – NYACOMA – Ian Bassham, performs consistently when able to sail.
9188 – CAVALIER – Wayne McNair, boat in immaculate condition, Points Champion 78/79.
9429 – STARGAZER – Mike Arbon, gets lost at times, but just manages to scrape home.
8781 – CONQUEST – Phil Turner, Top class Heron now starting to show true form, most fastest times.
5341 – WATERHEN – Jim Kay, new Skipper who hasn't missed a race. Improving every start.

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ROYAL PORT PIRIE YACHT CLUB INC – *From Don Maxwell (QUEI – 6522)*

Hello to all Heroners, and congratulations to Jim and Sharon Armitage from our club for their win in the South Australian titles – and to the other trophy winners. Thanks to the Whyalla club members and their wives for a fine series and entertainment.

As this is possibly our first letter, may I tell others of our Club. We cater for five classes of sail boats, with 13 Herons on our register at the present time. Not all of these are regular starters due to job commitments, but we usually have about six to eight starters.

We open our sailing programme at the end of September and finish the week before Easter. We sail every Saturday during this period in our very flukey tidal creek.

The channel is about 150 metres wide at the narrowest point at low tide, but with a two metre tide we have the use of almost three hundred metres and upwards. Most of the channel runs North and South, with the prevailing wind a southerly. With all the funny things caused by the smelting works with its 205 metre stack and our silos, it is quite interesting sailing.

Each Easter we have a regatta in the area called the Queen of the Gulf. The clubs involved are Port Pirie, Port Augusta and all the Eyre Peninsula clubs. This year the regatta is at Ceduna.

About this time each year we have a team's race series with our sister towns of the Iron Triangle – Whyalla and Port Augusta. Whyalla won last year, but I hope in this next issue, I can report we took this year's series.

This year has seen a few changes in skippers and boats. We have lost a boat (7456) to Pt. Augusta, but gained one from the Port River.

John McNicol (7395) has sold his boat to Terry Matthews for his son to sail next year, when he graduates from a Holdfast Trainer. Incidently Terry built the boat originally and sold it to John.

We are losing two of our most colourful skippers to 125's in Ivan George (5918) and Jeff Tubbenhauer (9469), but we will still be able to watch their antics from afar. Ivan's boat PRODIGAL has been sold in the town, but Jeff's (COSMOS) is still for sale, and I hope we can keep it in the area.

Welcome to our ranks Greg Lock, who bought PRODIGAL and Max Hollitt, who bought the ex-Duncanson boat from Port River. I hope they will join the Association. Max belonged to the Motorcycling fraternity, as I did, and I hope he enjoys sailing as much as I do.

During the off season, we have made major extensions to our clubrooms and we can now enjoy a

drink in cool comfort, so if anyone is in Port Pirie on a Friday evening, Saturday afternoon or Sunday, please feel free to call on us and introduce yourselves.

MIDDLE HARBOUR HERON SAILING CLUB – *C. Grimwood*

The first Heron sailing club in Australia is still going strong, although the competition in the races is even stronger. To win a race is harder than winning a heat in the State or even Australian titles. Thanks to Don Jamieson's domination of scratch results, we all now enjoy healthy handicaps but he is always strongly pressed by Ian Cook and Warwick Jacobson in their glass boats, while Bill Imlay, Harry Melzer, Chris Lloyd-Owen, Mel Picman and Charles Grimwood still make their presence felt. Some of the longer handicaps have been noticeably shortened by the likes of juniors Robert Pearse and Robert Burgers and oldies Sid Dyer and Ken Wonson.

The family sailing concept is just as important at Clontarf as always and is still the main drawcard for our many members who emjoy the short morning children's race, a nice lunch – the more serious afternoon race followed by barbeque and refreshments.

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HENLEY SAILING CLUB – *from "BIRDWATCHER"*

Don Malcolm and family are back from their long trek to Queensland to contest the National Title. "RUM JUG" finished in 31st position and a good time was had by all.

The State Title winner, Jim Armitage, has lectured us, given practical demonstrations and evaluated our sails and gear. Ask him and he willingly tells you – and we still fail miserably!

Oh well, count your bruises and have another bash next year. One never knows HE may join the Navy!

A meagre 31 Herons lined up at Whyalla – probably the smallest fleet ever for our State Title. What scared the city slickers off?

Although lacking in numbers, the depth of good boats and skippers more than compensated for the deficiency.

The Whyalla Yacht Club did a terrific job. The Course was in full view from the Club House. Good meals were readily available. The "Navy" did a great job in getting the boats in and out of the water. Congratulations to the Club and to genuine Jim on his win.

Alec Hayter GUNNAGETYA was Henley's sole rep. He sailed with his very young daughter Michelle and under the circumstances did well to finish seventh.

At the recent Holdfast Bay Australia Day Regatta, Henley Heroners finished first, second and third namely, "TINY TIM" Rod Walker, "RUM JUG" Don Malcolm and "RIPPEROO" Peter Nicholson – nice going – but alas no prizes! Wonder why?

Five years ago a Gleeson jib was made for a leading sailor and duly rejected. Peter Nicholson hoisted it recently and murdered the fleet. In the 20 knotter, this boat just flew up wind. He mistook a buoy and sailed an extra long course, but still won by the proverbial mile.

Newcomer Brian Dixon "VIRGINIA" continues to improve and with Tom Nage, quickly learning to keep the boat right side up anything can and usually does happen! Stick to it boys, there's money in it.

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BRIGHTON AND SEACLIFF Y.C. – *Adrian Pimlott – Winky Dink, 8087.*

Our 79/80 Season was away to an excellent start with another 6 new Heroners joining our fleet – John Hornabrook (EEZIE GOER, 9420), John Hood (KALEENA, 6606), Alan Pearce (DUNOON, 6612), David Rugless (SENTINA, 9541), Robert Durant (GANDALF, 9577) and Bill Tucker (JIGSAW, 9634).

This gives us a regular racing fleet of 18-24 regulars each Saturday. Several skippers didn't take long to show their keenness as 12 new sets of sails were hoisted, and with some very secretive go-fast gadgets to play with.

With four heats of the six Club Championship Heats sailed so far each heat has been won by a different skipper. Last season's Champ, Adrian Pimlott (WINKY DINK, 8087), is not getting things so easy this season because of the vast improvement in our Club racing.

Point Score to date: Adrian Pimlott (WINKY DINK, 8087) 6 pts; Mike Witty (TOUCH OF CLASS, 8981) 13.7 pts; Gordon Reid (KYLEE, 7673) 23.7 pts; Leo Dunstall (PEOPLE EATER, 9497) 24 pts.

In our Consistency Trophy (Handicap Results) five Skippers are really fighting for this prized Trophy. The Leaders after 10 races are: Melvin Marsh (MAN O'WAR, 6629) 61.4 pts; Mike Witty (TOUCH OR CLASS, 8981) 61.7; Gordon Reid (KYLEE, 7673) 72.4; Marten Pieck (REIGER, 9512) 73.7; Jim Hopkins (TIOK, 6133) 85.4.

After 10 Handicap Races sailed so far only Brian Messenger (BYE BYE BIRDIE, 8567) has scored a double. All other races have gone to different Herons each Saturday.

Another of our prized Trophies, the "Submarine Trophy" (Most Swims), usually contested very hotly each season by Ivan Jones (WARRAWEE, 9521) and Gordon Reid (KYLEE, 7673) (and no exception again this season) are in great danger from one of our newcomers Bill Tucker (JIGSAW, 9634) who has already amassed four swims from only two starts. Don't worry Bill most of us start this way.

CONNELS POINT SAILING CLUB – *Casab (9191)*

With new members arriving every two or three weeks, as of late, we still have a fair fleet every Saturday afternoon. This year the racing seems a lot closer, with plenty of help available to show newcomers where not to sail to cope with our tidal waters.

This season we introduced new courses and I think it may have put the old salts off a bit.

Our point score after six heats has MISCHIEF (33) George Early leading RAPAD (34) Rodd Watts followed by JID (36) Stan Dose then CASAB (40) Bruce Morrissey and TAMARAG (40) Noel Hill together and a shade ahead of HELENA (42) Tony Dobson.

The Championship days are hotly contested and after 4 heats JID with two wins and two seconds just leads MISCHIEF with two wins, a second and a third. Third place looks like going to HELENA, CASAB or RAPAD, after CASAB and HELENA fought a good duel to finish in a dead heat in the fourth race.

Tony Dobson HELENA, must be all smiles, I just found out he won our Kurnell Cup Marathon race on scratch and handicap and picked up two prizes. I'm told Stan Dose (JID) was ahead but went the wrong way under a bridge ?? and was disqualified.

. . . . . .Wanted one map of Botany Bay . . . . . Stan Dose.

WALLAROO SAILING CLUB – *Trevor Koch*

Our Club was pleased to welcome three visiting Herons to our New Year's Day Regatta. They were Peter Nicholson, RIPPEROO, from Hervey; Terry Matthews, CHIMERA, from Port Pirie and The Harvey Family from Pt. Augusta with Robert sailing MICKIKS.

There was a tie for 1st Place between J. Jones PAPRIKA and T. Koch HAPPY DAZE, with Peter Nicholson, RIPPEROO, 3rd.

The Club was well represented at the State Titles held at Whyalla, with six boats competing.

Congratulations must go to Jim Armitage for again taking out 1st Place, but we were all very happy to see Jeff Jones sail well to take out the Runner-Up Trophy.

Thank you Whyalla for an enjoyable series.

VALE BERTIE WRIGHT

You may recall that the December, 1978 NEWSLETTER carried a photograph of a very sprightly, happy BERTIE WRIGHT competing in a City to Surf Run of 14 kms. in 148 mins. 30 secs. At 81 years young he was the oldest competitor to complete the run.

Bertie was justly proud of his effort as was the Association and his many friends who, over the years, had come to love and respect this wonderful man.

With the help of his wife, Freda, Bertie established Heron sailing in the Nowra district many years ago, was made a Life Member of the Nowra Sailing Club and elected Vice President of the Australian Association, known then as the Y.W.Heron Sailing Association of Australia.

Bertie was a good father and a marvellous husband to Freda, who in the past 12 months, had more than her share of serious illness and so it is, with much sorrow, that we have to advise his many friends that BERTIE PEDLY WRIGHT passed away on the 23rd November, 1979 aged 82 years.

NEW SOUTH WALES HERON SAILING ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the next Annual General Meeting of the New South Wales Heron Association will be held at Dobroyd Aquatic Club, Rodd Point at 8.00 p.m. on 7th May, 1980.

All members are invited to attend.

Election of office bearers and presentation of trophies will be carried out.

STOP PRESS:

NOTICE TO ALL SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS

The Annual General Meeting of the SAHSA will be held at the Somerton Yacht Club on THURSDAY, 1st May, 1980, not Friday as shown on the circulated list of events.

The DECEMBER HERON NEWSLETTER carried a picture on page 4 of the membership sticker you should have been displaying on the transom of your Heron for 1979/80.

Here is a picture of the membership sticker for 1980/81 which you will receive on payment of your subscription for that season due on 1st April, 1980. (See sub. notice this issue)

Early payment means no interruption to delivery of your Newsletter and puts you in credit to 31st March, 1981.

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