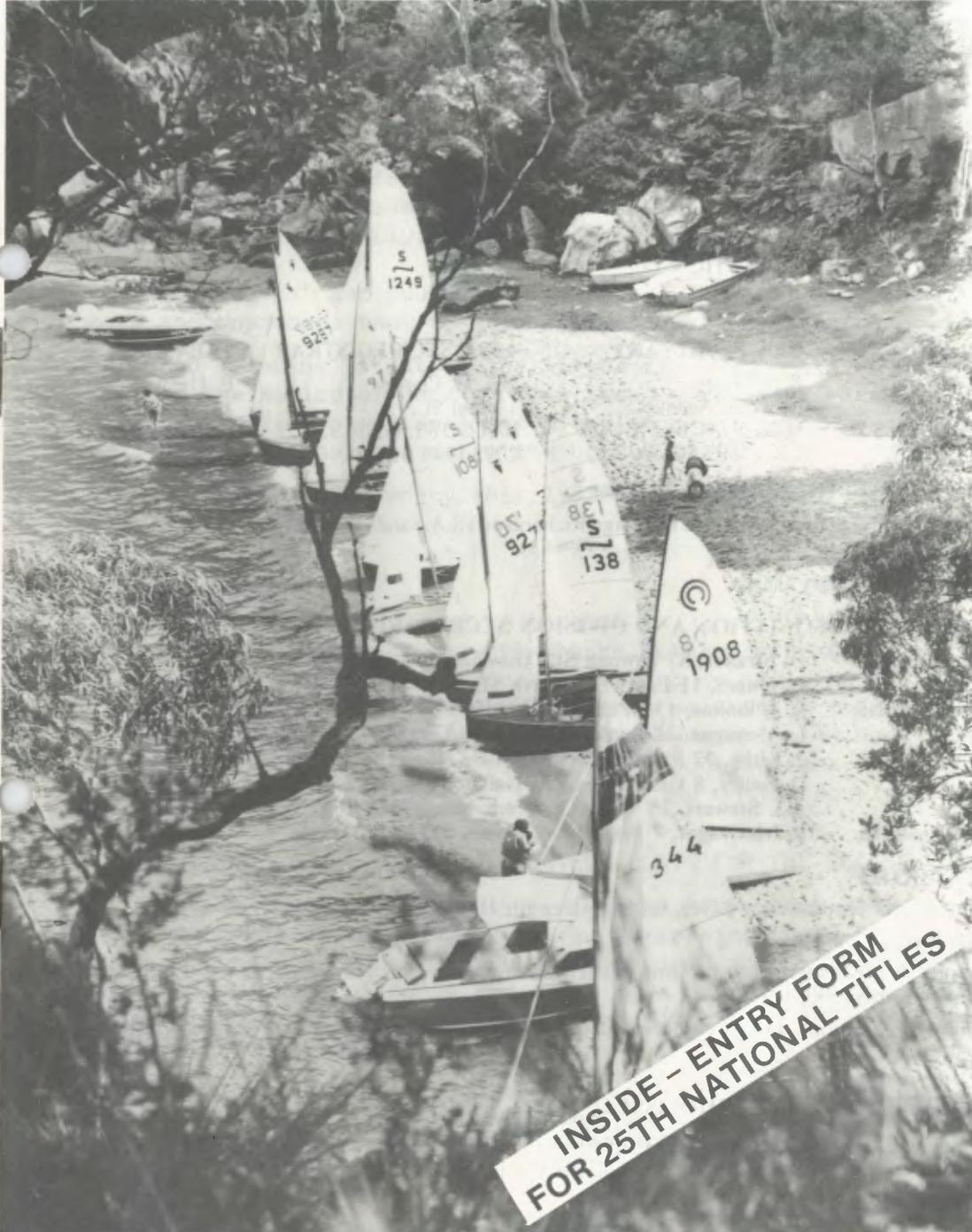




PRICE 70 cents

# HERON NEWSLETTER



**INSIDE - ENTRY FORM  
FOR 25TH NATIONAL TITLES**

SEPTEMBER 1983

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# HERON NEWSLETTER

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## COVER PHOTO

Lookout Beach, Hawkesbury River, resting place for Herons and others.

## INSIDE BACK COVER

Top photo: A great memento of your participation in the 25th Nationals. buy a T-shirt and, maybe, you'll meet the models!

Bottom photo: Herons racing at Hervey Bay, Queensland, venue for the next Queensland State Titles.

## THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN THIS ISSUE

- \* Some important and timely advice from your Measurement Committee.
- \* A great two-page article from current Champion, Craig McPhee.
- \* State and Club news of interest to all.
- \* Notice of Race and Entry forms for both Sailing and Social programme for the 25th National Titles - Perth 1983/84.

**DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE - 1st NOVEMBER, 1983.**

## THE PRESIDENT WRITES ----

Another new sailing season starts! Those who have taken the opportunity to repair, re-paint, restore and replace boat, spars, sails and fittings will be anxious to re-tune and get out on the water again to ensure that they can now achieve their desires and ambitions for greater performance.

As has been reminded by others before me, our sport, recreation and relaxation can only be as good as we make it. It will always require co-operation, effort and planning, as well as an occasional chore of hard work to enable our clubs and fleets of boats to operate properly and successfully.

'Participate' and you will find it very rewarding. Welcome newcomers and encourage them to join our National Association.

Those planning to attend the Silver 25th Nationals at Perth will find the Notice of Race in this issue - register early. Our Western Australian organisers are planning a warm welcome and a great series and the more there the better.

Good sailing, and enjoy this 1983/84 season - Noel Hill (9498g)

\*\*\*\*\*

## HERON PROMOTION

Comes in many different ways - take Peter Carey of Hervey Bay, for example. Peter is doing one helluva job in swelling the number of Herons in his particular area - so much so that he made a trip to Sydney recently and 'pilfered' the Sydney secondhand boat list by buying three Herons in one hit. He transported back to Hervey Bay, one on the top of the car, the other two on the double-decker trailer!

Hence my urgent request - WANTED, BOATS FOR THE SECONDHAND LIST.

And then there are the Ralphs, Len and Mary, from Victoria who have just completed two glorious weeks skippering their hire yacht, DORIAN, around the Greek Islands. After visiting all the major Aegean Islands by cruiseship and a bus tour of the Peloponese Peninsula, they have found Greece to be a beautiful country and intend to return in the not too distant future.

This information came on the back of a photo showing a bearded Len at the helm of DORIAN and sporting his Yellow 23rd National Heron T-shirt - Now that's what I call Heron promotion on an International scale!

\*\*\*\*\*

This is the first Measurer's Page for a while, but the Measurement Committee has been very active, never -the-less, over the last year. Currently the members of the Committee are Keith Mealey (Chairman), Rod Watts (Secretary), Peter Macleod, Tom Rowan and George Early.

Several members of the Association have raised matters of concern with the Measurement Committee over the last year. Decisions have been made in relation to these matters and have been either ratified or rejected by Management. Those ratified are the following, starting with the most recent:

1. The distance from the top of the mast or mast cap fitting to the centre of the jib halyard pulley, laying the jib halyard strop straight against the mast, is to be a maximum of 320mm.  
The attachment point for the jib halyard strop should be a maximum of 75mm. below the top of the mast or the mast cap fitting. This requirement to apply from the beginning of the 1983/84 sailing season.
2. A Cunningham Eye is not a permitted modification under the Constitution.
3. End-grain Balsa and "O" cell foam together with Klegecell, Coremat and S.K.800 are recognised and approved sandwich materials in G.R.P.Herons.
4. Full-height buoyancy is not permitted, in the Constitution, in GRP or plywood Herons with built-in side buoyancy compartments.
5. Hatches (inspection ports) in the foredeck are permitted.
6. Stainless steel rigid boom vang are not permitted.

Measurers and members are reminded that all NEW sails and previously unmeasured sails should be measured in order that the "A" classification granted to their boats can be maintained.

Measurers are further reminded that "SAIL ONLY" Measurement forms should be sent in to the Association for those new or previously unmeasured sails - measurement forms are NOT required for REmeasured sails.

R.Watts.

\*\*\*\*\*

Due to the recent resignation of Stan Wymer, Senior Measurer for N.S.W., Mr.Rodney Watts has been appointed to this position.

\*\*\*\*\*

Peter Nicholson of 27 Weerana Rd., Salisbury Plains, S.A. has been appointed an authorised Measurer of the Class and we welcome Peter to our group of dedicated Measurers.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LEARNING FROM THE OTHER FELLOW ----

A welcome return of a very popular segment of our Newsletter made possible by the good graces of Craig McPhee, National Champion, who has put pen to paper to tell us how he does it! - thank you, Craig.

### THE SET UP OF HERON NO. 8998 - EIGENVECTOR

The boat is set up and kept as simple as possible. Main controls are 16:1 pulley vang, 6:1 outhaul, 4:1 string down haul. Both vang and downhaul lead back to the seat underside within easy reach of the deck.

Expensive, flashy (and mostly useless) junk is avoided and the correct size blocks and ropes are used (i.e., for a 4mm. rope use a pulley designed for 4mm. rope and not 8mm). Some of the fittings some boats use are better suited to keelboats. The best advice is to keep it simple, keep it light. If it doesn't fully do the job - refine it or remove it. Once sailing, there is little time to fiddle with and adjust dozens of controls and yards of string. Only the bare essentials are needed within easy reach (sheets, vang, downhaul and, possibly, centreboard).

RIG - comprises of a stiff mast (55lbs. plus per inch bend). Medium weight gaff and maximum boom. Next year a slightly heavier mast will be used. (Follow Andrew Payne's hint in March Newsletter p.16).

EIGENVECTOR is rigged mainly for upwind performance as this is the leg that we start, finish and can gain (or lose) the most ground on. Jib is rigged as low and as far forward as possible and main is always set up to the black band in all conditions. The whole rig itself is set very loose with up to 12 inches of sidestay movement and is raked aft a little. Jib luff sag has never been a problem as the rake and vang tension I use take care of that. This type of raked rig, along with suitable sails and correct technique, has proved to be very fast upwind, downwind, in all conditions.

Careful rigging and regular inspections have meant very few occasions when the boat can be blamed for a failure. If ever in doubt, ask another Heroner for advice. Once sailing, only the sheets, vang, downhauls and centreboard are adjusted with careful attention to weight positioning. Conditions never remain the same for more than a few seconds so constant attention to trim and positioning are necessary to gain the most from your rig. This is provided you know what to adjust, when and how much. (Experience and good ears help here). Sheets are rarely cleated on our boat, especially the mainsail which is constantly worked. Sails, themselves, are of a light-weight cloth and a standard cut.

Jib telltales are an essential piece of equipment especially for sailing in under 15 knots. Often a jib can be slightly stalling on the luff without the cloth lifting (especially with heavy cloth commonly used). A telltale will show you this long before cloth will.

LOST: One Heroner, seen in the far North East of South Australia vainly searching for a friendly Heron. Even with Ministerial assistance and more than two weeks, Lake Callabonna, Coongie Lakes and Coopers Creek revealed no Herons (sailing variety). Numerous fruitless visits were made to other watering holes at Innamincka and Moomba to enquire if anyone could direct him towards a familiar Heron.

FOUND: On the shortest day of the year, 250km from the nearest Heron sailing Club and in the vicinity of Leigh Creek South, one yellow Heron T-shirt emblazoned with the familiar Speers Point 23rd Championship words and containing a puzzled Heroner in the form of Bill Tucker (Immediate past S.A. Secretary).

Fortunately I was able to direct Bill in the general direction of Adelaide which would bring him in close proximity with the familiar Heron. After a painless recuperating period participating in the Grange Winter series, it is expected that Bill will be declared fit and well at the beginning of the 83/84 sailing season - the end.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION SAYS 'THANK YOU'.

You might recall that, some issues back, Mel Picman of the Middle Harbour Club called for unwanted, used sails to help a good cause. It seems that that call was answered by some of you and Mel has forwarded a letter from Mrs. Jolly, Chairwoman of the Water Activity Centre, R.T.S. Tingana, Girl Guides Association which reads:

"It is with many thanks that I, on behalf of R.T.S. Tingana, Water Activity Centre, a property of the above Association would like to thank you and helpful members who so kindly assisted us recently with a donation of used sails.

Being a non-profit organisation trying to pass on a few water skills and safety in rowing, canoeing and sailing to our youth of to-day, equipment is costly so therefore often hard to acquire to keep our centre operable, at a reasonable level of efficiency. Our people training the girls were delighted with such help, our sails being so old and stretched that to try to set them was a difficult challenge to the novice as well as the "teacher". These willing people who donate their time and skills to the Association have asked me to pass their sincere thanks on to all who donated "help" to us and have thus made life a little easier.

Perhaps there may even be others with equipment or time and skills who would be happy to donate to us, not realising that the Girl Guide Association is involved in water activities at their centre at 51 Dorking Rd., Cabarita. If so, we would be pleased to see or hear from them."

\*\*\*\*\*

# TWENTY-FIFTH NATIONAL HERON CHAMPIONSHIPS

1983 - 1984

Conducted by the Perth Dinghy Sailing Club and the W.A. Heron Sailing Association for the National Heron Sailing Association of Australia.

## NOTICE OF RACE

Entries are invited for participation in the Twenty-fifth National Heron Championships to be held at the Perth Dinghy Sailing Club, Perth, Western Australia from Saturday 31st December 1983 till Saturday, 7th January, 1984.

1. **RULES.** The Regatta will be governed by the Racing Rules of the International Yacht Racing Union, the Prescriptions of the Australian Yachting Federation, the Rules of the National Heron Sailing Association of Australia and the Sailing Instructions.

2. **PROGRAMME.**

Friday, 30th December, 1983	Registration and sail checking	10.00 am to 5.00 pm
Saturday, 31st December, 1983	Registration and sail checking	9.00 am to 11.30 pm
	Opening Ceremony	1.30 pm
	Invitation Race	3.00 pm
Monday, 2nd January, 1984	HEAT ONE	2.30 pm
Tuesday, 3rd January, 1984	HEAT TWO	9.45 am
	Re-sail if required	2.30 pm
Thursday, 5th January, 1984	HEAT THREE	2.30 pm
Friday, 6th January, 1984	HEAT FOUR	2.30 pm
Saturday, 7th January, 1984	HEAT FIVE	9.45 am
	Re-sail if required	2.00 pm

3. **BRIEFING.** A briefing will be held for all entrants at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday, 31st December at the Clubhouse of the Perth Dinghy Sailing Club.

4. **SCORING.** Points shall be scored and ties resolved in accordance with Addendum "A1" of the I.Y.R.U. rules, modified to read: There shall be five races of which the best four shall count for total points. Where it is possible to complete only four races or less, all shall be counted. A minimum of three races is necessary to complete the series, failing which the title shall lapse until the following series.

5. **CONDITIONS OF ENTRY.** Entries for the Championship series are invited from and restricted to financial members of the National Heron Sailing Association of Australia as at **15th November, 1983** and who are members of Clubs affiliated to recognised State Yachting Authorities. Only boats registered with the Association as having an "A" class certificate of registration current as at 15th November, 1983 may be accepted as entrants. Craft entered shall have the same helmsman throughout the series who shall be a financial member of the Association. The crew may be changed from heat to heat.

6. **ENTRY.** Entries for the Championships and Invitation Race must be submitted together with the entry fee of \$20.00 to:

Mr. R. Christie, Regatta Chairman,  
1 Hesperia Avenue,  
CITY BEACH W.A. 6015

by the **15th November, 1983.** Late entries or entries unaccompanied by the proper fee will not be accepted. All entries will be acknowledged. Financial members of the Association conforming to the conditions of entry (Clause 5) may enter for the Invitation Race only by submitting an entry as set out in the above paragraph with an entry fee of \$5.00. Please make cheques payable to the W.A. Heron Sailing Association.

7. **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS.** Sailing Instructions will be mailed to all entrants on acknowledgement of entry. Further copies will be available at the Perth Dinghy Sailing Club during registration.

8. **TROPHIES.** Trophies will be awarded as follows:-

1. Championships:

- a) Heron Perpetual Trophy for the national Championships winner
- b) First six skippers and crews
- c) Best Lady skipper and crew
- d) Best Junior skipper and crew (the skipper for the Junior Trophy must be under the age of 18 years at 31st December, 1983).
- e) Best visiting skipper and crew.

2. Invitation Race: - First three skippers and crews.

9. **PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES.** Trophies will be presented at the Presentation Dinner on Saturday, 7th January, 1984, at Curriel Hall, Nedlands.

10. **MEASURING.**

- a) All boats may be scrutinised at any time prior to and during the series for compliance with Class Rules and AYF Safety Regulations. Boats which do not comply will be protested in accordance with AYF Rule 19.
- b) The Race Committee will make arrangements for a suit of sails to be declared and stamped at the Perth Dinghy Sailing Club on Friday, 30th December, 1983 between 9.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. and on Saturday, 31st December, 1983 between 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.

Only sails which have been checked, initialled and dated by an authorised Measurer during the 12 months period prior to the 15th December, 1983, will be acceptable. This stamped suit of sails will be the only one used for the series, unless, in the case of damage, the Race Committee approves the use of a substitute sail.

11. **SAFETY REGULATIONS OF A.Y.F.** Entrants are advised to check the revised AYF Safety Regulations as there have been some significant changes.



STATE AND DIVISION NEWS

NEW SOUTH WALES NEWS - and-what great news it is for JUNIOR Heron skippers for they are to have their very own JUNIOR STATE TITLES, held separately and apart from the Senior Titles.

It is to be a three race series held March 31 to April 1 at Narrabeen Lakes Sailing Club. The venue was chosen because of the obvious safety (if you capsize there, you can practically walk home).

The series is to be sailed in two divisions: Junior skipper/Junior crew and Junior skipper/senior crew.

This will be a series where seniors can sit back and enjoy seeing their juniors use the skills they have passed on to them. Maybe if the seniors show the same amount of enthusiasm for this Junior Title as they do for their Senior one, it could be a very good Heron promotion and encourage Juniors to stay with us, with 'their' very special event to look forward to.

\*\*\*\*\*

A.C.T. DIVISION NEWS - With snow on the hills and frost on the ground activities in Canberra have been confined to repairs and maintenance. The YMCA Sailing Club has had an excellent season of racing and a stabilisation of membership with financial profit, due mainly, to the increased training programmes. In fact these programmes have become too big for purely voluntary labour and the club is looking at the possibility of a paid training manager for next season.

Our oldest Heron 1880 (ANGALINA) is sailing after a refit and varnish and is a most pretty sight. Our numbers are such that we have retained our class start for next season and hope to increase the average number of starters. The A.C.T. Heron Championships will be held 26/27 November in what has become the traditional A.C.T. Dinghy Championship weekend. Stuart McGilvray

\*\*\*\*\*

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NEWS - Don Malcolm, newly elected S.A. President, is gathering around him a strong Committee to plan the 83/84 activities. As a Class promotion and in acknowledgement of our 25th anniversary, it is intended to run a Jubilee Series, each entrant to receive a Heron Jubilee medal.

The S.A.H.S.A. is to sponsor an entrant in the Miss Australia Quest for the Woodville Spastic Centre. Sharon Glasson (from a Heron family) will wear a sash to all official functions reading "South Australian Heron Association - official sponser". Sharon will appear at the West Lakes Shopping Centre Boat Display for the Heron giving spectators an opportunity to admire two birds at the same time!

Colin Gurr.

STATE AND DIVISION NEWS, continued

TASMANIAN NEWS - THYRA Secretary, David Salter, reports that plans are taking shape for the 26th National Titles to be conducted by the Lindsferne Sailing Club in 1984/85. He gives the following information:

ACCOMMODATION - block bookings of twenty on-site vans at Berridale, approximately 12kms. from the Sailing Club; ten rooms at the Beltana Hotel within walking distance of the Club; ten units at Jason Motel, a ten minute walk from the Club. Some billets will probably be available but this will become substantiated further at a later date.

BOAT TRANSPORT - discussions held with Holymans, Union Steamship and Sea Pack in order to obtain discount travel for competitor's boats. At this stage it has been suggested that State organisations investigate the construction of wooden racks to carry 6 boats in a 20'x8'x8' container. This may prove the cheapest form of transport.

Those wishing to take their boats on top of cars and travel to Melbourne for the crossing to Tasmania should make EARLY INQUIRIES from the A.N.L. Line. (We believe bookings are taken 12 months in advance.)

David would like you to drop him a line and let him know of your particular requirements with respect to this series. Remember, book early and avoid disappointment - David's address is 8 Greenacres Rd., Geilston Bay, 7015 - phone 002-43-7921.

\*\*\*\*\*

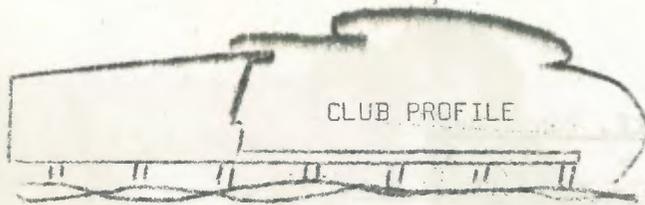
QUEENSLAND NEWS - from the North, things are pretty quiet, our Northern Heroners just coming out of a pretty severe wet season.

But from the South we have news of the Sth. Queensland Titles held in May at Lake Cootharaba. A record fleet of 29 Herons with contestants from New Zealand, South Australia and New South Wales. And the less said about the weather, the better.

The real performers of the weekend were members of the Bullock/Owens families with a 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th on scratch, a first and third on handicap, the Junior and the Lady Championship.

There were two races in one for the first heat, one to get to the start, the other to sail the real thing. Thirteen boats finished a shortened course at twilight. Race two saw enormous windshifts, leaving some on the wrong side of the course and others heading directly to the mark. Race three provided the skippers with consistent winds and excellent sailing and the series was won by Alan Timmins (CATHY-0), with Chris Carey (LITTLE AUSSIE) second and Doug Straker (DOONEY'S FIDDLE), third. Lady Champion was Julie Owens (DING-HO) and Junior Champion, Julie's sister, Meredith Bullock (PARDON ME).

\*\*\*\*\*



### HAWKESBURY RIVER SAILING CLUB

Reporter: Terry Dewhurst

A successful season was concluded by the Club and members should find the 83/84 season the best yet. Congratulations to Graham Apps in HORIZONTAL for taking out both Scratch and Handicap honours.

During the layoff our aged rescue boat was replaced with a 14.5 metre Quintrex, powered by a new 55 hp Johnson. An important date in our calendar is the 16th October when we are hosts to the BYRA and Narrabeen Lakes Sailing Club for the first leg of the Duffield Plaque.

An invitation is extended to all Heroners to sail from Lookout Beach, one of the most picturesque beaches on the Hawkesbury River - we launch from Brooklyn boat ramp.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SPEERS POINT SAILING CLUB

Reporter: Paul Armstrong

The Speers Point Heroners are ready to take to the water again after our seemingly long winter recession. Herons have been painted and varnished in readiness for the Heron Holiday, Narrabeen Lakes Invitation and N.S.W. State Titles. We have quite a few keen skippers who will be joining the starter at Regattas and Titles this season so take heed.

Club races last season were very keenly contested and this season won't be any different with a number of boats chasing the title of Club Champion. Races start at 2.00 p.m. every Saturday and all are welcome.

The Heron Holiday will be held 12/13 November, three heats over two days, the Travellers Trophy being held in conjunction with Heat three. The usual B.B.Q on Saturday night and camping facilities are only inches away from the clubhouse and Lake - ring Alan Sutton (049-57-4207) for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MIDDLE HARBOUR HERON SAILING CLUB

Reporter: Viv Picman

Our Club looks forward to a very happy, competitive season in 83/84. A new Committee, headed by Bob Murray (Commodore), has planned a programme to achieve a maximum of club racing, interclub visits and, of course, our usual club social events.

We sail off Clontarf beach every Sunday and are very happy to see visitors join us at any time.

\*\*\*\*\*

IS YOUR CLUB REPORT IN THIS ISSUE? If not, then it's pretty safe to say that we didn't get one. Don't let the N.S.W. clubs monopolise these pages - we are a National Class and should report National doings!

CLUB PROFILE, continued

PORT AUGUSTA YACHT CLUB, S.A.

Reporter - Ron Feist

Great news for the Port Augusta Club, positioned at the top of Spencer's Gulf, the State Titles will be held here on the long weekend (Australia Day) and all stops are out to make this an event to remember.

Port Augusta Herons sail in the gulf on a regular 4 mile course, with plenty of beating and running and good spectator viewing.

The series is to be from Saturday to Monday with the Trophy Presentation held after the last event. It is hoped that some of the hottest Heroners, e.g. Craig McPhee, Jim Armitage, Brian Caddy and many more will try their skills amongst the sandbars and strong tides.

Port Augusta has seven first class Motels and a Lawn Caravan Park available for accommodation, the Caravan Park being situated on the waters edge just one mile north of the Yacht Club. Bookings for campsites, onsite vans, etc. can be made by contacting Mrs. Mason, Shoreline Caravan Park, Box 519, Port Augusta - phone 08-642-2965.

\*\*\*\*\*

CONNELS POINT SAILING CLUB

Reporter - John Griffin

The 1982/83 sailing programme was a great success for the Heron Class, twenty Herons at the start of the season increasing to 23, the average number of starters being 13.

Congratulations to Stan Dose, Club Champion. Tony Dobson won the Point Score with John Griffin second and Noel Hill, third. The Travellers Trophy series has proved most popular with our club members and the Connells Point Invitation was very well attended even though there was much muttering about local knowledge when C.P. Heroners were found to be in the first 20 places with a 1,2,3 in the Handicap section.

It is hoped that, in future, visitors will be able to enter our Kurnell Cup event. The course, as the name implies, is sailed from Connells Point to Kurnell and return! - Good sailing for 1983/84.

\*\*\*\*\*

BALMORAL SAILING CLUB - CENTREBOARD CLASSIC

Reporter - Leo Thomas

Last year this event attracted 280 entries - this year the club is hoping for a bigger turn out to welcome the 83/84 sailing season. Fabulous prizes are being offered and the club has enlisted computer support to speed up the process of race results.

WHEN: 24/25 September - Heat 1, 1400 hours Saturday 24th  
Heat 2, 1000 hours Sunday, 25th  
Heat 3, 1400 hours Sunday, 25th.

WHERE: Balmoral Beach, at the end of the Balmoral reserve.  
Ring Commodore Eric Hart, 267-9155 (a.h. 969-6230) or Win Thomas, 969-9506.

\*\*\*\*\*

Perth Dinghy Sailing Club. W.A.

# HERON

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