

The Heron Newsletter

March 2002



National Champions 2001

Scott Williams and Jessica Pearce (Flash Harry)

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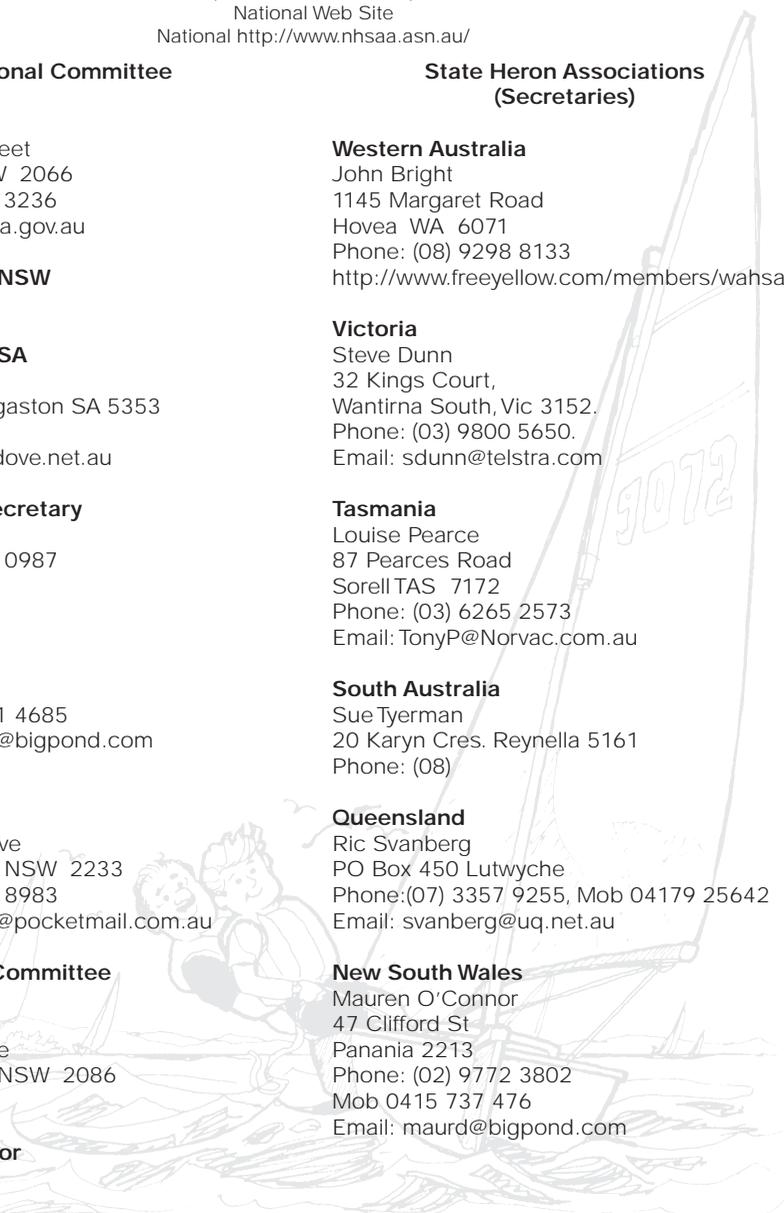
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President's Report

The National Committee has been busy over recent months supporting a number of the activities in which members are involved.



In Tasmania, another National Titles have been successfully completed. I understand that all those that were able to attend had a great time. Congratulations to all the placetoppers as well as those who won their own personal victories – my experience is that there are many of those at each of our National Titles. A very special thanks to the Tasmanian organisers and members who put in such a big effort to make the series a success.

In Queensland work is continuing on the first fibreglass Heron to be built there from the National Association's mould. The National Association and the Queensland Association are working closely together to get new boats on the water before the next season. This, of course, takes a particular significance since the 2002/03 National Titles will be held in the Brisbane suburb of Manly. This edition of the Newsletter includes a questionnaire which we hope members will complete and send to the Secretary to help all those involved in planning for these and future titles.

The National Committee had an extensive meeting late in March with the Australian Yachting Federation to register its concern about the AYF's proposals for a "points system" that would determine which classes' Titles would be recognised by the AYF as Australian Titles. Since we have been holding National Titles for over 40 years, we believe we have something to offer the AYF. We had a good hearing and will be writing to follow up the points we made. We encourage State Associations to do the same.

Please call or email any of the members of the National Committee if there are issues you would like us to follow up.

John Veale

MEASURERS COLUMN



1. The "Cunningham Eye" has been accepted by an overwhelming vote of Management Committee Members to be an acceptable modification. The "Eye" is to be in the luff of the mainsail no higher than 300mm. from the bottom of the sail.
2. The measurement C2.15 Carlin to Carlin at frame 2 is reduced from 630mm to 550mm. This was necessary to allow a more natural curve of the carlins when the minimum distance apart of 735mm was used for the jib cleats.
3. Rudder Blade shapes have been reported to have the trailing edge parallel to the leading edge. Please check that your blade has a shape according to the plan.

Good Sailing,
Bill Parry 10125.
Secretary Measurement Committee.



43rd National Heron Championships Results

Overall Results

1st	Flash Harry	10162	Scott Williams/Jessica Pearce
2nd	Family Ties	10195	Brett Clark/Elise Clark
3rd	Gorilla Biscuit	10176	Chris Williams/Hannah Morgan
4th	Woodpecker	10165	Ross Pagett/Stephen Pagett
5th	Boss Cocky	8765	Greg Steedman/Jake Morgan
6th	Carew	9506	Nicole Breadsell/Kate Carey

Lady Champion

Carew 9506 Nicole Breadsell/Kate Carey

Junior Champion

Golden Fox 9998 LukeMcClean/Lauren McClean

1st Unplaced Heavyweight

Patchwork 10181 Michael Armstrong/Christopher & Lisa Armstrong

1st Unplaced Veteran

Nan 10194 Des Clark/Rowan Clark

1st Unplaced Interstater

Just a Breeze 9965 Fraser Galloway/Kate & Angus Galloway

1st Unplaced tasmanian

Phantom 10151 John Lewis/JeffreyTollard/Darby

1st Unplaced Family Combination

4 A Reason 10193 Sally Beath/Douglas Pagett

1st Unplaced Handicap

Grumpier 10184 David McClean/Elizabeth Williams

Determination Award

Rapscaillon 9641 Mark Hey/Elizabeth & Jennifer Hey

Invitation Race

1st	Flash Harry
2nd	Gorilla Biscuit
3rd	Grumpier

Early Bird Race

1st	Flash Harry
2nd	Gorilla Biscuit
3rd	The Cutting Edge



Did Everybody Have Fun?

This was the question I asked as we drove off

from St Leonards Yacht Club. The back seat all responded a big "yes". The Kids had a ball, the camping was easy, the hosts were great, the evening clear (The satellites put in an appearance), and our camping companions, well we're all going to do it again next year. In fact we will try to organise a similar event in November and then St Leonards again in March 2003. I haven't even mentioned the sailing yet.

The Sailing was superb.

After getting there Saturday afternoon we went for a sail. The conditions were so good some of us were ordered to come in when it was getting dark just like little children being told to come inside from the backyard. We left the boats on the beach and set up the tents only metres away.

The St Leonards Y.C. were fantastic. We were welcomed by Steve Murphy and his wife Tina as well as some of the members of the yacht Club. (For those Heroners in Geelong I could not recommend a better Club).

The Bay is the cleanest its been for years and this was evident in the morning. It could have been a Tropical Island in a postcard. The sun was shining through the crystal clear shallow water, which goes out a fair way. You could make out the patches of grass and the odd shell. Then the water turns to an opaque blue gradually becoming the true ocean blue.

There was a race on the Sunday morning where the lead was shared between Paul and Alex Jenkins sailing 'Smart Alex', Leigh and Stewart Brennan- Smith in Coomeara and Ralph and Christine Brown in their boat Sarie.

Joining us on the day were Gordon Charlton and Peter Cullen who are both doing up their boats.

It was great to see Mark and Anne Locke back. Anne hadn't sailed for about four years and shes still got it, her and Nicole (or was it Stephen) left the rest of us way behind in the afternoon race.

Another family who camped overnight were the Prescotts.

Martin and Anne had to leave early but not before Liam and Michaela demonstrated what they had learnt with the Sea Scouts. Kieran and Xavier, I think you guys will be pretty good too in a couple of years A special thanks must go to Steve and Tina Murphy who invited us all down there.

What a great weekend.

FREE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE FORUMS.

Don't you hate it when after you complete a task someone suggests an easier or better way.

It would be good to seek advice from people who have done it before.

An idea was suggested at the last Committee Meeting to hold regular forums to discuss and share ideas related to maintenance, repairs, and restorations. We could organise some demonstrations and perhaps get some technical advice from people who sell products we are likely to use. I think these nights would be of interest to most Heron owners and especially those who are currently restoring their boats.

The first night has been scheduled for 7.30pm Thursday 18th April. In the garage at my place, 49 Dorking Rd, Box Hill Nth. Obviously the program would depend on good numbers to go ahead and most importantly it is free.

Winter Sailing.

Some of the best sailing can be during the Winter months. There are several clubs that sail a limited calendar, sometimes every second Sunday.

Numbers are up.

This newsletter is now mailed out to 56 Victorian Heroners. Almost all of this number have Herons. The first newsletter I wrote reached 22 Heroners and as you can see over the last 6 months the number has doubled.

Lets hope it does keep increasing. I'm sure there are still heaps of boats out there stuck in garages or in boat racks. If you know of any Herons like this let me know, we could send them a newsletter. This might encourage them to sail it (or sell it).

Look out for our new web site. (Still coming).

I don't as yet know the address but it should be up and running during April. Leigh Brennan Smith has designed the site and it looks excellent so far. The intention of the page is to provide information about the Victorian Heron Association to prospective Heron buyers and existing owners. We want to link the site with the national body as well as all the other states and possibly the UK site. We will probably reproduce the 'classifieds' section and the 'Coming Events' on the site, but the newsletter will eventually become exclusive to members. (When we prove worthy).

What we do need are photos of Victorian boats. If you would like your boat known across the world on the web or you just got a good shot of father in his boat please send them along. We plan to keep updating the site so be on the look out for potentially good shots. Of special interest would be some of the country boats and the places you sail.

Tony Cope



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Fellow Heron sailors, the AGM seems a long while ago, now it's time to reflect on the

season Ö... we have travelled along way on our journey of improving our sailing skills and being with friends.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

I have the pleasure to report that your State Committee has worked hard. Every month meetings were held at the Drummoyne SC, a dedicated team discussed issues/concerns & reported on what the 9 clubs were up to. Copies of the minutes are sent to your clubs representatives for information & circulation. I want to acknowledge & thank the committee members VP, Marty Stott; Sec, Maureen O'Connor; Treasurer Chris Allen; Race handicapper, Warren Hodgkins; Auditor, David Sangster; Di Bunton & Paul Hanley together with NHSSA delegates Peta Stott, Bill Parry & Michael Armstrong. Simply speaking things would not get done without these members. Thank you for your contributions.

Looking back through the minutes, I notice the team has invested in a lap top & printer for the handicapper, supported youth training, organised the State & Junior State Titles. We have set next years' program, put results on the web, bought a new State Flag and organised prizes for TTs, it's been a good year all without blowing the budget.

HOW RELEVANT IS OUR ASSOCIATION AT YA

I feel that there are three primary reasons for belonging to a class association – the first to maintain standards, the second is to compete with others and thirdly is for representation at the governing body

level. Attempts by the AYF to write a policy on the eligibility to hold a National Championships appears to be confusing and seems to discriminate against dinghy classes.

On 26/3/02 I attended the NHSAA meeting, where AYF representatives tried to explain the draft policy. To their credit the YA officials listened to the ideas that members put forward. At the end of the meeting they agreed 1) to look at the weighting's system again, and 2) investigate the idea of being able to "drop" certain categories altogether, similar to the best 5 of 7 system in our races . Formally qualified PROs & jury still seems to be a sticking point. This is a challenging period for the Heron Association. I believe the answer is we need to build strategic alliances & networks with other classes - the louder our voice the greater our cause. An increase in membership numbers will also help; I look forward to working with you in this area.

RESULTS

The 2002 NSW Heron State Championships were held at Teralba & Toukley. Competition this year was a very high standard & its great to see so many sailors campaigning.

NSW STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

SCRATCH

3rd place - Ross Pagett of BYRA
2nd place - Alex Dey from Teralba SC
1st place - Peter Vaiciurgis from PHSC
Congratulations to Peter on a very successful year.

HANDICAP

3rd place - Charles Homan from NLSC
2nd place - Daniel Williams from C&RSC
1st place - Ted Moors & Jenny Overton from GRSC

JUNIOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES

SCRATCH JJ

3rd place - Sam Paterson from GRSC
2nd place - Laureen McClean from C&RSC
1st place - Luke McClean from C&RSC

SCRATCH JS

3rd place - Kyle Jenkinson
2nd place - Angus Currow
1st place - Douglas Pagett

HANDICAP JJ

3rd place - Stewart Johnson C&RSC
2nd place - Daniel Williams from C&RSC
1st place - James Stewart & Kylar Loussikan

SCRATCH JS

3rd place - Lissie Williams
2nd place - Oliver Baker
1st place - Tom Toufan from NLSC

TRAVELLERS TROPHY

SCRATCH

3rd place - Ray Brown from NLSC
2nd place - Ross Pagett from BRYA
1st place - David McClean & Lissie Williams from C&RSC

HANDICAP

3rd place - Peta Stott from BRYA
2nd place - Jim Fairlie from NLSC
1st place - Sam Paterson & Jay Grosvenor from GRSC

JUNIOR SCRATCH

3rd place - Hannah Toufan from NLSC
2nd place - Sam Paterson from GRSC
1st place - Lauren McClean from C&RSC

JUNIOR HANDICAP

3rd place - Lauren Johnson from NLSC
2nd place - Tom Toufan from NLSC
1st place - David Hodgkins & Julie Hodgkins from C&RSC

THE COMPLETE RESULTS ARE ON OUR WEB SITE

As the year ends, I would like to thank all our members for their support of the NSW Heron Association; I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Jim Fairlie
9765



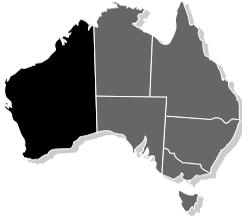
44th National Heron Championships Provisional Program

27-Dec	0900H to 1600H	Registration & Measurement
28-Dec	0900H to 1600H	Registration & Measurement
	1350H	Early Bird Race
29-Dec	0900H to 1600H	Registration & Measurement
	1350H	Invitation Race
	1800H	Welcome BBQ
30-Dec	1130H	Opening Ceremony
	1350H	Heat 1
31-Dec	0950H	Provision For Resail
	1350H	Heat 2
1-Jan	Lay Day	
2-Jan	0830H	National Meeting
	1350H	Heat 3
3-Jan	0950H	Provision For Resail
	1350H	Heat 4
4-Jan	0950H	Provision For Resail
	1350H	Heat 5
	1900H	Extra Time For National Meeting
5-Jan	0950H	Provision For Resail
	1350H	Heat 6
6-Jan	0950H	Heat 7
	1350H	Provision For Resail



*Action from the NSW Junior
State Titles*





MOUNTS BAY SAILING CLUB

Renewed energy and vitality was welcomed at the commencement of the 2001-02 season in October.

Problems experienced within the Club and ultimately affecting the sailors, fleets and general membership over the past two to three years have been overcome and this along with considerable beautification of the clubhouse and grounds, revamped management and professional caterers has revived the enthusiasm and interest of sailors and their families.

The Heron fleet in keeping with the other Club fleets, has responded positively to these changes encouraging interest and welcoming six new boats along with several new crewing families.

The fleet continues to attract a variety of age groups and thus socialising is truly a family affair. A most enjoyable Christmas gathering was held on a balmy evening in mid December attended by not only current and new families, but by quite a few past sailors and their families. An 18th and a 21st birthday were toasted and a significant return to the old friendliness of the Club/fleet was evident.

The State Championships have to date been rather disappointing with only two boats (one senior and one junior, both from MBSC) sailing to date. Heats 4,5 and 6 are scheduled for next weekend (2/3 February 2002) when it is hoped that more association participation can be encouraged. Elizabeth Moore in 'Tigermoor' 9903 is currently in first place for Senior State Champion and Karen Honeybun 'De Ja Vu' 9773 is second place and Junior State Champion.

Training is currently underway with a new approach being trailed. Instead of the fleet training encompassing a variety of skill levels and competencies, boats are enjoying training sessions with a one on one basis with the coach. Whilst this approach is new, there are indications that the racing fleet is reaping the benefits.



Narrabeen Lakes Sailing Club

In the club championship Ray Brown has 1st place stitched up and there is

intense competition for 2nd, and now that Joy has hurt her shoulder, the boys are cheering!

Now that Yvette Taufan has stopped capsizing she is well placed for 2nd in the PS with our State President looking good for 1st.

Slamat, Les and Hratc are providing each with great competition towards the back of the fleet.

In the Juniors, Lauren is leading so hurry up fellas!

And in the Junior Senior div it is a family affair with close results between Hannah and brother Tom Taufan .

We extend our hearty congratulations to Mindy Brown and Chris Sims on their engagement announced last month in Tassie. Wonderful what a bit of cold weather can do for you, especially during an Aussie summer!!

Andy Gough

Interesting Correspondence

Re UK Visitors at 2003-3 Nationals

Re charters, I do not know whether I will be sailing next season, but if not, will make Abracadabra available. I would prefer to lend it to a top-performing UK skipper simply for the sake of a lesser chance of damage, although it would need to be insured for replacement cost. I would expect to know by early November if the boat is available.

If the costing is feasible, it would be great for the UK sailors to bring their own boats. While they do sail to different specifications over there, provided the hull measures, everything else can be put right for Aussie rules in a day or two per boat, including weight correction, new meta! mast (gaffs would need to be made in advance), small jib rigging requirements and so on.

An alternative approach is to have new boats manufactured for the series, the way the Laser class does it. I think the charterer pays about 20% of the price and the boats are resold afterwards for about 80%. If we are talking six boats at \$8,000, with the charterers paying in advance, the amount to be financed is \$38,400.

I would be happy to undewrite a third of that, if the National Association underwrote a third and another sponsor or say ten other members picked up the balance. It should not be too hard to sell six as-new boats at 80% of the current list price. so everyone should have their money back within 12 mo.

The cost to the UK sailors of around \$2,000 for the charter (a lousy PdStg 720) might be little more than the cost of transport and hassle for their own boats, and they would be guaranteed competitive boats. If the UK numbers thin out a bit, I am sure we would have some take-up from New Zealand, so it would probably be safe to talk to boat builders and sail makers about a price for six boats.

*Best regards
Don Jamieson*

Joy

I received your letter indicating interest from Heron sailors in England wishing to attend the Heron Nationals in Queensland.

In my view this would be really good for the class and the association should make as much out of the publicity surrounding the occasion as possible.

However, I think the visitors should not be allowed to enter their own boats. I understand their Herons are almost a completely different boat. † The idea of a World Championship was proposed a few years back by the National Association but was not followed up because of the lack of consistency among Herons worldwide The publicity surrounding such a variation within a "One Design" boat would do nothing for the class except to make a laughing stock at our expense. The publicity aside, the inclusion of these boats in our regatta will do little for the competition and will prove absolutely nothing.

I believe that the Association should support the location and supply of borrowed boats for the occasion, even (depending on the numbers of visitors), the building of new Herons, (which is done in other classes). These new Herons could then be either sold locally (at a discounted price) or to the visitors to take back to England and perhaps form the basis for an actual international regatta at some future date, based on a real "One Design" concept. OURS, not theirs.

*Peter Carroll
9993*

President National Heron Sailing Association

I am concerned at comments made by the treasurer at the meeting at the National Championships, regarding a proposed increase in fees. I expressed my views on a similar proposed increase at the Nationals at Toronto last year. The increase suggested by the treasurer now, is equally alarming. Although I understand the concern expressed by the treasurer, and I know that insurance costs are rising rapidly.

I believe that an increase in fees now would not result in any net gain for the Association. In fact it will probably decrease the amount of incoming funds, because our declining membership will refuse to pay, and membership will decline further. In spite of my own view, the average member of the Association sees little of where their money goes, and an increase in fees now will make it more difficult for the various State Committees to entice boat owners to join the Association. At the moment I estimate that at least 30% of Heron owners in WA are not members of the Association and we would dearly like them to join. This is difficult now, but it will be impossible if the fees are increased.

As you are aware I have been involved with the WA Heron Association for many years and have seen the substantial amounts of money that the National body feeds back to the States. My counter proposal to an increase in fees is this:

1. I believe that since the newsletters have not contained the membership lists with the red dot for those who are not financial, members are not getting any real notification that their fees are due. In any event I think that this method was a bit too subtle anyway. The National Committee should now investigate the possibility of issuing accounts to all members when the fees are due. The accounts could be sent out with the newsletter to reduce costs. I realize this could involve a fair amount of work, but I believe we have little other choice.
2. Request all State Associations to submit a financial statement of their affairs to the National Association, twice a year.
3. All funding (except for the refund of YA fees) for any State proposal to be distributed on a not greater than a \$ for \$ basis, and in line with the State's capacity to pay. Alternatively place a complete embargo on requests for funding from the States for one year. In my view this may force some States into fund raising, and I believe fund raising engenders a "team spirit" within any organization.
4. One of the biggest problems for the States at present is their inability to know from day to day, who are, and who are not members. The National Association only knows those who are financial members, and is not aware of the Heron owners who have not yet joined. If the States don't get regular membership updates our membership numbers will continue to suffer.
If the Registrar could provide an electronic file to each of the States accurate to a particular date, (say 30 September), then the State Associations would have an accurate base to start chasing up un-financial Heron owners through the Club Class Captains, and at the beginning of the season when we are more readily in contact. I realize that the fees are supposed to be paid by the end of April, but in reality many members do not pay until the start of the season. Unfortunately this is a fact of life. Further, I suggest that an updated electronic file be submitted to the States every two months during the season to enable them to keep eye on the current membership status in their State. The National Association has

nothing to lose and everything to gain from allowing the States more direct control over the collection of the fees, and forwarding on the membership forms and the fees.

5. This proposal to be put in place for one year and reviewed with the prospect of perhaps reducing fees when membership increases

Please discuss my proposal before the proposed increase is implemented. I believe the increase will be disastrous for membership and will make the State Associations job in getting existing Heron owners to join, impossible.

The Association membership is at a critical stage. The Association also has adequate funds at present. If some or all, of this proposal is implemented, we can re-assess the situation in another twelve months. If we have a 30% increase in fees we may have done irreparable damage and may not have the luxury of the present alternative.

I would be pleased to talk to anyone about this proposal, by phone on (08) 9332 6155.

Peter Carroll
Acting President
WAHSA
31 March 2002

From: "John Deshon"
<johndeshon@bigpond.com>
Date: Tuesday, April 02, 2002 12:22 PM

Peter's letter makes good sense, in fact increasing fees is a threat to membership numbers. Personally, I'm not so sure, being of the view that some vigorous subscription collection processes backed up by up-to-date information from our membership base to the State Associations might show good results. Nonetheless, it's a big percentage hike. No one can expect the price of membership to remain static, when the price of everything around them continues to increase. On the other hand, an increase of 30% is very hard to justify, signifying neglect in past years in retaining a realistic subscription level which reflects the cost of running the Association, or irresponsible recent or proposed practices. It is hard to sell such an increase in one hit to current members, who may, quite properly, feel that past members have benefitted from unrealistically low fees. Whatever happens, I think the communication proposals (item 4 of his letter) which Peter makes

are sound and should be implemented. Item 2 shouldn't be hard, given the necessity to prepare a BAS quarterly. As for item 1, don't we already send an account for fees with the AGM Notice? What might be missing there is the sort of vigour I mention above, directed at those who don't pay, combined with a process which identifies and tracks current Heron sailors who are not members and therefore don't get the notice. That leaves Peter's item 3, about distribution of 'grants' and reimbursement of other expenses incurred by the State Associations. I think the reimbursement of administration costs should be excluded from any such proposal, but they may be distributed on a pre-determined 'flagfall plus per member' basis so that the budget expenditure can be firmly predicted.

There is an issue here, and you must forgive me for beating what is now an old drum. As a member of the Management Committee, I am responsible for its decisions. I was aware of the motion foreshadowed by Brian Smith, but I didn't know when the vote was to be made, I did not have the opportunity to view responses with other Management Committee members, nor to discuss the pros and cons with them, and I was denied the opportunity to vote on the motion. It is hardly uncontentious and yet 10 of our number made the decision without any reference to the overall Management Committee membership.

John Deshon AM
Treasurer, QHSA

From: "Laurie Menogue"

Date: Friday, April 05, 2002 10:00 AM

Dear Joy,

MONTHLY REPORT. APRIL 2002.

The VHSA held its second meeting for the year last night. Two new enthusiastic members have joined the Committee with two more joining shortly.

John Veale's draft reply to the AYF was circulated to all present. The Committee endorsed the approach taken. I have contacted other off the beach classes advising them of the Heron approach to the AYF draft. I believe the Sabres, Impulses and Pacers are corresponding with the AYF in a similar manner. The Mirror Association is not contactable and we believe that is in no longer a functioning identity according to information received from the VYC. We reviewed Peter Carroll's letter. 1. We felt that an increase in the annual subscription was not an real issue but an increase should be

carefully considered. 2. We do not agree with any embargo on reimbursement of expenses to the States. In Victoria we do not have the manpower to run chook raffles etc to raise funds. At this stage of rebuilding the VHSA it is doubtful that we could expect any cooperation from sailing clubs until it can be demonstrated that the Heron is a viable class.

The VHSA has decided that four Clubs, strategically located, will be targeted to form Heron fleets in Victoria and there will be a number of promotion days held at these Clubs starting at Sugarloaf SC on the 21st April. Most clubs contacted warmly welcomed the idea of hosting Heron days and they will actively help the class if they feel that they can gain members with Herons. We expect to display a Heron at local festivals during the year as well. We will be holding maintenance seminars. The first evening will be in a few weeks. These evenings appear to be popular as we expect over 10 non member participants who have recently bought second hand Herons and are mostly new to sailing. Tony Cope is also acting as a second hand Heron "dealer" and following up potential Heroners. This is where a large art of the new interest in the Heron is coming from.
Regards, Laurie Menogue, President VHSA.

From: "Ian Cook & Ruth Harrington" Date: Tuesday, April 02, 2002 I have read Peter's thoughts on the fee increases and he has some very good points which I think we have or are about to implement. However I think States already have to raise funds for their own survival, the National subsidy is not enough to run their affairs. In addition it is a number of years since the fees have been significantly increased. This has been as a result of having a fully volunteer Committee over the last decade. Inflation has now caught up and unfortunately the double whammy of the projected increases in Public Liability Insurance is going to hit the association with more than is anticipated to be raised by the increase in fees.

Regards, Ian Cook

To all Committee Members,

Background for those who do not have access to previous minutes:

It was recorded in the minutes at Toronto on 31.12.00 :-

P Hanly moved that fees be increased to \$50 but discounted to \$40 for prompt payment. Seconded J Veale. However Gary Brunton and Peter Carroll expressed concern as to this motion and it was

held over to the next meeting to allow all state delegates to vote but at the meeting in February in JV's absence and following discussion it was felt that a fee increase was inappropriate at that time. Regards , Joy

To all Committee Members,

Attached are messages received from Peter Carroll and John Deshon concerning fee increases. As you all know this matter has been discussed for at least the last two years and, as indicated by the minutes of the February meeting of the National Committee, the Treasurer believes that we have reached the point at which action must be taken.

In light of the that advice, the members of the Committee meeting at Forestville voted to increase the annual fees to from \$30 to \$40 and to delete the joining fee of \$20 on the grounds that it was a disincentive to new members joining the Association.

Peter has raised two important procedural issues. The first is whether the matter should be decided at an annual meeting. The constitution is quite clear that this is not necessary. It requires that it be decided by the Management Committee. In light of Peter's comments, I believe that we should have sought the views of the wider committee and not relied just on the views of those meeting at Forestville. To correct that error I would now like to put the question to the whole Management Committee. We are however under a time constraint if we are to get the membership forms out to members early in April. Could you please indicate to Joy Gough as soon as possible whether or not you support an increase of the Association's membership fees from \$30 to \$40 beginning the financial year 2002/03.

Both Peter and John have raised a number of important issues we all need to consider in the long term interests of the Association. Please let us have your feedback on them.

John Veale
04.04.02

Mr Phil Jones

CEO

Australian Yachting Federation

Dear Phil

AYF Proposals for Australian Titles

Our thanks to you and Jacqueline Ellis for joining the Committee of the National Heron Sailing Association last week to discuss the AYF's

proposals for qualification for National Titles under the AYF's auspices. You will have understood that we are concerned about the potential impact of the proposals on our class and we appreciated the attention you gave to our concerns and suggestions.

As we indicated at the time, we wanted to set out our concerns and suggestions in writing. We are confident that would be shared by many other dinghy classes.

The National Heron Sailing Association has conducted highly successful National Titles for the past 43 years and planning is well advanced for the 44th, to be held on Morton Bay over the next summer. The Titles rotate around the states that have substantial Heron fleets – NSW, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania – and attract fleets of up to 80 boats.

Our National Titles have a proud record of being run to a very high standard, both on and off the water. They are conducted by the relevant state association in conjunction with the host sailing club, which is carefully chosen on the basis of demonstrated expertise mounting dinghy regattas. We are naturally keen that the AYF finds a formula that will allow us to continue to operate within your framework and to draw and your services and support to improve our National regattas.

It would be regrettable if the Heron Association and the AYF had to go their own ways on this matter, but I note that we have run our titles for more than 40 years with little help or support from the AYF and can continue to do if that proves necessary.

Some of the points we discussed last week are worth reiterating:

- Schedule II does not seem to work well. There is confusion about its objectives and it may not be contributing much to your objectives. Your suggestion of separate consideration of dinghy, trailerable and keelboat classes had some merit, though it is not clear that they need to be compared. Perhaps they should simply have to meet quite separate criteria.
- Weights given to the PRO and judges seemed too high relative to other criteria for classes that, by their nature, will have more difficulty attracting the most highly qualified officials. As well as reconsidering the weightings, the suggestions of providing help in accessing either full time officials or those that could be contacted (and available) on an as needs or advisory basis (eg for difficult protests) would

be one way, over a number of years, of building up expertise. Is there a way of providing particular training for officials about to be involved in a major Titles either at National or State level?

- *Arrangements need to be reviewed to provide for the continuous qualification of officials that do not have the opportunity to conduct National Titles every year (or even more frequently than every four or five years). This is a particular problem where officials are active in a National Class such as ours where Titles are held in different states on a rotational basis.*
- *Any weighting scheme needs to take averages over a number of years so as not to disadvantage classes such as ours that have committed to being a national class by holding series in all states, including those that, because of transport costs, usually attract smaller than average fleets.*
- *The AYF could demonstrate its commitment to supporting a diversity of classes by using a weighting system that allowed classes to select say 8 or 9 criteria out of a total of 12 against which to be judged. That would allow classes to qualify for an AYF Australian title on different bases. Some might have a narrow geographic spread but qualify on the basis of top quality officials. Others might have a broader base of support and larger fleets. Without such a commitment to diversity the AYF will lose the support of many feeder and family classes.*

We were encouraged to hear that the draft policy we discussed still has some way to go before it is finalized and look forward to seeing a version that reflects an AYF committed to supporting the classes that provide the first introduction to our sport for many sailors.

Yours sincerely

*John Veale
For the National Heron Sailing Association*

On the Web

Plans for the prototype stitch and glue heron are now available from the NHSAA website. Simply follow the link in the NHSAA News box. I am sure that this will interest many of you.

Thanks to Ric Svanberg for the plans.

Cheers

Ben Short

NHSAA Webmaster <http://www.nhsaa.asn.au>
webmaster@nhsaa.asn.au

"WANTED Information for the updating of the WA Heron Boat Register. Please would all sellers/purchasers of boats that have changed hands during the past two years, contact Gavin Honeybun on (08)9402 2091 or email honeybun@iinet.net.au giving details of the new owners and dates of sale/purchase to enable the updating of the register."

Nation Heron Sailing Association of Australia Inc

ABN 79 884 913 220

Notice of AGM

To be held on Tuesday May 18 2002

8pm

Forestville RSL Club
Melrose Ave Forestville

Vale Don Malcolm

Past South Australian President. Although Don had been enjoying keel boat racing during the last decade he maintained strong friendships formed during his Heron sailing days.

Sawasdee ka!!

Greetings again from Thailand, this is Kate Fairlie, and I wanted to drop a line into my sponsor club to let everyone know what I am up to in Bangkok!

I am currently on a three month school holiday (isn't life tough?), and I'm keeping very active and busy here. It is almost true to say that I have seen more of Thailand than I have of Australia!

I have had some new experiences in the last few weeks- for instance I celebrated the Chinese New Year over three days in February, which was completely new to me! For this occasion, my host family and I firstly made decorations out of silver and gold coloured cardboard, which represents money and wealth. We then cooked lots of food each day, and offered it all to the Gods. This was done by putting the food in a room in our house, in front of the spirit house (which many Thai homes have to drive away evil spirits). We then lit incense candles and made a wish- the smoke from the candles is said to deliver our message to the heavens and make it come true. Afterwards, we burnt the decorations so that the fortune would similarly be sent up to the heavens, to our ancestors, so that they have the wealth to buy anything they want to. The extended family then joined us for dinner, which was a feast fit for a king!

Whilst I'm on the subject of food, I am starting to learn how to cook Thai food (as requested by mum and dad)! It tastes sooo good, and like all other exchange students, I am putting on weight! My host sisters poke at my belly and say "oo-un ma" (very fat). I already have a few favourite dishes, and many favourite desserts!

I have visited more Thai temples, which amaze me because of the calmness and serenity inside, despite their location in the buzzing city. My family and I made food offerings to the monks, who received our gifts with gratitude, and chanted wishes for us.

I have done so many exciting things including horseback riding along the beach, riding an elephant along the street, and I've been rifling- I even shot bulls eye! I have also been shopping and spending money, and an interesting place I went to was the floating markets, where I sat in a canoe and was taken around to the little waterside

shops. I have also been taken to a snake zoo, where I literally jumped to the opportunity of holding a snake around my neck- I enjoyed it until I felt the snake tighten its wrap around me!

I have been to Hua Hin, and stayed in a beautiful resort my second host family owns. It is a two-hour trip from Bangkok, and I enjoyed my weekend relaxing by the beach and poolside.

The District Rotary Club is keeping the exchange students busy and happy. We all learnt a traditional Thai Folk Dance, which we will perform at a conference coming up! Rotary also arranged for us to take a ten day Thai foot massage course! I recently completed and passed the test, so I can now officially massage feet, the traditional Thai way. My host family has told me that I am very welcome to borrow their feet any time, and I should practice the massage on them, so that I don't forget the moves!

My Thai language is also progressing! I can now remember the 43 consonants of the alphabet- which is pretty good, because funny enough many Thai kids cannot recite their alphabet! I am also getting better with my speaking, thanks to my host family, who are giving me lessons. I find conversation hard still, because everyone talks so quickly, and I can understand more that I can speak, so I cannot find the words to reply!

I think it is obvious that I'm really enjoying it here! It's been an amazing experience so far; thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to come to Thailand. I really love it here!

Kate Fairlie



Kate's boat at the NSW Junior State Titles (minus Kate)

National Titles Questionnaire

The National Committee and the States which organise National Titles on their behalf are keen to get some feedback from members that will help in planning future Titles (and perhaps other complementary events as well). They would be pleased to hear from members either by completing this brief questionnaire or by dropping us a line with more detailed feedback. The Titles are for the members and we want them to meet your needs and expectations.

For those who have not attended a recent a recent National Titles:

- 1 What was the most significant reason you didn't attend?
 - a Not a convenient time of year
 - b The cost of transport and accommodation
 - c Too far to travel
 - d Cannot spare that much time
 - e Happy to sail club events and don't want to do big regattas
 - f Other (please state)

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Thinking about future National Titles:

- 2 Are you likely to attend the next National titles in Brisbane?
 - a Definitely will attend
 - b Thinking seriously about attending
 - c Not likely to attend
 - d Do not plan to attend

2 What type of accommodation would you be looking for if you did attend?

- a Apartment
- b Motel
- c Bed and breakfast
- d Camping
- e Other

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3 Do you need more help in finding suitable accommodation?

- a No already booked
- b No happy to sort it out myself
- c Yes, I'm having trouble finding something suitable

4 Is the length of the series a deterrent to your attendance?

- a No 7 races is just fine
 - b I'd like a longer series
 - c I'd like a shorter series
 - d I'd like a series with a different structure
- If so, what structure are you looking for.

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5 Is finding a crew a factor in attending?

- a No I have no problems finding a suitable crew
- b Yes I'd like to find a crew I know, but am finding it difficult
- c I'd like help finding a crew early so that I can book accommodation
- d I would like a local crew to be made available

Responses should be sent to:
The Secretary
National Heron Sailing Association
40 Grevillea Grove
Heathcote East NSW 2233
or
secretary@nhsaa.asn.au