

HERON

National Newsletter December 2023

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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of lands which we walk and waters on which we sail. We recognise their continuing connection to the land, water, culture and community. We pay tribute to all of those who have nurtured the sea, rivers, lakes and streams over many thousand of years. May we sail gently and respectfully upon these waters. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

To all Heroners I hope you and your families had a happy and restful Christmas and I wish you all the very best for the new year.

As you receive this newsletter the start of the first Nationals to be held in Canberra in 50 years will be less than a week away. It looks like we will have over 40 boats present which is an excellent result considering there are quite a few regulars who won't be with us this year, largely as a result of conflicting sailing events. Short of running our titles in mid-winter, there is not much we can do about this other than try our best to avoid clashing with the classes that are most likely to attract Heron families away from our own event such as the Optis, Open Bics and Flying 11s. Sadly, Kylie and Peter V cannot attend this year for family reasons and I am sure everyone will join me in wishing them the best.

Whilst on the subject of National titles, I am pleased to confirm that the 2024-25 event will be held at St Leonards Yacht Club in Victoria on 4-11 January 2025.

We were last at St Leonards for the 2016/17 Nationals and they put on an excellent event. An organising committee comprising representatives from the NHSAA and the St Leonards Yacht Club executive committees has been set up and it held its first meeting a few weeks ago. More information about the 2024/25 event will be distributed shortly.

Our tradition of rotating our National Titles to each State and Territory where Herons are actively sailed seems to be paying off. At the beginning of this season, the fleet in Canberra was quite small but this has changed significantly as Heroners, new and old, have bought boats and are now sailing on the lake regularly. A similar revitalisation of the fleet also occurred in South Australia as a result of running last year's National Titles at Largs Bay.

Finally, I'd like to thank Chris Sant and his team for all the work that has gone on behind the scenes to organise this year's event. It's a pretty thankless task and many of the hundreds of things that have to be done get completed without fanfare. Most of us just turn up and have a good time without realising the extent of work that goes into making things run smoothly. Thanks Chris, Zoe and everyone else who has been involved.

Good sailing

Paul Armstrong

President

*National Heron Sailing Association
of Australia Inc.*



Action on the water at the ACT Dinghy Championships



Winners are grinners at the ACT Dinghy Championships



10288 She said yes! sailed by Henry and Thomas Johnson

Y Canberra Region Sailing Club presents

Return of the Herons

63rd Heron National Championship, Canberra

**After 50 years, the Herons will
return to Canberra in 2024!**

**Come and join in the
competition and family fun of
Heron Sailing in Canberra**

The Details

The Y Canberra Region Sailing Club will host the 63rd Heron National Championship.

The Championship will be held from
January 6th - January 12th 2024.

Want more information? Reach out
to Chris Sant!

E: sant.chris@icloud.com

Or check out the Heron website:
www.héronsailing.com.au



63rd Heron Nationals
YMCASC . 2023/24 . ACT

A History of Herons in Canberra

26 September 1963

Two days after Lake Burley Griffin started to fill, Ralph Weston sailed his Heron "Riejac" on the new water.

January 1967

The YMCASC clubhouse was constructed in time to conduct the 9th Heron National Championship with 137 boats won by YMCASC junior John Wedell in "The Saint"

January 1971

The YMCASC conducted the 13th Heron National Championship with 93 boats won again by a YMCASC junior, Phillip Carnall in "Lady G".



Canberra January 2024

ACT Dinghy Championships

The Canberra Yacht Club hosted the ACT Dinghy Championships on 11 and 12 November, with over 100 boats from a wide variety of classes participating, including a record fleet of 18 Herons, the largest single class in the event.

The weather was good with a moderate westerly breeze, freshening over the course of each afternoon, and racing was very competitive throughout the series on a tight course.

There were 3 different heat winners, and 10 boats had at least 1 top 5 result during the series. In the end it was David Johnson and Maddison Alexander in *Chicken Dinner* coming out on top, from Adam and Max Ross in *Hooray for Birds* and Shannon and Harvey Corbett in *Piranhas Don't Eat Bananas*.

Chris Sant

10290 NonSequitur



Results

						<u>Race 1</u>	<u>Race 5</u>	<u>Race 4</u>	<u>Race 3</u>	<u>Race 2</u>	<u>Race 1</u>
1	10365	Chicken Dinner	David Johnson	Maddison Alexander	6	1	1	[3.0]	2	1	1
2	10359	Hooray for Birds	Adam Ross	Max Ross	13	2	2	5	1	[7.0]	3
3	10140	Piranhas Don't Eat B	Shannon Corbett	Harvey Corbett	17	3	3	1	5	5	[8.0]
4	10355	Pearl	Jonny Harrison	Courtney Harrison	24.5	8	[8.0]	2	3.5	6	5
5	10362	Topsy	Chris Sacre	Archie Sacre	25	5	6	6	6	2	[12.0]
6	9983	Sublime	andrew campbell	Thea Campbell	26.5	4	4	[13.0]	3.5	4	11
7	10119	Blue Steel	Scott Jamieson	Robert Jamieson	32.5	9	[19.0F]	11.5	7	3	2
8	9957	Appauled	Nick Davies	Tristan Davies	40	7	7	[14.0]	10	12	4
9	10356	Lava Girl	Chris Denman	Chelsea Denman	44	10	[12.0]	10	9	8	7
10	10290	Non Sequitur	Chris Sant	Zoe Sant	46	[19.0F]	11	4	11	14	6
11	10259	On and On	Neil Burford	Fergus Taves	46	6	9	9	12	10	[19.0R]
12	10286	Mirabelle	Aymeric Cabuil	Juliette Cabuil	50	11	13	[15.0]	8	9	9
13	10166	wiz	Michael Hitchens	John Batzongianis	72	19.0F	19.0F	8	[19.0F]	13	13
14	10294	Boolong	Ron Thompson		72	19.0C	19.0C	[19.0C]	13	11	10
15	10120	Waffles	Liz Gough	Sammy Goug	73.5	19.0F	5	11.5	19.0F	19.0F	[19.0F]
16	10162	Murra Ngura	James Gough	Becky Gough	74	19.0F	10	7	19.0F	19.0F	[19.0F]
17	10288	She Said Yes!	Henry Johnson	Thomas Johnson	92	19.0F	19.0F	16	19.0F	19.0F	[19.0F]
18	9157	Out of Sight	Bill Arthur	William Arthur	95	19.0F	19.0F	19.0F	19.0S	19.0S	[19.0S]

A Quality First Half!

The fleet in NSW has enjoyed a busy few months!

We kicked things off with a 'Try Heron Sailing Day' at Toronto ASC. Toronto is a beautiful spot on Lake Macquarie and we are all looking forward to the State Championships there in March.

Six kind Heroners loaned their boats and took potential new recruits for a sail. It resulted in plenty of interest and the sale of 'Water Dragon' to a family in Gosford. All in all a great success. Thank you Toronto ASC!

In October we headed to Concord Ryde SC for the annual marathon race. The wind filled in and the healthy fleet embarked on the long adventure down river to the Gladesville bridge and back up via Hen and Chicken Bay. Well done to Peter and Joel V for making the long drive south to be crowned Marathon Champions! Thank you team Concord for being generous hosts as always.

November usually equals State Championship time in NSW but we made the decision to move the event to March to

encourage as many as possible to travel to the ACT Dinghy Championships. I am pleased to report that it worked. Seventeen Herons on the start line for the ACT Championship made us the largest fleet at the regatta and by far the prettiest! We enjoyed fresh breeze and close racing.

Congratulations to David Johnston and Maddie Alexander who sailed beautifully all weekend to take the trophy.



17 Herons on the start for the ACT Dinghy Championships



Happy Heroners at the ACT Dinghy Championships



Try Heron day at beautiful Toronto



New recruits

A big thank you to team ACT for being such good hosts. We are all looking forward to the Nationals!

So what next? The answer is loads of Heron sailing:

- **6 to 12 January** - National Champs in Canberra. Make sure you get there if you can. See the information on the National Association website
- **February or April** - Wallis Lake camping and training weekend - dates TBA
- **24/25 February** - Port Hacking single handers
- **2/3 March** - NSW State Championships at Toronto ASC, Lake Macquarie
- **17/18 March** - 40th Junior State Championships at Narrabeen Lakes SC
- **27/28 April** - Coffs Harbour sprint series
-

So we look forward to seeing you all on the water in 2024. With the above events available to Heron sailors of all standards there is really no excuse not to come and join in.



Dave Johnson and Maddie Alexander in 10365
Chicken Dinner



10166 Wiz sailed by John Batzongiannis and Michael
Hitchens

Team Narrabeen Travelling In Force



Seven different race winners, a fleet that regularly extends to double digits and some very varied wind conditions: the first half of the season has been actioned packed at NLSC and we can report a very healthy fleet.

Our beautiful natural environment leads us to race in different sections of the lake depending on the conditions. Our courses are often short and sharp and we love when Chris Denman 10356 Lava girl and Paul Armstrong (North) although not so north anymore, 10101 O for Awesome, visit us.

We have started a fantastic initiative of letting our crew do the talking to limit the shouting that our young crews all hate. It's not always easy to stick to that resolution on the water with packed start lines and mark roundings!



Scott Jamieson and Jonny and Courtney Harrison on the plane



Brett and Willow Murray in Frangipani

After 35 races, Jonny and Courtney in 10355 Pearl are leading our fleet on scratch results, seeming to master the conditions no matter what. They were also the NLSC best performers at the ACT dinghy championships in November, finishing fourth in a competitive field. They are closely followed by Andy and Thea in 9983 Sublime. Sublime is as good as new after a thorough renovation and is a lovely replacement for the boat that Andy lost in the club fire two years ago. Chris and Will in 9984 The Silencer, Nick and Tristan in 9957 Appauled and Chris and Archie sailing 10362 Topsy are also regulars on the top of leaderboard. On handicap, Scott and Robert Jamieson are leading the fleet.

Our fleet has discovered a love for travelling this season. We were very proud to be the best represented club at the ACT dinghy championships in November with eight boats. We were told it would be lake sailing, but we're not used to a lake with waves! The wind shifts at the top mark felt however very familiar. We're a bit of a shy bunch on the water, so we stayed so close together that we took 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 places. We are less shy off the water and thoroughly enjoyed a fun dinner with all the Heroners named Chris that we could find.

We very much look forward to the Nationals in the same location in a few weeks and will be sending seven boats. Suddenly new sails are flowering at the club, there must be a link!

See you on the lake!

NLSC Heroners



Andy and Thea Campbell in 9983 Sublime



Aymeric and Claire Cabuil in Mirabelle

A Strong Start to the Season



1976 Royal Hobart Regatta: From L-R, 910 'Wot Not' Rod Andrewartha (partially obscured), 8750 'Janannie Stephen Gumley', 8555 'Wiwirri' Chris Payne, 8029 'Brinawa' Mark Haines, 8984 'Sinn Fein' Anthony Morgan, 8590 'Securitay' James Andrewartha.

After a strong start to the season, the emerging Heron fleet has had a few setbacks. However, we continue to train newcomers to sailing in the Association boat 'This Is The Life' on Sunday mornings. Matt Pearce has been off the water while his crew AJ has been doing a sail training course. Anthony has been awaiting a set of sails for 'Dynamite Jack'.

We also farewelled Luca and Holly who have moved away from Hobart, taking 'Wiwirri' and 'Amazing Grace' with them. We wish them luck in their future sailing and feel confident that the Heron community in their new home will embrace them warmly. Emma has been too busy with her new role to sail 766 'Windsong' yet this season.

Eagle eyed Heroners may have noticed an appearance of 'Windsong' on the video

footage posted by Richard Gibson on the Association Facebook of the 1966 Royal Hobart Regatta. Some 60 or so years after being built, it has been on the water once more in 2023.

Speaking of Heron history, Brian Walsh, the builder of 754 'Tempest' passed away recently. We have conveyed our condolences to his family. This boat was built around 1960 in the lounge room of his family home. In his later years he found 'Tempest' again, purchased it and restored it, rather than let it disappear.

'Tempest' was also notable for being the first Heron owned by class legend Andrew Payne. Renamed 'Catalou', she was later owned by the well-known Foale family, who raced a number of Herons at Lindisfarne during the 1960's and 1970's.

Anthony Morgan
9753 Dynamite Jack

Heron mast proposal passed

National Heron Sailing Association

By-Law Change Ballot to Modified the rules relating to Heron Masts

Declaration of Voting Results

Date of declaration 16/10/2023

Proposals

Proposal: That the NHSAA By-law 'PERMITTED MODIFICATIONS FOR ALL HERON YACHTS' be amended by adding the text shown as follows:
22.(18) an un-tapered Aluminium Mast section with integral sail track that fits inside a rectangle measuring 70mm x 55mm is permitted to be used for a Bermudan mast, or a boom. The sail track may be removed below the gooseneck and the sail track may be removed or opened for sail access.

Results of voting

Votes in favour of the proposal – 22

Votes against the proposal – 8

Invalid votes - 3

I therefore declare that the motion has been carried with a greater than two thirds majority.



Peter Connor

Returning Officer, NHSAA Ballot Modification of the rules relating to Heron Masts

2024 Regattas

To keep us all aware of racing opportunities and to assist with planning sailing holidays here is a national calendar of upcoming events. Please send any dates or even tentative dates for regattas in your area and we can let the wider Heron sailing community know. Send dates and regatta details to the newsletter editor katedcarey@gmail.com.

Heron Sailing National Calendar

2024

January 6-12	63rd Heron National Championships	YMCA SC Canberra ACT
February or April	Sabot/Heron Camping Training weekend	Wallis Lake NSW
February 17/18	Harwood Annual Regatta	Big River SC Harwood NSW
February 24/25	Heron Single Handed World Championships	PHOSC
March 2/3	NSW State Championship (NSW Interclub 2)	Toronto Amateur SC, Lake Macquarie
March 16/17	NSW Junior State Championship 40th Anniversary	Narrabeen Lakes Sailing Club
April 27/28	Sprint Series NSW (Interclub 3)	Coffs Harbour Yacht Club
May 4-5	Qld State Titles & Jack Holt Regatta	Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club

Follow us on our Facebook group for Heron Sailors in Australia. This group allows much more interaction than the current State and National Facebook pages. It's a great place to share news, views, hints and tips, history - anything related to Heron sailing in Australia.

The group can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/560911145593376>

