

# HERON

## National Newsletter March 2024

### IN THIS ISSUE

- President's message
- 63rd Nationals Report
- Single Handed Worlds
- Hobart Heron Revival
- NSW State Titles
- 2024 Racing Calendar



### OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President - Paul Armstrong (*PHOSC*)

Measurement Committee Chair - Paul Armstrong (*DAC*)

Vice President SA - Neil Burford

Vice President NSW - Chris Sacré

Vice President Qld - Nick Billet

Vice President WA - Jeremy Brown

Vice President TAS - Anthony Morgan

Treasurer - Chris Sant

Secretary - Wayne Spencer

[secretary@heronsailing.com.au](mailto:secretary@heronsailing.com.au)

Registrar - Chris Denman

Newsletter Editor - Kate Carey

Immediate past president - John Nobbs



Lake Burley Griffin at the 63rd National Championships

Welcome to another edition of the Heron newsletter, which will be the last one before the sailing season ends with a crescendo (i.e. the Qld State Titles on Lake Cootharaba).

As you will see, the 63rd Nationals held in Canberra was a great success with more than 40 boats taking part. Congratulations go to David Johnson and Maddie Alexander who were the convincing winners in their new timber boat, *Chicken Dinner*. Adam and Max Ross also impressed, taking out second place in their first ever Heron Nationals; a team for the future I suspect.

As I mentioned in a post on the Facebook discussion group, some interesting statistics arose from this event. The top 10 positions comprised a combination of five timber and five GRP boats ranging in age from brand new (new this season) to over 50 years old. The winning boat was a new timber hull with the second being a recent GRP model. The top 10 crews included male and female skippers ranging in age from 30 something to 70+. For'ard hands in these boats were all youngsters (4 female, 6 male with the oldest being 16). Four of the top ten boats were sailing with genoas (crew weight over 135kg) and six with jibs. With the exception of WA, every state that was represented

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on 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.

at this event had a boat in the top 10. At least 3 different sailmakers were represented in the top 10 and one boat was using a mast conforming to the new profile allowed by the recent rule changes.

These statistics are testament to the widespread appeal and inclusiveness of our class and the durability of older boats as competitive options.

Since the Nationals, a number of other regattas have been held. Mick Armstrong won the World Single Handed regatta at Port Hacking in February. Neil Burford headed an increased fleet of Herons in SA in February to take out the SA State Titles, and David Johnson and Maddie Alexander were narrow winners of the NSW State Titles in challenging conditions at Toronto SC on Lake Macquarie in March.

One thing that I have noticed is the increasing number of Heron sailors that regularly sail other classes at club races but still turn up to the big Heron regattas. Although it is good to see these sailors retaining their involvement with Herons rather than moving on to another class altogether, I am worried that there has been a drop off in Heron fleet numbers at the club level. I believe the future of the class is dependent upon having strong Heron fleets at as many clubs as possible so this trend could be detrimental in the longer term. I don't have a solution to this phenomenon, but I do encourage all involved to think of ways of maximising fleet sizes at club races.

Finally, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all the interstate Heroners who intend to make the trip to Lake Cootharaba for the Qld State Titles on 4-5 May. We had more than 45 boats there last year and the weather is generally very kind to us at this time of year. As per last year, free camping is available at my place which is only 10 minutes from the sailing club.

*Paul Armstrong*  
*President*



David Johnson and Maddison Alexander in 10365 Chicken Dinner 63rd National Champions



Kate and Jake Sturwohld in 10220 Light Fury 63rd National Champion - First Female Skipper



Allan and Luke Takacs in 10270 The Blue Pearl - 63rd Nationals Invitation race winners



# 63rd National Championships

## Canberra January 2024

Fifty-two years after they were last held in Canberra, the Heron Nationals returned to the ACT from 6 to 12 January 2024, hosted by the YMCA Sailing Club.

A fleet of 41 boats entered the event, including competitors from most States, as well as an eager contingent of local sailors. A number of local crews were found for sailors travelling from interstate, and Chris Sacre and Allan Takacs kindly brought additional boats from Sydney to lend to other sailors.

Drama struck on the morning of the invitation race, as sailors gathered to receive the news that two skippers, John Stannard, who had competed in the 13th National Championship in Canberra and would have been the only sailor to have raced in both the 13th and 63rd editions, and local organiser Chris Sant, had been struck down with Covid and would be unable to take part in the regatta. Fortunately, a replacement skipper for



Zoe Sant and Millie Ryan in 10295 Red Santa



Neil Burford and Nasha Pickles in 7801 Eos



Lake Burley Griffin at the 63rd National Championships



Chris' boat was organised and approved by the race committee.

Racing got underway in a light north-westerly breeze after a postponement to allow the breeze to settle. Once racing got underway, Allan and Luke Takacs in *The Blue Pearl* made the most of the conditions to take the prize, ahead of Stuart and Jack Emery in *Firsty* and Adam and Max Ross in *Hooray for Birds*.

A new concept was introduced this year with a second lead-up race held in addition to the traditional Invitation Race, with skippers handing over the helm to their crews to sail the boat in a 'crews race' held immediately after the invitation race, with regular skippers crewing for a change. This proved popular with both junior and adult crews. Several juniors showed their skills, including Scarlett Sturwohld in *Forever Young* (with Paul Armstrong crewing), edging out her younger brother Jake in *Light Fury* (crewed by mum Kate), and Archie Sacre in *Topsy* (with his dad Chris) taking 3rd. There was a strong consensus that future Nationals should incorporate a 'Crews



Harvey Corbett crewing in 10140 Piranhas don't eat bananas



Paul Armstrong and Scarlet Sturwohld in 10366 Forever Young



Adam and Max Ross in 10359 Hooray for Birds chasing Brett Buckley and Mandy Kennedy in 10194 Nan





Justin and Mollie Carey in 9671 Little Aussie



Andrew and Thea Campbell in 9983 Sublime



Georgia Llewellyn and Juliette Cabuil in 10255 Unleashed

Race' and introduce a perpetual trophy for the race.

After racing, Zoe Sant officiated the traditional welcome and flag-raising. She stepped up on behalf of the organising team to welcome all the visiting sailors to Canberra and corral some of the youngest members of each state's delegation to unfurl their State flags.

With a light NNW breeze, the wind continued to be light for the start of the championship heats the following day. A southerly front came through to shake things up during heat 1, but the wind settled back to a light breeze, and David Johnson and Maddison Alexander in *Chicken Dinner* made the most of the conditions to win from Kate and Jake Sturwohld in *Light Fury* and Scott and Robert Jamieson in *Blue Steel*.

The start of heat 2 was delayed as the race committee waited for the wind to settle before beginning in a light westerly. The wind continued to be variable, with some competitors, including experienced locals, being caught out by the shifting breeze. Once again, *Chicken Dinner* was too good for the competition, with a tight battle for the minor places. *Murra Ngurra*, sailed by James and Becky Gough, took 2nd, and *Hooray for Birds* 3rd, just ahead of *Firsty*.

With the wind dropping away entirely on the Tuesday, no racing was possible, and the lay day was brought forward, with racing to be held on the Wednesday instead. Sailors also enjoyed the opportunity to use some of the YMCA's paddle boards and kayaks or just cool off in the water.



An added bonus of Tuesday becoming the lay day was all Heron Idol acts had extra time to practice for the much-anticipated event. The talent in the Heron fleet was on full show that evening with the Narrabeen team and their rendition of 'Bohemian Rhapsody', the YMCA team with their fitting performance of YMCA, and the Johnson family with their 'skills'. However all in attendance could agree that Keith and Ivy McIntosh from *Boss Cocky* with their version of 'Islands in the Stream' 'Heron's in the Stream' had the most talent and were the deserving winners.

The light breeze returned on Wednesday, and racing resumed after a delay caused by a passing storm cloud. With the need to get as many races in as possible, sailors faced a long afternoon on the water, and three heats saw three different winners. *Light Fury* took heat 3, beating *Forever Young*, sailed by Paul Armstrong and Scarlett Sturwohld, by just 3 seconds, with *Chicken Dinner* 3rd. Honourable mentions for the race go to *Cirrus*, sailed Wayne Spencer and Justin Chan, coming 7th, and local juniors Michael Straffon and Eli Cornford, sailing the borrowed *Phar Lap*, breaking into the top 20 to finish 19th, beating several of the more experienced locals in the process.

In heat 4, *Hooray for Birds* sailed away to win by just over a minute, ahead of *Murra Ngurra* and *Chicken Dinner*, with *The Blue Pearl* a close 4th.

Heat 5 saw *Firsty* get the better of *Chicken Dinner* and *Hooray for Birds*. Also prominent in this race were Queenslanders *Nan*, sailed by Brett Buckley and Amanda Kennedy, and *Little*



Liz and Samantha Gough in 10120 Waffles



Chris and Chelsea Denman in 10356 Lava Girl



Ron Thompson and Theo Morrissey in 10294 Boolong





Chris and Archie Sacré in 10362 Topsy



Adam and Max Ross in 10359 Hooray for Birds



Max and Luna Phillips in 6119 Bukket

*Aussie*, sailed by Mollie and Justin Carey, who finished 6th and 7th, respectively.

With three races in the light breeze, it was early evening before sailors came ashore for a well-earned rest.

On Thursday, the wind changed to the northeast, but it was still light when racing got underway at 2.00. With the breeze set to remain steady through the afternoon and the forecast for Friday, the scheduled last day of the regatta, not looking promising, the race committee decided to sail the last three heats back-to-back and avoid taking a chance on getting a race in on Friday.

After failing to win a heat on Wednesday, *Chicken Dinner* returned to winning ways in heat 6, with some different boats appearing in the minor places. *Eos*, sailed by Neil Burford and Nasha Pickles, finished 2nd; *Sublime*, sailed by Andy and Thea Campbell, came in 3rd; and *Waffles*, sailed by Liz and Samantha Gough, finished in 4th. Also of note in this race was the mass of finishers from 19th to 34th place crossing the line in the space of 17 seconds. The crew on the finish boat certainly had a job to do sorting through all of those boats!

Heat 7 went the way of *Chicken Dinner* once again, this time with *Blue Steel* and *Topsy* in the minor places. The win was enough to ensure *Chicken Dinner* could not be beaten for the Championship, giving David Johnson his 3rd National Heron Title. *Eos* was among the leaders again but was adjudged to have been OCS, the only blemish on a week of clean starts from the fleet.

Heat 8 saw the closest finish of the regatta, *Chicken Dinner*, coming from behind on the run to the line and taking the win in a photo finish ahead of *Hooray for Birds* with *Sublime* in 3rd. Once again, the boats in the second half of the fleet proved challenging to separate, showing



the level of competition existing all the way down the fleet.

With a day off on Friday, the visiting sailors were able to rest and explore the city before gathering back at the YMCA Sailing Club for dinner and the presentation ceremony. Phil Carnall, the winner of the 13th National Championships, presented the trophies.

With five wins from eight heats and no results worse than 3rd, David Johnson and Maddison Alexander, *Chicken Dinner*, were worthy Champions. This was David's 3rd National Championship and his first with Maddison as crew. Adam and Max Ross, *Hooray for Birds*, were also consistent throughout the regatta, finishing every race in the top 10 and a strong 2nd overall, while the battle for the minor places went down to the wire. Results in the final race saw Stuart and Jack Emery sailing *Firsty* edge out *Forever Young*, *Light Fury* and *Murra Ngurra*, with *Topsy* and *Sublime* only just behind. Kate Sturwohld in *Light Fury* was the first female skipper.

The battle among the juniors was also hard-fought, with Michael Straffon and Eli Cornford in *Phar Lap* coming through to win ahead of Oliver Sturwohld and Lydia Casey in *Gone Bananas* and Henry Johnson and Jasper Taves in *She Said Yes!* *Gone Bananas* had the consolation of winning the series on handicap, ahead of *Waffles* and *Boss Cocky*, sailed by Keith and Ivy McIntosh.

In addition to the major prizes, a series of encouragement awards



Junior National Champions Michael Straffon and Eli Cornford in 9637 Phar Lap



Ben Bristow and Aletta Fowke in 10106 Smooth Operator



Aymeric and Claire Cabuil in 10286 Mirabelle





Wayne Spencer and Justin Chan in 10157 Cirrus



Henry Johnson and Jasper Taves in  
10288 She Said Yes!



James and Rebecca Gough in 10163 Murra Ngura



Stephen and Eleanor Donovan 10184 Grumpier



Shannon and Harvey Corbett in 10140 Piranhas  
Don't Eat Bananas



were generously donated by BoatcrewGear.com. The prizes were presented to *She Said Yes!* as the lowest placed boat to finish every race; *Hocus Pocus*, sailed by Jeremy Brown and Abigail Fang, for travelling the furthest (in Jeremy's case from Perth) to attend the regatta; and *Bukket*, sailed by Max and Luna Phillips, who were sailing their first Nationals in one of the oldest boats in the fleet and were one of the first entries received.

*Chris Sant*

*Non Sequitur 10290*



Ready at the start line at the 63rd Heron Nationals



Unfurling the state and national flags at the opening ceremony



Congratulations to Zoe Sant on a stellar 63rd Nationals



Spectacular views of Parliament House at the 63rd Heron Nationals



# 63rd National Championships

## Canberra January 2024

### 63rd Heron National Championship

#### YMCA Sailing Club, Canberra

Results are provisional as of 18:48 on January 11, 2024

#### Overall

Sailed: 8; Discards: 1; To count: 7; Entries: 41; Scoring system: Appendix A

Rank	Boat	SailNo	Club	HelmName	CrewName	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	Total	Nett
1st	Chicken Dinner	10365	Balmoral Sailing Club	David Johnson	Maddison Alexander	1	1	-3	3	2	1	1	1	13	10
2nd	Hooray for Birds	10359	Coffs Harbour YC	Adam Ross	Max Ross	9	3	4	1	3	5	-10	2	37	27
3rd	Firsty	10187	Largs Bay SC	Stuart Emery	Jack Emery	6	4	12	-21	1	8	9	4	65	44
4th	Forever Young	10366	South Brisbane SC	Paul Armstrong	Scarlett Sturwohld	12	12	2	5	4	-16	4	6	61	45
5th	Light Fury	10220	Darling Point SS	Kate Sturwohld	Jake Sturwohld	2	9	1	-27.5	8	11	5	10	73.5	46
6th	Murra Ngura	10163	Narrabeen Lakes SC	James Gough	Rebecca Gough	11	2	6	2	-16	6	8	12	63	47
7th	Topsy	10362	Narrabeen Lakes SC	Chris Sacre	Archie Sacre	8	8	11	6	5	9	3	-15	65	50
8th	Sublime	9983	Narrabeen Lakes SC	Andrew Campbell	Thea Campbell	5	5	-14	11	13	3	11	3	65	51
9th	Eos	7801	Wallaroo Sailing Club	Neil Burford	Nasha Pickles	15	6	5	9	9	2	(42.0 OCS)	13	101	59
10th	Appaled	9957	Narrabeen Lakes SC	Nick Davies	Tristan Davies	14	7	-18	8	14	14	7	5	87	69
11th	Piranhas Don't eat Bananas	10140	Teralba Amateur SC	Shannon Corbett	Harvey Corbett	4	(42.0 RET)	23	12	10	7	12	8	118	76
12th	BlueSteel	10119	Narrabeen Lakes SC	Scott Jamieson	Robert Jamieson	3	10	8	-31	27	13	2	14	108	77
13th	Grumpier	10184	Concord & Ryde SC	Stephen Donovan	Eleanor Donovan	7	-21	9	10	12	17	14	11	101	80
14th	Nan	10194	Darling Point SS	Brett Buckley	Mandy Kennedy	25	14	-28	16	6	12	6	7	114	86
15th	Little Aussie	9671	South Brisbane SC	Mollie Carey	Justin Carey	16	-31	17	15	7	10	15	9	120	89
16th	The Blue Pearl	10270	Concord & Ryde SC	Allan Takacs	Luke Takacs	10	16	22	4	17	19	-25	19	132	107
17th	Cirrus	10157	Concord & Ryde SC	Wayne Spencer	Justin Chan	-29	24	7	7	11	27	18	25	148	119
18th	Unleashed	10255	Narrabeen Lakes SC	Georgia Llewellyn	Juliette Cabuil	24	11	15	14	19	24	23	-29	159	130
19th	Waffles	10120	Narrabeen Lakes SC	Liz Gough	Samantha Gough	-32	22	20	22	18	4	19	27	164	132
20th	Sobraon	7814	South Brisbane SC	John Nobbs	Zalilah Pickles	13	20	27	-29	15	20	20	20	164	135
21st	Mirabelle	10286	Narrabeen Lakes SC	Aymeric Cabuil	Claire Cabuil	22	17	-34	17.5	28	22	13	16	169.5	135.5
22nd	Hazardous Jam	5805	South Brisbane SC	Jemima Carey	Harriet Buckley	19	15	10	-32	25	31	21	22	175	143
23rd	Non Sequitur	10290	YMCA Sailing Club	Robin Forster	Oil Shaw	18	13	21	13	29	29	-34	21	178	144
24th	Lava Girl	10356	Coffs Harbour YC	Chris Denman	Chelsea Denman	-28	25.5	16	27.5	21	15	17	23	173	145
25th	sCarey	10275	South Brisbane SC	Christopher Carey	Lisa Norris	17	19	24	19	22.5	18	-28	26	173.5	145.5
26th	Red Santa	10295	YMCA Sailing Club	Zoe Sant	Millie Ryan	20	30	13	25	22.5	23	-31	18	182.5	151.5
27th	Boolong	10294	YMCA Sailing Club	Ron Thompson	Theo Morrissey	26	18	26	20	24	-30	22	24	190	160
28th	Icy Pole	10279	Balmoral Sailing Club	Thomas Johnson	Fergus Taves	(42.0 DNC)	42.0 DNC	31	17.5	20	28	16	17	213.5	171.5
29th	Smooth Operator	10106	Somerton Yacht Club	Ben Bristow	Aletta Fowke	30	27	29	23	26	21	26	-34	216	182
30th	Little Miss Magic	10280	South Brisbane SC	Kate Carey	Laura Parker	23	29	-33	24	32	26	24	33	224	191
31st	Phar Lap	9637	YMCA Sailing Club	Michael Traffon	Elijah Cornford	-33	33	19	26	30	25	32	28	226	193
32nd	Bukket	6119	Dobroyd Aquatic Club	Max Phillips	Luna Phillips	21	23	36	30	33	-37	29	35	244	207
33rd	Hocus Pocus	10141	Perth Dinghy Sailing Club	Jeremy Brown	Abgail Fang	27	25.5	30	-34	31	34	33	31	245.5	211.5
34th	Gone Bananas	9832	Darling Point SS	Oliver Sturwohld	Lydia Casey	35	32	35	33	34	-36	27	30	262	226
35th	Boss Cocky	8765	Port Hacking Open SC	Keith McIntosh	Ivy McIntosh	34	36	25	-37	37	33	30	32	264	227
36th	Flying Circus	10246	Concord & Ryde SC	Chris Gildersleeve	Freddie Chan	36	35	32	35	36	35	(42.0 RET)	42.0 DNS	293	251
37th	Wiz	10166	YMCA Sailing Club	Michael Hitchens	John Batzogianis	31	28	(42.0 DNC)	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	32	35	42.0 DNS	294	252
38th	She Said Yes!	10288	Balmoral Sailing Club	Henry Johnson	Jasper Taves	-38	34	37	36	35	38	36	36	290	252
39th	Out of Sight	9157	YMCA Sailing Club	William (Bill) Arthur	Will Arthur	37	37	(42.0 DNC)	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 RET	42.0 DNS	326	284
40th	Chain Valley Bay	7472	South Brisbane SC	John Stannard	Gen Daly	(42.0 DNC)	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	336	294
40th	Crash Test Dummies	10260	Canberra Yacht Club	Oliver Merz	Elodie Merz	(42.0 DNC)	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	42.0 DNC	336	294

<https://ymcacanberra.org.au/fitness-health-recreation/sailing-club/>



# Narrabeen Rhapsody

(All) Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?  
Caught in the lake's mud, no escape from reality,  
Open your eyes, look up to the sails and see  
I'm just a skipper, I need some sympathy  
Because I'm easy gybe, easy tack, little lift, but still  
far back  
Any way the wind blows doesn't really matter to me,  
to me

(Liz to sing) Sammy, I just stole the start  
Jumped the gun to get ahead, but now our race is  
all but dead  
(Aymeric to sing) Claire bear, the race had just  
begun  
But now I've gone and thrown it all away  
(Chris to sing) Archie, ooh, didn't mean to make you  
cry  
If I'm not back on the line again next Sunday  
(All) Carry on, carry on it doesn't really matter  
(Andy to sing) Finally Thea, our time has come  
We'll hike hard from line to line,

Our bodies aching all the time,

(All) Goodbye, everybody, we've got to go  
Gotta leave you all behind to grab a drink

((All)Goughy to sing) Becky, ooh  
I don't want to lie,  
I sometimes wish I didn't go sailing at all

(All) Carry on, carry on it doesn't really matter

(Guitar solo)

I see a little silhouetto of a man  
Narrabeeners, Narrabeeners, will you do your 360s?  
Thunderbolt and lightning, very, very frightening me  
(Narrabeeners (High)) Narrabeeners (low),  
(Narrabeeners (High)) Narrabeeners (low),  
Narrabeeners, Here we go, magnifico

(Georgia to sing) I'm just a skipper, nobody loves me

(All) She's just a skipper from a burning sailing club

(Georgia to sing) Unleash my boat like a phoenix  
from the flames

Easy come, easy go, will you let me go?

Starboard!

No, we will not let you go

Starboard!

I will not let you go (Do your turns - Female and  
kids)

I will not let you go (Do your turns - Female and  
kids)

Will not let you go (Do your turns - Female and kids)

Never, never, never, never let you go

No, no, no, no, no, no, no



Narrabeeners at the Nationals



Team Johnson preparing for their Heron Idol  
spectacular spectacular!!

Oh, Mamma Mia, Mamma Mia  
Mamma Mia, let me go  
Beelzebub has a heron put aside for me, for me, for  
me

(All) So you think you can luff me and make me  
capsize?  
So you think you can luff me and steal my prize?  
Oh, Queenslanders, can't do this to me,  
Queenslanders

Just gotta get out, just gotta get right outta here

(Guitar solo)

Ooh

Ooh, yeah, ooh, yeah

The rules don't really matter, anyone can see  
The rules don't really matter  
The rules don't really matter at Narrabeen



# Solo & Swift

## Port Hacking February 2024



The Heron Single Handed World Championships were raced on the pristine waters of Port Hacking on the weekend of the 24/25<sup>th</sup> of February.

The presence of Taylor Swift and Sail GP in Sydney that same weekend made international/intergalactic travel to the event a little challenging. However those who made the journey were well rewarded with a fantastic regatta.

Conditions on Saturday were a challenging southerly buster which the experienced fleet handled without major incident. Sunday on the other hand was a case of the desperate search for breeze - any breeze!, with snakes and ladders being the order of the day.

As always the champions make their own luck and the newly crowned Heron Single Handed World Champion, Mick Armstrong 10363 Patchwork, sailed fast and consistently in all conditions to prevail. He was followed closely by Steven Imlay 10250 Flat Chat, then third Chris Carey 10288 She Said Yes!

Well done Mick, a masterful performance.

*Chris Carey*

*10275 sCarey*



James Birdsall in 10221 Goose on the Loose and Russell Sullivan in 10285 Rouge One





# Hobart Heron revival

*5723 Sarie will sail on into the future, thanks to the Heron spirit and modern technology bringing Heroners together across states.*

Recently, modern online technology managed to bring together a 59 year-old Melbourne Heron, with Tasmanian Heron novices, Sage and Neave Riches, in a way that her original builders would have found difficult to imagine.

After 55 years of owning *Sarie*, Ralph Brown of Melbourne had decided that it was time to pass his beloved Heron on to its next custodian. Being a wooden boat enthusiast and having worked with a Victorian High School to build stitch and glue Herons, Ralph was keen to see if he could pass *Sarie* on to a young person who was interested in wooden boats. Unfortunately, he was unable to find someone locally, so having seen Youtube clips of 'Hobart Heron Hospital,' he reached out online to the Tasmanian Heroners to see if there was someone suitable over there for him to pass *Sarie* on to.

Happily, Hobart teenage sisters Sage and Neave Riches, who had just started to sail together, were absolutely delighted to be offered *Sarie* as a gift and immediately accepted this unbelievably kind offer. Within days, Ralph and his wife Anne were booked on the 'Spirit of Tasmania,' and all arrived safely into Hobart on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of March.

*Sarie* was then presented to the family the next day at Lindisfarne Sailing Club, a club where she had previously participated in a Heron National Titles series in 2008. After a walkthrough of all the gear that came with *Sarie*, (including the original 1960's sails!), Ralph spent time familiarising the girls with the gaff rig set up, which they had not seen before.



Anne Brown, Ralph Brown, Neave Riches, Sage Riches and Anthony Morgan



Neave and Sage watching Ralph intently on how to rig *Sarie*, along with Dad, Dean Riches



Then it was finally the big moment to hit the water!

Former Heroner Richard Bingham stepped up to accompany the proud new owners on their first sail. Although the breeze was a bit light at first, a little more came in later to show what *Sarie* was capable of. Following them on this first sail was a Lindisfarne Sailing Club rescue boat, with Ralph and Anne aboard, along with proud parents Julie and Dean, taking many photos.

Ralph and Anne have described feeling really satisfied that the *Riches* are exactly the sort of family and future they had been seeking for *Sarie*, and that having seen them on the water, they were really impressed with the girls' confidence and skill level for such an early stage of their sailing journey.

The Tasmanian Heroners would also like to sincerely thank the Browns for their generosity in donating *Sarie*, not only on behalf of her new owners, but also because of the contribution we hope this boat will make in helping to re-establish Herons in Tasmania. It was an incredibly generous gesture from Ralph and Anne, and we hope that, with the advantages of modern connectivity, they will be able to follow the progress of their beloved Heron for many years to come.



Neave Riches helming, Sage Riches crewing and Richard Bingham training

## *This is the life!*

During January and February the Association trainer 'This Is The Life' has continued to play a pivotal role in trying to regrow our Heron Fleet in Hobart. Despite a minor operation keeping Anthony off the water for a few weeks, we now have five people learning to sail in our Heron, leading to some very busy weekends for one trainer with one boat! Paul Wang has persisted throughout the season and is showing that he is close to being a competent skipper. All the other trainers are showing real aptitude and we are hoping that a number of them will acquire their own boats over winter.

Many people with a memory of the National fleets of the early 80's will remember that Dynamite Jack sported a unique livery for that time. It is currently being fitted with a contemporary interpretation of that design and is expected to be relaunched in the next 2-3 weeks.

*Anthony Morgan*  
*9753 Dynamite Jack*



# NSW State Championship

Toronto March 2024



A hats back kind of day for Shannon and Harvey Corbett in 10140 Piranhas Don't Eat Bananas



NSW State Champions David Johnson and Maddison Alexander in 10365 Chicken Dinner

A highly competitive fleet of 22 NSW Herons battled each other and the conditions at Toronto Amateur Sailing Club on Lake Macquarie.

The fleet included four National Champions (Peter, Kylie, Rohan and David) with Don Jamieson supervising from the club house balcony. The racing was always going to be tough, exciting and a little stressful at times!

Saturday brought 15-20kts of wind from the south coming up and over Coal Point which protected the fleet from the waves but brought vicious gusts. If you didn't go for a swim you were in the minority. The rides on the reaches were wild, many breaking their own speed records with much comparing of GPS watches after sailing!

The fleet showed fantastic seapersonship and the young crews must be applauded for their bravery and trust in their skippers who were not always in complete control! Only one race was possible, won by Peter and Mia V in *Hooray for Birds*



followed by Hugh and Mia Tait in Funky Chicken with Steve and Ella Donovan in Grumpier third.

Sunday brought the opposite of Saturday, too little wind. However, a fickle northerly arrived and the race officer worked hard to get three races in. The racing was tense with the ability to gain and lose places as the wind shifted, died, filled in again and generally tested all the sailors. Race 2 was won by local boat Hugh and Mia Tait *Funky Chicken*, Race 3 by Rohan Nosworthy and Hayley Roberts in *A Power* and Race 4 by David Johnson and Maddison Alexander *Chicken Dinner*.

The fact that the races were all won by different teams is an indication of how competitive the fleet was and results were always going to be tight. In the end three points separated the first three boats and only 10 points between the next five.

Well done to our new NSW Champions David Johnson and Maddison Alexander sailing 10365 *Chicken Dinner*.

*Chris Sacre*

*10362 Topsy*



Hugh and Mila Tait in 10226 Funky Chicken



Adam and Max Ross 10359 Two Flamingos Dancing





Second place Rohan Nosworthy and Hayley Roberts in 10251 A Power



Third place Peter and Mia Vaiciurgis



Fourth place, Steve and Ella



Fifth place, Adam and Max Ross, in 10359 Two Flamingos Dancing



First female skipper, Kylie Vaiciurgis, 10353 Wise Old Owl



First Junior Skipper, Nasha Pickles, 9197 Sea Gherkin





## Herons in full flight at the NSW State Championships at Toronto

Rank	Boat Name	Number	Club	Skipper	Crew	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Nett
1st	Chicken Dinner	10365	BSC	David Johnson	Maddison Alexander	6.0	4.0	2.0	1.0	13.0	13.0
2nd	A-Power	10251	QLSC	Rohan Nosworthy	Hayley Roberts	3.0 RDG	2.0	1.0	9.0	15.0	15.0
3rd	Hooray for Birds	10359 10298	CHYC	Peter Vaiciurgis	Mia Vaiciurgis	1.0	3.0	7.0	5.0	16.0	16.0
4th	Grumpier	10184	CRSC	Steve Donovan	Ella Donovan	3.0	9.0	8.0	3.0	23.0	23.0
5th	Two Flamingos Dancing	10359	CHYC	Adam Ross	Max Ross	4.0	6.0	10.5	6.0	26.5	26.5
6th	Funky Chicken	10226	TASC	Hugh Tait	Mila Tait	2.0	1.0	18.0	7.0	28.0	28.0
7th	Wise Old Owl	10353	CHYC	Kylie Vaiciurgis	Joel Vaiciurgis	5.0	10.5	5.0	10.0	30.5	30.5
8th	Piranhas Dont Eat Bananas	10140	TAS	Shannon Corbett	Harvey Corbett	7.0	13.0	9.0	4.0	33.0	33.0
9th	Appauled	9957	NLSC	Nick Davies	Tristan Davies	8.0	7.0	6.0	16.0	37.0	37.0
10th	Topsy	10362	NLSC	Chris Sacre	Archie Sacre	10.0	16.0	4.0	8.0	38.0	38.0
11th	Abracadabra	10272	GFS	Paul Armstrong	Ned Ross	25.0 ret	12.0	3.0	2.0	42.0	42.0
12th	Non Sequitur	10290	YMCASC	Chris Sant	Atticus Galvez	11.0	10.5	12.0	11.0	44.5	44.5
13th	Mirabelle	10286	NLSC	Aymeric Cabull	Juliette Cabull	12.0	18.0	10.5	12.0	52.5	52.5
14th	Lava Girl	10356	CHYC	Chris Denman	Chelsea Denman	13.0	14.0	13.0	18.0	58.0	58.0
15th	Subline	9983	NLSC	Andrew Campbell	Thea Campbell	25.0 ret	5.0	17.0	14.0	61.0	61.0
16th	Blue Steal	10119	NLSC	Scott Jamieson	Robert Jamieson	25.0 ret	8.0	20.0	13.0	66.0	66.0
17th	Windstalker	10249	CRSC	John Burwood	Brodie Burwood	14.0	17.0	15.0	20.0	66.0	66.0
18th	Red Santa	10295	YMCASC	Zoe Sant	Millie Ryan	25.0 ret	15.0	14.0	17.0	71.0	71.0
19th	Spooky Pumpkin	10166	YMCASC	Michael Hitchens	Fletcher Boyd	25.0 ret	19.0	21.0	15.0	80.0	80.0
20th	Sea Gherkin	9197	CRSC	Nashala Pickles	Wayne Spencer	25.0 ret	21.0	16.0	21.0	83.0	83.0
21st	Sonal	9256	CRSC	Sonia Burwood	Riley Burwood	25.0 ret	20.0	19.0	19.0	83.0	83.0
22nd	She Said Yes	10288	BSC	Henry Johnson	Thomas Johnson	25.0 ret	22.0	22.0	22.0	91.0	91.0
23rd	Flo	10289	CHYC	Ryan Savage	Finnegan Savage	25.0 ret	25.0 DNC	25.0 DNC	25.0 DNC	100.0	100.0
23rd	The Blue Steal	10270	CRSC	Allen Takaces	Zalia Pickles	25.0 ret	25.0 DNC	25.0 DNC	25.0 DNC	100.0	100.0



Nick and Tristan Davies 9957 Appauled





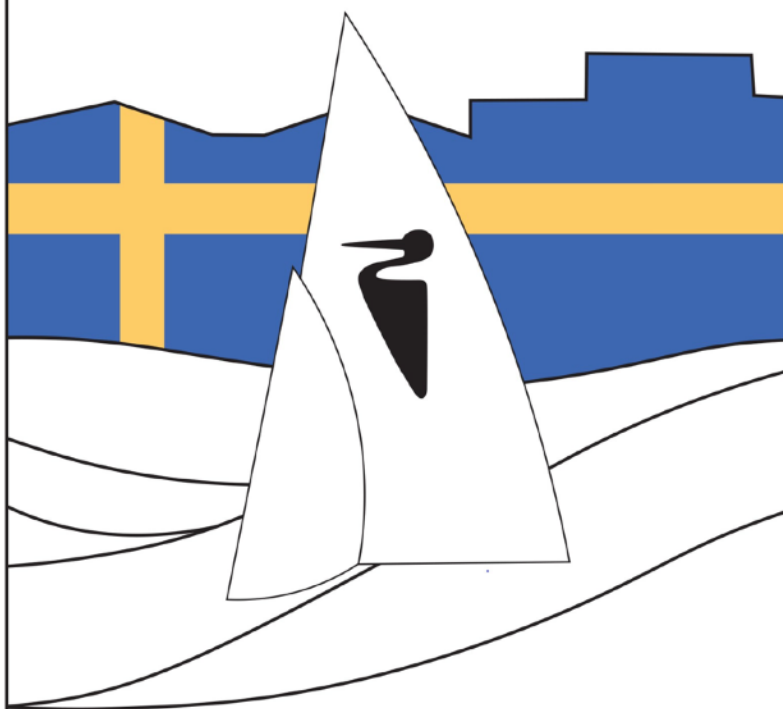
# 2024 Regattas

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](mailto:katedcarey@gmail.com).

## Heron Sailing National Calendar

February or April	Sabot/Heron Camping Training weekend	Wallis Lake NSW
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
Jan 4-10 2025	National Championships Victoria	St Leonards Yacht Club and Motor Squadron, Victoria

## 64<sup>th</sup> Heron Nationals 2025



St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron Victoria

The St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron in conjunction with the National Heron Sailing Association of Australia (NHSAA) is proud to be running the 2025 Heron National Championships.

- Great rigging area close to water
- Excellent facilities with café and bar
- Grassed area with views of race course
- Wide accommodation options from camping to short rentals close by
- All the best the Bellarine Peninsula has to offer within a short drive

More information to follow please follow us on Facebook for updates <https://www.facebook.com/stleonardsycms/> and <https://www.facebook.com/HeronSailingAUS>