

# HERON

## National Newsletter December 2024

### IN THIS ISSUE

- President's message
- 2025 Nationals News
- Tasmanian News
- NSW News
- South Australian News
- 2024/25 Racing Calendar



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Newsletter Editor - Kate Carey

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Host to the 64th Heron Nationals, St Leonards Yacht Club and Motor Squadron

Hi everyone, welcome to the December edition of the Heron Newsletter.

As you will likely be aware, the start of the 64<sup>th</sup> Australian Heron Nationals is only a short time away. This year's event is being held at St Leonards Yacht Club and Motor Squadron (SLYC&MC) for the third time in our history. The previous winners at this venue were David Johnson (in 2011) and Justin Carey (in 2017-2018). Although Justin can't make it to this year's event, David will be there and doing his best to add a further national title to his impressive record. I am sure there will be many others in the fleet who will also be trying their hardest to do well and I am confident that this will result in a week of very competitive and fun racing.

Although, at the time of writing, the number of entries for this year's event has yet to be finalised, it looks like this year's fleet will be larger than the last time we were at St

Leonards. This is an impressive achievement that many other dinghy classes would love to be able to emulate. This is especially so given the absence of some well know faces who couldn't make it due to conflicting commitments to other regattas.

The upcoming Nationals at St Leonards is of particular relevance to me as the first Heron Nationals I attended was held at St Leonards in 2017-18. I remember being super impressed at the professional organisation of the event, the spectacular location and the wonderful social events. So much so that I haven't missed a nationals since! I am sure everyone attending this year's event will come away similarly impressed.

As you can imagine, an enormous amount of work goes into organising an event like this and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organising committee which has met on a regular basis for nearly a year now. This committee has included representatives from SLYC&MC led by Commodore and long-time Heron sailor Cam Lloyd; the Victorian Heron Sailing Association, led by President Glenn Wilson; and three members of the National Heron Association executive committee, myself, Chris Denman and Chris Sant. I'd like to thank everyone involved in the

organisation of the event for their dedication and tireless efforts.

As mentioned, Justin Carey will not be at St Leonards as he and Chris Carey will be competing in the 505 World Titles in Adelaide. I'm sure you'll all join me in wishing Justin and Chris the best of luck in the 505 and hopefully we'll see them back next year in their Herons. On the positive side of the ledger, some of last year's absentees will definitely be competing this year, including Kylie and Peter V.

**Hot tip:** Based on a bit of inside knowledge about crew weights, I have a sneaking suspicion that this year will be the first time a genoa rigged boat wins the nationals!

Speaking of crew weight, the Xmas festivities are almost upon us, so I'd like to wrap up by wishing all Heroners and your families a very happy and restful Christmas and I wish you all the very best for the new year.

**Good sailing..**

*Paul Armstrong*

*President - National Heron Sailing  
Association of Australia Inc*

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.



# 4 – 10 JAN 2025 64<sup>TH</sup> HERON NATIONALS

## St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron, Victoria

The St Leonards Yacht Club & Motor Squadron, in conjunction with the National Heron Sailing Association of Australia and the Victorian Heron Sailing Association, is proud to host the 64<sup>th</sup> Heron National Championships, 4 - 10 January 2025.

We have:

- A great rigging area close to water's edge
- Excellent facilities with café and bar open daily for the regatta
- Grassed area with fantastic views of the racecourse and Port Phillip Bay

St Leonards boasts a wide range of accommodation options from camping to short-term rentals all very close by to the club. The best Geelong and the Bellarine Peninsula have to offer...food, wineries, breweries, art galleries, museums, nature reserves, golf courses and world-famous surf beaches...is within a short drive.

**For more information on accommodation options and other details visit**  
[www.stleonardsycms.com.au/slycmsregattas](http://www.stleonardsycms.com.au/slycmsregattas)

Registration and  
measurement  
Sat 4 - Sun 5 Jan

Opening Ceremony,  
Invitation and Crews  
race  
Sun 5 Jan

Championship  
Racing from  
Mon 6 – Fri 10 Jan

Reserve Day  
Wed 8 Jan

Welcome BBQ  
Sun 5 Jan -

Heron Idol  
Tue 7 Jan

Presentation Dinner  
Fri 10 Jan

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





# Hobart Herons find a new home

The big news is that our fledgling Heron fleet has found a new home upriver at Montrose Bay Yacht Club, after Lindisfarne Sailing Club was forced to temporarily abandon its facilities due to insurance issues. We have been welcomed with open arms and are really enjoying the friendly and relaxed nature of this club. The club has excellent facilities, including boat storage, and is located in a picturesque setting close to the famous MONA museum and the Cadbury factory.

Despite a frustratingly wet and windy start to the season, enthusiasm is high.

Equally exciting, is that we have added to our fleet since relocating. Brendan Craven is now the proud owner of well-known Heron 'Happy Hour,' formerly owned by Steve Williams, who attended numerous National Titles in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Brendan has been sailing twice a week while he tries to master the intricacies of sailing. 'Happy Hour' was built by Anthony for Steve, in exchange for a restoration of his family car, only for the much-improved vehicle to be written off six weeks later, after it was hit on a parking meter!



Montrose Bay Yacht Club rigging area



Steve Williams and Brendan Craven at the handing over of 'Happy Hour.'

Also joining our fleet in the next few weeks is Hugo Hardy, with his Mark I GRP Heron, the yet to be named 9186. Hugo found this boat at Dover, a fishing and holiday town and one of Australia's most southerly settlements. Hugo has undertaken a major renovation in record time, but the story of how the boat came to Dover is quite a mystery. It was originally built in Sydney for class stalwart Ian Cook, and named 'Daemon,' a name which he carried through a number of his subsequent boats.

The association boat, 'This Is The Life' has had a spruce up over the winter and is being sailed by class newcomer Celeste, an outdoor education teacher, who wants to improve her sailing skills.

Also returning to sailing for their second season are sisters Sage and Neave, in 'Sari'.

'Dynamite Jack' will become the first Tasmanian Heron in 10 years to participate in the forthcoming National Titles.

*Anthony Morgan*



'Dynamite Jack' on the start line at Montrose with George Jansen as crew.



Celeste sailing 10185 This is the Life

9186 as it was purchased



# Port Hacking Open Sailing Club report

The new season has seen the return of former national president and commodore Gary Brunton to the club. He has overseen the rejuvenation of Heron 9290 'Not Quite Ripe', an MK1 glass boat with a new timber deck and rig. The boat will be crewed by granddaughter Mia. After sailing a Castle 650 for some years, there will be a re-adjustment period to little boats for Gary.

The fleet at Port Hacking has averaged 9 boats per race, with a maximum of 12. We have 14 boats on the books. Our fleet is a mix of 60% single handed to 40% two up crewed boats. Crewed boats are holding their own both in scratch and handicap racing.

We are also experiencing people who "grew up" at the club returning with their children. They are being encouraged to start in Herons. Boat availability is the problem as we only have one "club" Heron.

The date for the "Heron World Single Handed Championship" has been set for Saturday 1st March and Sunday 2nd March. Looking forward to seeing you there.

*Michael Armstrong*



Gary Brunton with the newly restored Heron

**Port Hacking Open Sailing Club**  
<https://www.phosc.org.au/>  
**Port Hacking Sailing on facebook**

# South Australia Super at 60



What an incredible evening it was to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the South Australian Heron Sailing Association. Held at *The Gallery*, one of Adelaide's premier function venues, the event brought together over 70 members of the SA Heron family for a night of celebration and recognition.

The highlight of the evening was honouring 12 Life Members and those awarded the prestigious Legend status. We gathered to celebrate the service and accomplishments of those who laid the foundation for the vibrant culture we enjoy today.

## *Life Members Honoured*

George Robertson\*, Jim Armitage\*, Don Malcolm\*, Locky McLaren, Shane Kelly, Richard Gibson, Sue Tyerman\*, Steve Tyerman, Ian Cole, Colin Gurr\*, Craig McPhee, Don Rantanen. (\*In Memory)

## *Legend Status Awarded*

Peter Nicholson, Francis Watson, Alex Hayter, Fiona Wilcox (nee Baker), Phil Kelly and Peter Beaumont.

Margaret Robertson was given the honour of cutting the 60th Anniversary cake, marking six decades of our shared history.



Craig McPhee, Ryan Kelly and Gill McPhee



Richard Gibson, Sue Carter and Stuart Emery the three owners of 10187 Against All Odds/Firsty since she was built in 1997



Jane, Locky and Daniel McLaren





Don Rantanen



Margaret Robertson with Neil Burford, cutting the cake



Barbara Malcom and Neil Burford



Jacqui Cole, Ian Cole and Lambert Ward

For those who couldn't attend, be sure to visit the SA Heron Sailing Association Facebook page, where you'll find photos from the event and a specially produced 'Street Talk' video capturing the spirit of the night.

Thanks to Nathan Richmond from *Down Under Sail* for the photos and videos from the 60th Anniversary.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Ryan Kelly, our major sponsor, for his ongoing support through his chandlery business, *Tabu Soro Boating*. Ryan's chandlery business provides new section masts and booms, complete with mast plugs and rigging - be sure to check them out.

Special thanks also go to our committee members Stuart Emery, Peter Wilcox and Neil Burford for their hard work in organising such a memorable evening.

The celebrations continue into 2025, when we will be joining in the **50th Anniversary of the Coffin Bay Yacht Club** on *April 12-13, 2025* for the **60th SA Heron State Championships**. Promising the largest fleet in many years, with over 20 boats already planning to participate, you can find updates on this regatta weekend on the SA Heron Sailing Association Facebook page.





Steve Tyerman, Phil Kelly, Ian Cole, Craig McPhee, Alex Hayter, Peter Nicholson, Shane Kelly, Barbara Malcom, Peter Beaumont, Locky McLaren, Margaret Nicholson, Fiona Wilcox, Richard Gibson, Margaret Robertson, Don Rantanen.



Joan and Matty Gurr



Steve Tyerman, Peter and Margaret Nicholson



Life Members Craig McPhee, Steve Tyerman, Shane Kelly, Richard Gibson and Locky McLaren



# 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

Dec 21-22 2024	Victorian State Titles	St Leonards Yacht Club and Motor Squadron, Victoria
Jan 4-10 2025	National Championships Victoria	St Leonards Yacht Club and Motor Squadron, Victoria
March 15 & 16	World Single Handed Regatta	Port Hacking Open Sailing Club
April 12-13 2025	South Australian State Championship	Coffin Bay Yacht Club, South Australia
May 3-5 2025	Jack Holt Regatta & Qld State Titles	Lake Cootharaba, Queensland



Thinking of coming to the 64th **2024-25 Heron Nationals** ? Then the "ONLY" question is really Blue or White!

To ensure you get you 64th Nationals merch we need you orders.

Please get on board and register to Sail and get your merch order in at

<https://www.revolutionise.com.au/nationalhe.../events/262757>