

Hi Fellow Heron Freaks,

Here's the March Newsletter, posted from sunny Launceston, where Jax and I find ourselves back in Tassie again, this time working instead of just having fun.

Below find enclosed 3 reports on the recently finished Tasmanian Nationals, by Richard Gibson, Sue Carrick and Simon Olding (who as the new local President did a sterling job steering the whole event over the past year),

Regards John Nobbs, Pres.

PLUS!

Notification of the next AGM!

This meeting includes an important vote on issues related to the single stick, arising from supply problems with aluminium tips... Basically a yes vote allows sticks and gaffs made of GRP, ally or wood... Aluminium tips have become **too pricey/impossible to get** and the move is to getting plastic ones... for all those who remain dubious, I tried one in Lake Cootharaba last year, and it was the same as an ally tipped one!) If this amendment doesn't pass, all new single sticks won't be technically legal, so if you can't make the meeting, please send in a voting slip to Andrew Hardman; this will be sent out closer to the date

56th Heron National Championship Lindisfarne Tasmania 2014-15....

NOW TO THE REPORTS:

Race report courtesy of Richard Gibson:

26 Herons assembled at Lindisfarne Sailing Club soon after Christmas 2014 to sail the 56th National Heron Regatta on the Derwent River, just upstream from the Tasman Bridge. All states except Western Australia were represented. Reigning champion Brien Hennessy (W.A.) moved on from Herons during the year and was not present to defend his title. However, Brien's boat (10272 O for Awesome) was among the fleet, sailed by her new owner, Jeff Conole of Queensland.

There were several new boats at the regatta. Tasmania's President Simon Olding launched his stitch and glue 10277 Valkyrie while National Treasurer John Veale (NSW) showed off 10278 Silver Feather, a new Dinghy Sports GRP build. In addition, the Carey family from Queensland were sailing 10275 sCarey, another GRP boat from Dinghy Sports. A healthy mix of timber and GRP hulls rigged with different combinations of Bermudan, gunter, jib and genoa made up the rest of the fleet. There were three former national champions in David Johnson (10262 Heronasaurus Qld), Greg Harris (10205 Two Goats In A Boat NSW) and John Nobbs (7814 Sobraon Qld) among the competitors.

Invitation Race: Wind SW 10-16 knots. The Invitation race proved invaluable for a shakedown! After a clean start, the leaders (Heronasaurus, 10269 Pittwater Pearl (Mark Phillips NSW) and 10232 Flaw Show Richard Gibson SA) could not find the leeward mark on the first lap. Their navigational issues changed the order, with Sobraon and Valkyrie taking on the front running. At the end of the next work, Flaw Show was in control followed by Heronasaurus and 10184 Grumpier (David McLean, NSW), which was flying. Heronasaurus challenged Flaw Show on the subsequent reaches but could not overtake her. Pittwater Pearl made a good comeback to overtake Grumpier for third. The invitation race course was planted squarely on Flaw Show!

Heat 1: The first scheduled day for heat one was blown out with winds of over 30 knots. By the next day, the wind had moderated but was still blowing strongly from the south west around Mt Wellington. The race started in 20 knots but the strength increased as the race went on and with

30° shifts, there were many capsizes and only 10 boats finished. There was a strong left hand phase at the start and boats struggled to lay the line on starboard. Pittwater Pearl judged a port tack start to perfection and Heronasaurus at the pin on starboard also did well and led Pittwater Pearl to the first mark, followed by Flaw Show. Valkyrie broke a jib halyard on the work, the first of a series of unfortunate mishaps during the regatta for this beautiful craft. In the rising wind, Heronasaurus did well and stayed upright while carnage took place all around. Peter Carrick in 10268 Rippa broke his thumb when capsized. The rudder box on Sobraon expired. Heronasaurus was victorious while the chasers, Pittwater Pearl and Flaw Show, both capsized on the last work. Flaw Show had Pittwater Pearl covered for second but hit the finish mark and capsized while doing a penalty turn, letting Pittwater Pearl, sCarey and Grumpier through. The fleet returned to shore to lick its wounds and further racing was cancelled for the day.

Heat 2: Wind NW 12-18 knots. Grumpier was away well and led the fleet to the first mark from Heronasaurus and Flaw Show. Pittwater Pearl was up in the lead bunch but hit the mark and fell back with the penalty. 9671 Carew (Nicole Breadsell Qld) was also doing well. The wind was shifting 25-30° and Grumpy did well to keep the lead. On the last work, a big swing to the left saw boats on that side rewarded. Grumpier was on the right but hung on to win from Flaw Show on the left, which passed Carew and Heronasaurus just before the line. Silver Feather and 10241 Astro Boy (Glenn Wilson) flew for 8th and 9th places.

Heat 3: Sailed back to back with heat 2. The wind had increased to 15-20 knots but had settled in the NW. Pittwater Pearl and Heronasaurus led the fleet away from Flaw Show, sCarey and Grumpier. Heronasaurus hit the lead and that's how things stayed, despite some action at the last wing mark where both Flaw Show and Grumpier only narrowly escaped big swims. Astro Boy capped off a good day with another top 10 finish. Things were not so rosy over in the Valkyrie camp, however, as a split mast step saw the mast punch a hole in the beautiful new deck. There was no prize for guessing how Simon was going to spend the lay day.

Heat 4: The New Year's Day lay day saw the strong wind pattern blow over. Heat 4 was sailed in a tranquil 5-8 knots, with a strong current running down river. The start saw the first recall of the series. Grumpier was away well from Pittwater Pearl and 2 Goats. Wind shifts and current made the windward mark rounding very tricky. 2 Goats took the lead by digging into the left from Heronasaurus, Pittwater Pearl and Grumpier. 2 Goats scored a good win from Grumpier, while Flaw Show, which went back to restart (unnecessarily as it turned out) again flew home on a big port lift to take third over Pittwater Pearl. 10185 This Is The Life (Tony Pearce Tas) and 10271 Slippery When Wet (Andrew Nelson NSW) also flew up the last beat to take 7th and 8th places. Battered by the shift at the finish, Heronasaurus had to settle for 10th.

Heat 5: 12-18 knots from the soputh...at last, the sea breeze. Heronasaurus and Flaw Show were out early, with Pittwater Pearl in pursuit. Heronasaurus did it easily. Pittwater Pearl reeled in Flaw Show on the reaches to get second. Grumpier was in 4th spot for most of the race but was passed by Carew and 2 Goats on the last beat. Heronasaurus was firming as favourite for the title but could ill afford another result like heat 4.

Heat 6: Sailed back to back with heat 5. The wind had lightened. Individual recall again. Most of the fleet went left. Heronasaurus led the fleet at the first mark from sCarey, Pittwater Pearl and Carew. Pittwater Pearl had a swim at the wing mark. Heronasaurus built a good lead from sCarey and Flaw Show. Flaw Show attacked sCarey with everything but could not get past. Pittwater Pearl recovered to 4th and Carew was 5th. Valkyrie continued her run of dreadful luck - she did not leave the pontoon for the day's racing after being holed while launching.

Heat 7: Two heats were required on the last day to ensure that the full program was sailed. Light breezes from the NNE and a strong current did not, however, augur well. A race was started and then abandoned after a big wind shift on the first leg. The breeze died, and the fleet returned to shore to await developments. The wind lifted, the fleet again took to the water and a start took place. 2 Goats led the fleet hard into the right bank of the river to avoid the current. Greg and Matt in 2 Goats revelled in the lighter breezes and led all the way from Pittwater Pearl, Carew and Heronasaurus.

The wind died again and the fleet waited around for a second start. The sea breeze finally arrived and a start was made. With Grumpier in the lead, a massive wind shift took place again as the sea breeze could not stabilise and the RO had no choice other than to abandon the race and send the fleet back to shore.

Congratulations to the Johnson family of Qld in 10269 Heronasaurus, worthy winners of the regatta from the Phillips family in 10270 Pittwater Pearl (NSW) and 10232 Flaw Show sailed by Richard Gibson and Therese Nolan from SA. While all the masts in the top six were Bermudan, there was a good mix of smaller and larger headsails. Below, a breakdown of the top six and their rigs:

Place	Number	Name	Hull	Mast	Headsail
1	10269	Heronasaurus	Dinghy Sports Mk2 GRP	Bermudan	Jib
2	10270	Pittwater Pearl	Dinghy Sports Mk2 GRP	Bermudan	Jib
3	10232	Flaw Show	Timber stitch and glue	Bermudan	Genoa
4	10205	2 Goats in a Boat	Cameron Sloey Mk2 GRP	Bermudan	Genoa
5	10184	Grumpier	Mk 2 GRP	Bermudan	Jib
6	10275	sCarey	Dinghy Sports Mk2 GRP	Bermudan	Genoa

FULL RESULTS:

Place	Sail #	Boat Name	Skipper	Crew	State	Score	Ht 7	Ht 6	Ht 5	Ht 4	Ht 3	Ht 2	Ht 1
1	10269	Heronasaurus	D Johnson	T, L & H Johnson	QLD	12	4	1	1	[10.0]	1	4	1
2	10270	Pittwater Pearl	M Phillips	H & L Phillips	NSW	16	2	4	2	4	2	[6.0]	2
3	10232	Flaw Show	R Gibson	T Nolan	SA	19	[13.0]	3	3	3	3	2	5
4	10205	2 Goats in a Boat	G Harris	M Harris	NSW	24	1	7	4	1	[7.0]	5	6
5	10184	Grumpier	D McLean	S Clapham	NSW	24	6	[9.0]	6	2	5	1	4
6	10275	sCarey	C Carey	E & S Carey	QLD	27	5	2	8	5	4	[17.0]	3

7	967 1	Carew	N Breads ell	W & T Breadsell	Q L D	35	3	5	5	9	[27 .0F]	3	10
8	781 4	Sobraon	J Nobbs	C Ross	Q L D	52	7	6	7	11	14	7	[27. 0F]
9	999 8	Golden Fox	G Nash	H Nash	N S W	54	8	[13 .0]	9	6	12	11	8
10	102 71	Slippery when Wet	A Nelson	B Bohdenonic z	N S W	67	10	11	17	8	6	15	[27. 0F]
11	101 85	This is the Life	T Pearce	B Thomson	TAS	70	18	14	11	7	8	12	[27. 0F]
12	102 78	S i l v e r Feather	J Veale	L Veale	N S W	71	9	15	12	16	11	8	[27. 0F]
13	102 72	O f o r Awesome	J Conole	L Conole	Q L D	74	15	8	14	13	10	14	[27. 0F]
14	855 5	Wiwirri	M Cooper	M Gluskie	TAS	78	14	10	13	14	18	[22 .0]	9
15	974 1	Hardy Har Har	A Hardm an	T Hardman	N S W	82	[21 .0]	12	18	20	15	10	7
16	101 14	Rug Rats	T Males	O Pritchard	TAS	86	16	16	10	15	13	16	[27. 0F]
17	102 41	Astro Boy	G Wilson	H O'Shea	VIC	95	17	27. 0F	15	18	9	9	[27. 0F]
18	101 94	Nan	C Clapha m	H Males	N S W	106	12	17	20	17	19	21	[27. 0F]
19	102 77	Valkyrie	S Olding	G Burke	TAS	117	11	27. 0C	2 7 . 0 C	12	27. 0S	13	[27. 0F]
20	102 47	M i s s Conduct	P Weedi ng	K Lloyd	VIC	128	27. 0F	27. 0S	16	23	16	19	[27. 0C]
21	964 1	Rapscallion	D Kay	J Rawson	TAS	136	19	27. 0S	2 7 . 0 F	19	20	24	[27. 0F]
22	948 0	R a b b i t Racing	S Robson	N Robson	VIC	139	27. 0C	27. 0S	19	21	27. 0F	18	[27. 0C]
23	102 67	Bongo	C Lloyd	N Lloyd	VIC	140	27. 0F	27. 0S	2 7 . 0 C	22	17	20	[27. 0C]

OTHER RESULTS:

Invitation Race : Flawshow, Richard Gibson and Therese Nolan

Junior champion: Wiwirri , Max Cooper & Max Gluskie

1st Female Skipper: Carew, Nicole Breadsell, Will & Tom

Encouragement award: Rug Rats, Tom Males & Ollie Pritchard

Veteran Skipper, Sobraon, John Nobbs & Caitlin Ross

1st Family Combination, Golden Fox, The Nash Family

Social Report 56th Heron Nationals

Courtesy of Sue Carrick:

This year's Titles sailed on the Derwent River, host club Lindisfarne Sailing Club. After much planning of early family Christmas celebrations, packing up of boats and gear, the time has come.

There were 26 boats entered, 9 from NSW, 6 from Tasmania, 5 from Queensland, 5 from Victoria, and 1 from South Australia (good on you Richard & Therese).

The Official Opening and Flag Raising Ceremony and Briefing by Race Officers were held prior to Invitation Race.

It is always great to meet and greet old and new friends at the start of the titles, and the Welcome BBQ was an excellent occasion to catch up over a nice meal and a few drinks.

Although for one Victorian Heron his series was over before it began, Tony Cope "Outcast", was anchoring his sailor-trailer off the front of the clubhouse when disaster struck, his motor stopped and he was fending off another boat, catching his leg between the two boats, resulting in a very, very bruised and sore thigh. Although "Outcast" was on the water a couple of times sailed by Tony's daughter on a couple of occasions and then by Leigh Brennan-Smith who had just competed in the Sydney to Hobart. Heron sailors just can't stay away, hey Leigh.

Another Heroner also didn't make it past Heat 1. After a great start Peter Carrick "Rippa" was in the lead group to the first mark, when hit by a wind gust, capsized, falling into the mainsail and catching his thumb on the boom, ouch!!! After an x-ray it was all over red rover. Peter lent "Rippa" to Tom Breadsell from Queensland, so the boat, Tom and crew Rachael Hardman completed the series, good on you Tom & Rachael.

Simon Olding's brand new Heron Valkyrie was finished the night before the titles began, but would have to be the unluckiest Heron and skipper at the titles. Launching the boat, with champagne over the bow, was probably the highlight, then it was all downhill from there. First incident his mast came down and put a hole in the deck. Then he was helping another heroner into the water and his boat blew off his trailer and put a hole in the side of his boat. Unfortunately he only managed to finish three of the seven races, better luck next year Simon.

Melinda Hardman and I were lucky to be asked to be on the finishing panel, so each day we had a great view, on the water of the race on Anthony Morgan's lovely motor cruiser. As well as the finishing panel several people were on board over the series to watch the racing, Neville, David Johnston's father, Trevor, Rolf & Dillion Clapham, Peter Carrick, Sam Carey, & Rosie Breadsell. Thanks to Anthony for his dedication to the Heron class in Tasmania over the years.

After Heat 4 Peter & I were lucky to be invited aboard Des Clark's yacht to watch the King of the Derwent Race, we had a great afternoon, thanks Des & Marnie.

Now to the most anticipated event on social calendar "Heron Idol Night". The 3 impartial judges (who shall remain nameless) did an excellent job, as did all the acts. Well deserved 1st place went to Lani Phillips, who sang a song from Frozen.

Presentation Night held at Geilston Bay Boat Club. A nice club, put on a great meal.

Thanks must go to all Officials and members of Lindisfarne Sailing Club for their dedication above and beyond the call of duty for such a great regatta, both on and off the water. In particular Judy & Tony Pearce, Simon Olding & Jo Burke, Matthew & Linda Pearce, Beverley Thomson & Dugald McDougall (who celebrated his 87th birthday during the series). To Race Officers Bridget Hutton & Neil Harris, who ran a terrific series and to all the rescue boat crews, starting & finishing boats crews, thank you.

The Regatta was exceptionally well run by the race officials from Sandy Bay SC, Bridget Hutton and Neil Harris, and here are their own awards:

Race Committee Awards

Award for Excellence	Flaw Show	Richard & Therese
Most granny gybes in one race	Nan	Kathy & Hannah
Cancer Award, slip slop slap	Sobaron	John & Kaitlin
Best impersonation of a fender	Outcast	Tony Cope
Too many black cats	Valkarie	Simon Olding & Gabby Burke

So as this chapter closes, we all look forward to the next chapter in Port Lincoln.
Sue Carrick.

A Message from Simon Olding, THYRA President

The Tasmanian Heron Yacht Racing association wishes to thank all those who made the trip south for the titles this year. We understand what an undertaking it is to cross the water for many of you and it was a privilege to host such a friendly group of family oriented sailing enthusiasts that make up the Heron class. A huge thanks must go to our organising team of Dugald McDougall (who turned 83 years young during the series), Judy Pearce our chief social and canteen organizer, Tony Pearce, Beverley Thomson our treasurer and Jo Burke.

We are looking forward to renewing friendships in Port Lincoln next year (hopefully without any holes in the boat next time). The titles were supported by many local sponsors with special thanks going to Co-Op Toyota, the Tasmanian Government via Sport & Recreation and the Clarence City Council.

Personally speaking, Jacqui and I had a wonderful time, as we do every year meeting up with old interstate mates..... this year we were very pleased to make contact with Des, Brett and Elise Clark... the perches , esp to see Tony still on the water... Chris and Scott Williams....Thanks Anthony and Julie Morgan , for staying on your palatial motor yacht..... Dougald Mac.... Simon, Jo and Gaby for providing a great crew (Caitlin)....Caitlin's parents Kim and David, for being very handy....and a few others whose names I cant recall just now..

To all those heroners out there who havent yet done an away Nats, the further you go, the more fun you have.....

CheersBigEars, John and Jacqui