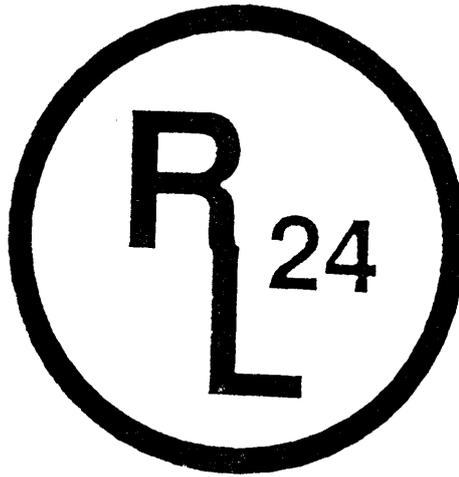




**NATIONAL NEWSLETTER**

**FEBRUARY 1999**

**RL24 - It's YOUR kind of boat**



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## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1999

The 1999 RL 24 National Championship regatta conducted by the South Lake Macquarie Amateur Sailing Club went off without a hitch and provided all entrants with a week of terrific sailing. No doubt Rachel Parker and Ken Hackett were very relieved when the event was over because they worked very hard to ensure the series was an outstanding success both on the water and off. Many thanks to Rachel and Ken for handling such a huge job so well.

This year, we had competitors representing NSW, Vic. and Qld. in the fleet of seven drop keelers and four swingers. Included in the line-up were five previous National Champions in Ken Hackett (*SASHA*), Bruce Castles (*PEGASUS*), Mick Shannon (*LOWANA 6*), Simon Walsh (*OHAURUA*) and Dave Parker (*THE OTHER WOMAN*). Generally, winds were around 10 – 12 kts. with occasionally higher bursts and plenty of variation in direction to maintain pressure on crews. As always, the tactical duels precipitated by the frequent wind shifts were a fascination to observe. The weather, apart from one minor and brief aberration, was warm and friendly and the water flat. In short, conditions were ideal.

A full set of results is attached to this Newsletter. For the moment, it is sufficient to note here that we have a new National Champion in the Swing Keel division in Ian Lane from Colac who won all seven heats with *THIS WAY UP*. Ian is not new to RL24's having skippered *PIPE DREAMS* for Red Edwards over the past couple of seasons but this was his first campaign in his own boat. *THIS WAY UP* is a Mk 1 hull which Ian has completely rejuvenated and re-rigged and its appearance is commensurate with its owners sailing skills – outstanding.

In the Drop Keel division, the run-away winner and National Champion for 1999 was Simon Walsh sailing his Mk2 hull *OHAURUA* giving him and his crew of Darren Dyer and Shane Bennett their third straight title. After 3 heats, they were on track to make a clean sweep of the regatta. However, a nasty altercation with the anchor rope of the start line buoy at the beginning of heat 4 (long distance race) and an invasion of pirates, all under the age of 6, who took command of *Ohau* at the start of the last race, cost them the chance of making it a straight sets victory. For those of us with nothing better to occupy our minds, the sight of Simon tangling with the starting buoy was the highlight of the week. Despite his most persuasive efforts, neither Darren nor Shane could be persuaded to go under the boat to free the offending rope so Simon was obliged to do the job himself. As one who witnessed the circus on *OHAU* I can tell you that Simon not only has a big heart, he has big lungs as well. He was under the boat for an alarming amount of time but when he finally surfaced, the boat was clear and they lost no time in chasing after the fleet. They caught all of us but *SASHA*. In the last heat there appeared to be about 30 terrorists on board *OHAU* but in reality it was the 6 offspring of the crew who were being given the sort of treat many of us "also rans" would dearly love – a chance to sail *with* Simon rather than against him. To both champions and their crews, the Association offers its warmest congratulations.

## TROPHY LIST

**Drop Keel Champion** (Perpetual cup and crystal decanter and glasses) Simon Walsh,  
*OHAU RUA*

**Swing Keel Champion** (Perpetual cup and crystal decanter and glasses) Ian Lane,  
*THIS WAY UP*

**“Coolibah” Team Trophy** (Perpetual cup) *OHAU RUA* Simon Walsh  
*THIS WAY UP* Ian Lane  
*MINKI* Alex Kostin

**Family Trophy** (Perpetual cup) *SASHA* Ken Hackett  
Peter Hackett  
Dale Ayers  
Jenny Ayers  
Chris Ayers  
(Jenny and Chris being Ken’s grandchildren)

**Toad of Barmera Trophy** (Perpetual frog – awarded for conclusive consistency)  
*PIPE DREAMS* Red Edwards

**Invitation Race** *OHAU RUA*

**Heat Winners** (Handicap)  
1 *OHAU RUA*  
2 *OHAU RUA*  
3 *THIS WAY UP*  
4 *SASHA*  
5 *OHAU RUA*  
6 *OHAU RUA*  
7 *LOWANA VI*

**Overall 5<sup>th</sup> Place on handicap** *COSMIC SEDSO* (Corben family.)  
**(Encouragement Award)**

All competitors were awarded a set of 4 embossed glasses. Bruce Castles was presented with a set of 4 embossed coffee mugs in recognition of 25 years attending RL24 National titles. In the entire history of the Association, Bruce has missed only two Championship regattas – once for a daughters wedding and once due to ill health.

## VICTORIAN TITLES 1999

Just a quick reminder that the Victorian RL24 Championship regatta is to be held on Port Phillip Bay (top end – where else for RL24’s?) over the weekend of Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> next. If you missed the last Newsletter giving details of this event, ring Ken Hackett or Ross Corben for further info. With about 15 or so boats likely to participate, this will be an exciting occasion promising great sailing and on – shore camaraderie. A briefing will be held for skippers and crew at 0900hrs on Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1999 at the St.Kilda Marina.

## **ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE 1999**

The Association's AGM held at SLMASC on 30<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1998 (the Minutes of which are attached) re-appointed Ken Hackett as President and appointed Ross Corben as Secretary to replace Rachel Parker who was unable to accept the position for a further year. The meeting authorised Ken to co-opt a Treasurer and it is pleasing to announce that Les Brown has agreed to accept this role. Les is an active member of the Association and represents us on the Trailable Yacht committee of the VYC.

## **VICTORIAN TRAILABLE YACHT CHAMPIONSHIPS 1999**

*OHAU RUA*, *LOWANA VI* and *THIS WAY UP* are the three yachts nominated to represent the RL24 Association in this year's championship. This is the first time the VYC has called for the best three in each class to be nominated rather than open entry. The event consists of 4 heats to be sailed at Royal Geelong Yacht Club over the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> of March next.

## **MONEY MATTERS**

You will note from the attached Minutes of the Association's AGM held at Lake Macquarie that a resolution was passed maintaining the membership fees at their current level for the 1999 calendar year. This means that full membership of the Association will be held at \$24 while associate membership will remain \$12. Full membership includes, inter alia, the right to vote on all matters of concern to the Association, subscription to the quarterly Newsletter and affiliation with Australia's peak yachting organisation, the AYF, through the Victorian Yachting Council. This is a particularly important factor for owners who are not members of a yacht club but who enjoy racing in open events such as the Tin Can Bay Race or the Marlay Point Overnighter. The necessary affiliation with the AYF comes via membership of your class association. The associate membership category was introduced as a means of offering crew members and others interested in RL24 activities the opportunity to maintain contact with the class through receipt of the Newsletter. Associate membership carries no voting rights within the Association or affiliation with the AYF. As, obviously, there is no Association without financial members, the Committee is urging you to renew your membership as soon as possible. In this regard, you will find an Invoice for membership for the 1999 calendar year attached to these pages. Even if you choose not to take membership, would you please return the Invoice appropriately completed so that Association records are maintained accurately. It will also diminish the possibility of us annoying you unnecessarily in the future. Thank you in anticipation for your cooperation in this matter.

## **FLOTSAM FROM THE NATIONALS**

Father and son bonding took on a new dimension on *SASHA*, in an early heat when father, Ken, got too close to son Pete as the latter, with arms flailing, hoisted the kite. Ken copped a knock-out whack to the head that left him seriously dazed for a period

but, typically, *SASHA* raced on to a podium finish. Ken sat out the next heat but denied it was because he was drawing plans to extend *SASHA*'s cockpit.

Over the years the RL 24 Association has generated some outstanding loyalties with many families being attracted to the Nationals almost year in year out. Thus, one of the beaut things about a Nationals series is catching up with old friends and acquaintances and this year it was terrific to chew the fat with Alex Kostin and family who trekked down from their home in Townsville. Alex brought with him a secret weapon and the fact that *MINKI* finished as runner-up in the Swing Keel division suggests the ploy worked. Somehow he induced the *Brisbane Fox*, doyenne of the Brisbane RL 24 world otherwise known as Laurie Ward to venture further south than the Grey St. Bridge and give a bit of tactical advice on board. Laurie, who sadly has recently parted with *CALIBRE* (its sail # is 303!) has clearly lost none of the skills that had him ranked alongside the likes of Cuneo, Brook and our own "Sport" Mc.Crindle and it was just great to see him giving so much cheek.

A quick look at the results shows that Simon pretty well cleaned up the lot. However, his effort to capture the Toad of Barmera Trophy, while worthy, wasn't a match for the ultimate winner. Nor was the attempt by the Hacketts despite their perseverance with the job at hand. Even the Cuthbertsons From Colac, sailed too well to warrant consideration as indicated by their meritorious Third in the Swing Keel division. It must have been Pam's insistence on the crew getting to bed early every night that did the trick for them. Tim Corben kept all of his crew on board all of the time this year (changed your deodorant Tim?) and apart from running the keel into the mud in the long distance race, did nothing to warrant consideration for the Toad. (His sister, Tarya and brother Paul who warned him about his errant navigation just milliseconds before *COSMIC* came to an abrupt and embarrassing halt, think otherwise.) Before each morning race, Dave Parker looked like he could win the Toad without stepping on to a boat but, miraculously, it all came together and Dave had a good series. Some of his windward performances put a lot of drop keelers to shame. The Shannons were uncharacteristically off the Toad pace this year but James puts this down to the absence of brothers Fred and Chas. Sisters Gillian, Jenni and Penny put it down to the fact that the three of them made sure the boat was sailed properly.! The Castles probably should have been a chance as they battled all week with a sagging forestay which defied all attempts at tweaking it up. However, Bruce was M.C. of the Presentation Night and one of the privileges of the job is that you get to give the Toad, not receive it! Jim Quinn was another on the short list as he sailed the whole series only two-up but perhaps that's the secret. There were no stuff-ups and he and his crew, "Deefer" had a great time and remain the best of mates. For a while, some of the judges were seduced by the 4 channel stereo set-up Laney used to blast out "WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS", the old QUEEN hit (shows your age, Laney) but it did nothing to distract him from a 7-zip series win so as a contender for the coveted Toad, *THIS WAY UP* was down. The outlook for a Toad winner was looking bleak but then Red Edwards obliged the Presentation Committee with a dazzling performance that blew away the rest of the fleet. In just one race Red got caught up with a crab pot, towing it halfway across the Lake before shaking it free then had a spectacular gunwhale-under knock-down at the windward mark before finishing off with a tack-to-clew spinnaker rip on the last downwind leg. Despite these daunting disasters, Red and his crew fought on in the best tradition of Conclusive Consistency and won the Toad by heaps. Congratulations to them all on surviving a torrid race.

**RL 24 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP – LAKE MACQUARIE, 1998/99**  
**FINAL RESULTS**

Drop Keel	Invt.	Heat 1		Heat 2		Heat 3		Heat 4		Heat 5		Heat 6		Heat 7		Final Points
		Postn	Corr. time													
Ohau Rua	1	1	113.58	1	105.24	1	105.15	2	162.53	1	109.36	1	125.26	2	123.54	5.75
Lowana 6	2	2	116.11	PMS		3	109.46	3	165.46	3	115.04	3	128.11	1	122.14	14.75
Cosmic	3	3	118.24		112.10	4	110.09	4	174.30	4	115.08	4	130.12	4	129.33	21.00
Sedso																
Sasha	4	4	119.09	PMS		2	108.58	1	161.30	2	112.28	2	127.21	3	124.40	13.75
Pegasus	5	5	121.32		113.45	5	113.26	5	175.45	6	122.44	6	134.55	5	133.18	29.00
Pipe Dream	6	6	125.51		123.51	7	126.03	6	179.10	5	119.24	5	134.20	6	134.25	32.00
Melaleuca	7	7	131.56		125.46	6	123.48	7	202.52	7	131.22	7	149.19	7	143.0	39.00
<b>Swing Keel</b>																
This Way Up	1	1	119.01		111.47	1	104.43	1	166.41	1	110.30	1	130.54	1	123.40	4.5
The Other Woman	2	3	121.24		116.50	3	115.42	4	181.91	4	122.52	3	138.02	3	135.59	20.00
Minki	3	4	128.36		112.48	2	106.37	2	171.51	2	112.57	2	132.10	4	139.12	14.00
Toucan	4	2	121.18		118.0	4	115.55	3	176.23	3	177.16	3	133.58	2	133.55	17.00

**COMPETITORS**

**Drop Keel**

OHAU RUA Sail #199 Simon Walsh.  
LOWANA VI Sail # 427 Mick Shannon.  
COSMIC SEDSO Sail # 600 Tim Corben.  
SASHA Sail # 102 Ken Hackett.

PEGASUS Sail # 152 Bruce Castles  
PIPE DREAM Sail # 454 Red Edwards  
MELALEUCA Sail # 224 Jim Quinn

**Swing Keel**

THIS WAY UP Sail # 110 Ian Lane.  
THE OTHER WOMAN Sail # 193 Dave Parker  
MINKI Sail # 350 Alex Kostin  
TOUCAN Sail # 103 Pam Cuthbertson.

**RL 24 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - LAKE MACQUARIE, 1998/99**  
**HANDICAP PLACINGS (V.Y.C CBH System.)**

Boat Name	Heat 1	Heat 2	Heat 3	Heat 4	Heat 5	Heat 6	HEAT 7
OHAU RUA	1	1	2	2	1	1	3
LOWANA VI	2	11	5	3	5	3	1
COSMIC SEDSO	3	3	6	6	6	4	5
SASHA	5	11	4	1	3	2	4
PEGASUS	8	5	7	7	9	9	6
PIPE DREAM	9	8	10	9	8	8	8
MELALEUCA	11	9	11	11	11	11	11
THIS WAY UP	4	2	1	4	2	5	2
THE OTHER WOMAN	7	6	8	10	10	10	9
MINKI	10	4	3	5	4	6	10
TOUCAN	6	7	9	8	7	7	7