



Autumn 2013

RL - it's YOUR kind of boat

RL24 Owners Association of Australia Inc.

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40th Nationals Wrap Up

The Albury-Wodonga Yacht Club provided a superb venue for the RL24 Association's 40th National Championships in January 2013. Predictably, the weather was mostly hot but this was balanced by the unpredictability of the breezes which made for challenging sailing. Administratively, the A-WYC and the Association's executive were magnificent in their efforts to provide all participants whether on or off the water with a great experience built around sailing. Long serving but outgoing Association President, Darren Dyer, was there and his very thorough account of this milestone event follows.

"Saturday 5th of January 2013. We left Sale in Gippsland Vic. for our trip to the annual RL24 National Championships which, this year, were being run by Albury Wodonga Yacht Club on Lake Hume. When we left, the weather was fine with a few clouds about and 15 to 20 knots of wind. However, the forecast told us we were heading straight for the worst heat wave that Australia had seen for many years. The travelling was all good in mild conditions until we were about 50Km north of Melbourne. By then the wind had dropped and the onboard temperature reading started to climb. By the time we were 100Km north of Melbourne the temp was reading 44Deg C. This certainly had an effect on most towing vehicles even if it was just a drop in power. We passed the Corben's towing "Cosmic Sedso" a bit before Wangaratta and they were doing it a bit tough with all the windows open because they didn't want to load the engine with the air con.

We arrived at AWYC around 1530hrs and sent up camp in the 44Deg heat. The people who had arrived earlier were already sitting on their deck chairs drinking beer at the water's edge.. While we were setting up, we had a call from Paul Corben saying that they were stuck in Wangaratta. The fuel pump on the Patrol had failed and they had been running on gas. However, at Wang. they needed to refill the gas tank but found the pressure in the on-board gas tank had increased beyond the pressure in the service station tank and they couldn't refill it. Nothing that an hour's rest in the shade didn't fix, though. Back on the road again and they arrived 14 hours after leaving Bairnsdale, a long hot day for them with 2 little kids in the back.

Sunday was another scorcher - well into the 40's. We rigged the boat and launched at about 11am. This was our first sail on "Whatever" for 18 months and after a major refurbishment. We sailed for about an hour and a half before the wind seemed like it was finished for the day. We now see why the locals said to run all the races early morning. All Sunday, more people rolled in and set up camp. That evening, we had an Association - provided sausage sizzle for our "meet the fleet" gathering at the AWYC. This is a great place for sailing and camping providing as it does an enjoyable social atmosphere.

On Monday, we sailed 3 short invitation races in perfect sailing conditions of 8 to 12 knots of breeze but on land it was again over 40Deg C. The breeze out on the water made it more pleasant to be on the water than on land. The invitation races gave everyone who made it a great chance for a shake down. We had 15 out of the 17 entries on the water with Simon Walsh on "Ohau Rua" taking out all three races in the Drop Keels and Mitch Dyer on "Whatever" taking out all the races in the Swing Keels. It was good to see how the fleet was gradually getting closer and closer to the leaders as each race went on.

Tuesday saw us leave the bank with very light winds and make our way to the start line. The breeze was from the North West so there was a chance that it would increase. The race was started and before we reached the windward mark we had a good but blustery 20 knots. This continued to increase as the race wore on and as the tail-enders crossed the line the wind was reaching 30+ knots. "Ohau Rua" and "Whatever" won their respective Divisions and while the keen sailors hung around for the next start, the Race officer said that it was 30-35 knots. So we, along with 90% of the fleet, headed for shore and the Start Boat wasn't far behind us. That was it for the day as the wind remained strong and blustery with many fires breaking out in districts around the area

Wednesday 9th January 2013. Three races were sailed in light winds, one of these being to make up for Tuesday's cancellation. In the drop keels "Ohua-Rua" went on her winning way but second and third place was shared around between Tim Jackman's "Dodgy Vindaloo" with two seconds, Paul Corben's "Cosmic Sedso" with a second and a third, the Ratcliff family on "Legacy" with a third and Shannon's with a third. This was showing that second and third was going to be a real battle. In the swing keels "Whatever" went on her winning way with Ian Lane's "This way up" achieving two seconds and a third. The Hetherington's on "Mistress" (sailing without a spinnaker and on a handicap advantage) were second in race 3. John Hawksworth sailing "Happy Days" and using the original soft sails was able to manage a third in race 2, while the Pike's on "Slyfox" got third in race 4. This was a great day's sailing. Wednesday evening was the AGM after which we enjoyed another social night with the club providing meals from the canteen.

Thursday was another scorcher. We started but were dragged back when most boats were going backwards. We hung around for a re-start but due to the lack of wind the Race Officer decided at about 11am that the wineries would be a better option for the day so racing was abandoned. Needless to say, a lot of socializing was done by all and the kids had a ball playing cricket.

Friday 11th Jan was the last day of racing. Again, three races were scheduled and all were sailed in light but serviceable winds. In the Drop Keels "Ohau-Rua" again managed 3 first's and "Legacy" a second and third to secure them second spot. The other seconds and thirds were shared around between "Cosmic Sedso", "Lowana VI", "Lowana V" and "F-Troop". However due to their strong performance early in the regatta the dodgy boys on "Dodgy Vindaloo" managed to scrape through into third overall after a shocker of a day. In the Swing Keels "Whatever" continued their winning ways with "This way up" placing a 2nd and 3rd. "Street Car" was the big improver for the series with seconds on the last two races securing third place over all.

Friday night was Presentation Night with a meal catered for at the club being the 40th anniversary of the Class, there was plenty of nostalgia in the air with everyone enjoying all the old stories that were being exchanged. How closely they resembled the truth was anyone's guess but no story ever loses anything because it is told by the owner of an RL24. Ross Corben, newly elected Association President, looked like he was enjoying being back in the saddle as MC and he was very ably assisted by long-time Class stalwart, Cristina Shannon who presented the trophies and awards.

Overall I believe this was the most successful National Championship for 10 years or more. We had 17 boats compete overall with 8 Drop Keels and 9 Swing Keels. In the end, we sailed all races and the social atmosphere around the club was wonderful. People who had never previously been to a National series were able to find out how the fast boats are doing things and from what I have heard

many have headed home and started work on tuning adjustments already. This enthusiasm is just great for the Class and its future. We also had boats and, more importantly, people/families back on the water who have been absent for a while. It was particularly good to see the Colac people again and hopefully we will see more Colac boats in 2014.

Next year the Nationals will be back at "Royal Motor Yacht Club Toronto" on Lake Macquarie NSW from the 5th to the 11th January 2014. This is another marvellous venue and Lake Macquarie is a great place to sail with its prevailing sea breeze at around 12-15 knots. Perfect for RL24's! The indication I was given by many boats at AWYC this year is that they will be back next year and very keen because it is on Lake Macquarie. Toronto is a location that is a one day drive for the QLDers and one day for Victorians leaving it an easy local trip for the NSW sailors. I have already been contacted by a new owner from Sydney who sails at a club with other RL's so hopefully we can get them along as well. Let's all start the planning to make next year's Nationals even bigger than this year.

For detailed results and youtube footage go to the RL website <http://www.rlyachts.net/Nationals.asp>

Results – Drop Keel Division

Place	Points	Boat Name	Skipper	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	3.75	Ohau-Rua	S. Walsh	(.75)	(.75)	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75
2	17	Legacy	L. Ratcliff	2	3	(7)	7	(8)	3	2
3	18	Dodgy Vindaloo	T. Jackman	3	(7)	2	2	4	(8)	7
4	19	Cosmic Sedso	P. Corben	6	2	(8)	3	(7)	2	6
5	19	Lowana VI	M. Shannon	(5)	4	3	(5)	3	5	4
6	20	F-Troop	B. Taylor	4	(5)	(5)	4	5	4	3
7	23	Lowana V	S. Vaughan	(8)	(9)	4	6	2	6	5
8	32	Sasha	M. Reid	7	6	6	(8)	6	7	(8)

Results – Swing Keel Division

Place	Points	Boat Name	Skipper	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	3.75	Whatever	M. Dyer	(.75)	(.75)	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75
2	11	This Way Up	I. Lane	2	2	(3)	2	2	3	(9)
3	15	Street Car	J. Hall	3	4	(5)	4	(5)	2	2
4	17	Sly Fox	A. Pike	4	(6)	4	3	3	(5)	3
5	22	Spiral Navigator	W. Hill	(6)	5	(7)	5	4	4	4
6	25	Happy Days	J. Hawksworth	5	3	(6)	6	(7)	6	5
7	30	Miss Tress**	H. Hetherington	(10)	7	2	7	6	(8)	8
8	38	Mikela	D. Pullin	(10)	8	8	8	8	(10)	6
9	39	Ring Leader	C. Boylan	7	9	(9)	(9)	9	7	7

** Miss Tress entered in the Cruising Division. As there was only 1 entry (which is insufficient to constitute a series) she joined the Swing Keel Division with a modified handicap of 116.47.

RL24 Owners Association Executive 2013

In the prelude to the election of Office-Bearers at the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the RL24 Owners Association of Australia held on January 9th at the Albury-Wodonga Yacht Club, President Darren Dyer indicated that he was unable to continue in this role and would not accept nomination for the position. All other office bearers were prepared to accept renomination if the meeting so desired. In the elections which followed, Ross Corben was appointed President, Paul Corben was reappointed Secretary and Darren Dyer Treasurer. Michael Shannon and Simon Walsh agreed to continue as Class Measurers. Minutes of the AGM are available from the Class Secretary who can be contacted on (03) 51525842.

Sailing Below Sea Level

Quite often, RL24 owners use their boats for exciting and challenging adventures. After all, the boat is just made for it. But here's a story with a difference – sailing below sea level with the boat the right way up! I'll let Sue Graham explain in this marvellous story she has kindly penned for the RL24 Newsletter. More photographs of their incredible trip can be seen in the Picture Gallery of the RL24 website.

Sue writes,

“Every so often an opportunity comes up that may not present again. This was the case when friends told us about the Lake Eyre Yacht Club Regatta they attended in 2011, sailing their catamaran. Enthused, and given the unpredictable water levels in the Cooper system from year to year, we decided to “just do it.”



In preparation for the off road conditions on the Birdsville track trip, Lloyd fabricated a shade cloth screen attached to custom built outriggers on each side of the trailer. It went right underneath the whole trailer to protect the hull from rocks that inevitably would be thrown up. The motor and boom etc. were strapped down inside on wads of foam. It all went well.

We (Sue, Lloyd and Lloyd's sister Heather) left home at midday one Thursday in September 2012 at the beginning of our trip of 1392km to Lake Eyre Y.C at Marree. We stopped overnight at Mildura to meet our friends Vin and Net. with the Cat. We arrived at LEYC at dusk on Friday and erected our tents on a bed of sand and pebbles. Vin and Net introduced us to many others already settled in who were back for another go.

Saturday was busy at the Club as the rest of the 130+ entrants with 42 boats arrived. The annual Marree Camel Cup was a must-see event even though the camels don't really have much of an idea about racing. At the start gun they tend to head off in different directions! It was crazy and a bit of fun with lots of outback activities happening.



At the briefing that night, people introduced themselves and told where they had come from. We were amazed that home bases were as far away as Noosa, Brisbane, Launceston, Margaret River, and at 3500km each way, Geraldton. And everywhere in between!

Sunday saw a motley convoy of 4WDs, trucks, cars, boats and trailers of all types heading to the regatta site 120km up the Birdsville track. We turned off on to an 18km sandy side road into Lake Killalpaninna, situated in the Coopers Creek flood plain. It is probably one of the last viable sailing lakes left in the area till the next flood. It has an area approx. 1 x 4 km in the main lake and a 1km long tributary down to the muddy beach where we launched and moored. The lake level visibly dropped over the 5 days validating our decision to attend this year.

Without going into the politics, sailing on Lake Eyre is a bit like climbing Uluru – it is not politically correct and some are trying to make it illegal. Hence the Lake K setting.

Bush camping was the go and tents and vans were popping up in clusters along the lake shore and surrounding scrub. Bob Backway and crew did a marvellous job organizing an admin tent, a few pit toilets and a load of sleepers for fires. It was below zero at night so we all tended to group around a fire and cook. Very sociable and it didn't take long to forge new friendships. The event attracted people of all ages and most had a combined love of 4WDing and sailing. They were your remote area adventurers rather than the 5 star travellers. There was always someone to chat to with who had an interesting story to tell. Crews were diverse with some young guns on the cats, mates on an adventure, and various family combos including 4 brothers who resurrected their 2 childhood Mirrors, added a splash of paint, and sailed together for the first time in 50 years.



The days were sunny and the wind was quite strong most times. The race format was a windward start in the lagoon by the camp and then we headed out into the main lake to round the buoys. The big cats (A class, Nacras etc) were in div 1 and the rest of us in div 2. Apart from The Sting, a Cherry and a couple of "cruising" cats, all the other boats were off the beach cats or dinghies. The races were colourful affairs with the sun on multi-coloured Maricat sails and various spinnakers.



As with any race there were challenges and sand bars were problematic for racing in one area. We were grateful for the depth sounder. On the cruises, pushing boats through the muddy water was a common sight as was extracting cats from trees when they couldn't tack easily in light winds. There was the odd capsize and crew were supported by motor driven rescue craft. The Sting's high rig and pointing ability was advantageous particularly on the crowded start line but some canny sailors made us work hard for our Division 2 first placing.



When the formal racing program had finished 2 "adventure sails" were organized, one up stream and one downstream, so that everyone could experience the beautiful scenery. Basically we all piled onto the different boats and went for a picnic sail (sorry, *race* there was more than 1boat!)



Family members who didn't sail made good use of the water-ways to kayak or canoe and to do some walks and photography.

Lake Killalpaninna was the site of an old Lutheran

mission and cattle station. The area is a reserve now and Bob and Doreen took walking tours of the area and filled us in on the history. Very interesting and archeologically fascinating. Looking carefully, we found old Afghan coloured bottle glass and German crockery pieces which we, of course, left where they lay as mute memorials to and reminders of a bygone age although the area has flooded many times, remains of mud brick walls were still evident. The graves told their own stories.

We broke camp on Friday with everyone lending a hand to retrieve boats and pack up the camp site. After a week without facilities we took advantage of the relocatable cabins at Marree before the presentation night at the Marree pub. It was a great night with good food and lots of stories. Prizes were presented for the various division places and notoriety awards and club pennants were exchanged. The whole regatta was really well organised and terrific fun.

On Saturday a few of us took a couple of gaffer dinghies out to Lake Eyre South for the day. We were trying to keep a low profile but apparently talk on the UHF was that sails were out on L Eyre! One couple in their 80s came out and he sailed L Eyre again after first sailing

during the flood in '74. The water was deep enough close in so we avoided the salty mud walk and enjoyed a sail in light winds.



Heather had never been to the outback before so we left The Sting in Bob's care at the LEYC and went up to Birdsville. We toured the town, watched the

sunset at the Waddi trees and got the Merc up Big Red first go - to a standing ovation as many serious 4WDs took several goes that day. Later on a minor repair to the car by Lloyd resulted in it refusing to start and thus we embarked on our second adventure. The weather and car conspired against us so the car was trucked home, we flew home and Lloyd and a friend went back to collect The Sting. The following week. Bob twisted their arms and they had a sail on Lake Harry, another desert lake located on the Birdsville Track.



So we recommend that if the rains come in central Queensland next year and the Cooper fills, go and do the LEYC Regatta. You will get challenging sailing, meet some new best friends and have a wow of a time. Definitely a bucket list event. Oh and pack the thermals!"

Last Chance

For the first time in many years, the RL 24 Assoc. produced very fashionable National Championship shirts. The shirts proved to be a great success. Due to high interest a second run can be organised. To do so, please email your order by May 10th.

All shirts are available in a range of sizes extending from childrens size 4 to mens size 5XL. The Ladies V-neck is available in size 8-18.



'Hero' long-sleeve Polo

\$35.00



Ladies V-neck

\$20



'Legend' Polo-shirt
(Kids, ladies and mens fit)

\$25

Polo Shirt Sizes

Mens	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL
Half Chest (cm)	52	55	58	62	65	71	79

Ladies (short -sleeve only)	8	10	12	14	16	18
Half Chest (cm)	46.5	49	51.5	54	56.5	59

Kids	4	6	8	10	12	14	16
Half Chest (cm)	36	38	40	42	44	46	49

Order Form (Orders need to be made by 7th November)

Name _____

Shirt (type)	Size	Quantity

Orders need to be mailed or emailed to Paul Corben (corben.paul.g@edumail.vic.gov.au). Payment by cheque RL 24 Owners Assoc. of Australia or direct deposited into RL24 Owners Assc of Australia BSB 063-510 Acc#1013-5552 (Please use Boat Name as reference)

START PLANNING FOR THE

41st



**RL 24 National
Championships
Royal Toronto Motor
Yacht Club
Lake Macquarie
N.S.W.**

5-10 January 2014

N.O.R. COMING SOON