

- \* HI! HO! to all 130 Members. Ten New Members last Month.  
1 - Vic., 2 - N.S.W., 3 - W.A., and 4 - Qld.
- \* As we all know, competition improves and the improvement shown in the speed of the top RLs over the past year proves this. Other Classes which were just behind a year ago are now well behind. Little things make all the difference in any sailing Boat - and in any Association. Little things like placement of fittings and regular contact with Members. Both make all the difference. Of course the fittings and the Members have to do their bit too; that's why the RLs are sailing faster, and the Association is growing so fast.
- \* Roy Fredericks, ('NAUTILUS' Sail No. 116, Vic.) Commodore of the Portland Yacht Club, reports a wonderful opening season. Thirty three yachts sailed past Senator Primmer who officially opened the Season. Yachts, Cats, Monos and Junior Classes then held interest as they battled for race honours. The Frederick's RL24, sailed by his 15 year old son Rex, won the Keel Boat Trophy and gained line honours as well. Nothing surprising about that you say! It was the first time the Fredericks had raced!! Portland Membership is about 100 strong with more than 60 registered Boats. Congratulations Rex.
- \* FOAM IN MAST: We have been asked how to fill the top of the RL mast with foam when the halyards run down/up the centre of the mast. Rob says that he drills a hole in the mast just above the hounds, mixes up a batch of expandable foam, (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.) pours it in via the hole, (using a small Woollies plastic funnel) and, after the foam has expanded, frees the halyards by simply pulling them free.
- \* Les Clare ('HUMMING BIRD' Sail No. 55, Qld.) from Noosa Heads caused a bit of a stir at Mooloolaba earlier this season when they won a J.O.G. handicap event and finished fifth over the line. The Fleet consisted of a 45 ft. Ketch, 3/30 to 50 ft. Yachts, a Hood 20, Marauders and others, about 15 Boats in all. Only the larger Yachts beat HUMMING BIRD and the rest of the Fleet were about two miles behind the Clares'. HUMMING BIRD usually sails on Lake Cootharaba, (inland from Noosa and quite shallow) in the all Boats division. This division includes FDs, Sharpies, Fireballs and a Lazy E. HUMMING BIRD goes to windward 5 to 10 degrees higher than any of her rivals and is very competitive.
- \* Ivan Watt, ('GENIE' Sail No. 21, Qld.) and Brian Wager, ('WINDSONG' Sail No. 124, Qld.) are sailing their RLs on Warwick's Leslie Dam. Ivan won one race by 42 mins. About 25 Boats competed - Cats (Hobbies, Arrows, Arafuras & Paper Tigers) Corsairs, Lazy Es, NS14s and an FD. Ivan won because his RL kept going in the light airs. The wind dropped twice during the race to about two knots or less. The second time round the wind kept dropping and heading the rest of the Fleet and Ivan kept broad reaching. It's called the luck of the game, just the same, this performance created tremendous interest in the Class up Warwick way. Heartiest congratulations to both Ivan and Les.
- \* THE SENTIMENTAL BLOKE who dubbed the RL24 "The fastest TS in Australia" has his sentiments where his mouth is. He's the 130th. Member of the Association and his Sail No. is 136. He may call his RL "AUNTY JACK" - the fond nick name given to ME by his youngest Son. The hull is the same colour as APACHE (orange) and it will race in the Botany Bay, (Sydney) area and cruise the great coastal lakes of N.S.W. No prize for guessing who he is, but his initials are P.H. (My nick name for him is "Hoppy").
- \* FOR NEW SAILERS: The RL24s over rotating mast enables the Crew to make the main-sail very full and powerful for light winds or flat and efficient for heavy winds. This is how to do it - in light winds slacken slightly the diamonds and let the mast fully over rotate, this brings the top of the mast to windward, tightens the mainsail leech and gives the sail race-winning power. In strong winds, stop the mast from rotating, (fix it so that it points directly ahead if possible) so that the top of the Mast falls away, the middle of the Mast bows to windward, and the sail becomes flat as the top of the Mast bends aft and to leeward and the leech frees with the mast top. Best way to control Mast rotation is via a mast spanner. Most catamarans have one. It's simply a Stainless steel tube bent double and bolted through the Mast at its foot with rope from spanner's top to cleat/fairlead under the boom near boom vang take off point. When the spanner's rope control is tight, the mast rotates in line with the boom; when the rope control is loose, the mast over-rotates. In really hairy conditions, a stop bolt could be inserted in the mast base to keep the mast facing fore and aft.

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- \* THE QUEENSLAND TS CHAMPIONSHIPS (for all Boats) will be conducted on a TCF basis and rotating rigs are not permitted. Trapezes are out too. Dates of the Championships are 17th and 18th April 1976 and will be hosted by the Port Curtis Sailing Club, Gladstone, Qld. If you are interested in this Easter event, please write to The Secretary, P.O. Box 64, Gladstone, Qld., 4680.
- \* DON'T FORGET our own National Championships at Lake Burrendong, N.S.W. on January 10th and 11th 1976, early nominations would be very much appreciated, the address again..... The Secretary, Lake Burrendong Sailing Club, P.O. Box 836, Dubbo, N.S.W. 2830..
- \* ALSO the mighty South Australian "Tripolis" to be held on 28th, 29th and 30th December, 1975. The 27th will be warm up and measuring day, obtain further details from The Secretary, Geoff Williams, Port Augusta Yacht Club, P.O. Box 334, Port Augusta, S.A. 5700.
- \* WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT? Like to tell us all about that fabulous cruise, exciting race, or new gadget that makes your RL plane to windward? Write to me now and I will see that your news goes into the first available Newsletter. May be an idea to contact the local Newspaper and the major National magazines when you have something worth reporting. An Army may march on its stomach, an Association definitely marches forward on the stomach of its Members. (Read that one again and be con-fused too.)
- \* N.B. MEMO: It is essential that a Delegate from the State wishing to apply for the 1977 National Titles attend the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Lake Burrendong on the 10th January at 8 P.M.
- \* THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH \* Experience is a good school, but the fees come high.
- \* Rob, Myself and the Office Bearers, Wyn Treasure, Harold Peacock, Alan Behrens and Jim Wassell would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Happy Sailing,

JUNE LEGG, Hon. Sec.

P.O. BOX 24,

RUNAWAY BAY, 4216, QLD.