



**APRIL 1983**

**VICTORIAN NEWSLETTER**



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

APRIL 1983

President	Ken Hackett (Sasha)
Vice-President	Dick Armstrong (Solace)
Secretary	Bruce Castles (Pegasus)
Treasurer	Trevor Jones (Casper)
Committee	Jack Walsh (Ohau-Rua) Ross Corben (Anitra)
Measurers	Ken Rainey (Splice) Doug Lee (LaMancha)
Newsletter Co-ordinator	Dick Armstrong
YVC Representative	Keith Hayes (Sublime)

### Rhyll Weekend

Nineteen RL owners and families enjoyed the now famous hospitality of the Shannon family and the Rhyll Yacht Club.

This annual weekend is certainly the highlight of our years outings as an association

The "sightseeing race" turned out to be extremely hot and slow, with winds varying from 8 Kts. to  $\frac{1}{2}$  Kt. Lowanna V continued her spectacular light weather performance and took Michael and the girls to a very comfortable win, taking both handicap and line honours - very popular winners of Olneys Gong. The Walsh family made a very welcome return to RL sailing and took 2nd place after storming home on the last spinnaker reach. Jack has recently worked over Ohau-Rua and must be well pleased with his efforts. Sasha was third, Pegasus fourth.

The long hot race generated great thirsts and these were well quenched during the beautiful warm evening around the Shannon B.B.Q. Trophies were presented during the night including the "Pidlin Little Trophy" to Dick Armstrong for his back somersault during the Rye Capel Sound Race.

Needless to say most of us were in a lazy mood on Sunday and relished the mild sunshine and pleasant sailing breeze. The party sailed or drove to the pretty Silverleaves Beach for a relaxing picnic. This Rhyll formula definitely equals most memorable weekend.

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## AGM

Held on the Sunday morning at the Rhyl Yacht Club.

- Highlights:
1. Summary of RL performances in open competition during year shows excellent results, especially 1st, 2nd, 3rd outright in heavy weather Capel Sound Race and overall 2nd in division for 4 race Kinnears Classic.
  2. Finances in shaky state. Levy may be necessary pending negotiations with national association on use of national membership fee. (to be raised at May AGM, Southport).
  3. Boat show stand to be booked this year (no RL in last years show) \$100 donation available to help finance stand. Ross Corben to co-ordinate. Availability of suitable boat to be ascertained.
  4. Impact of drop keel on class discussed, especially w.r.t. VYC handicap system creating two categories of RL 24. Association members urged to think about implications, observe performance of drop keel RL's, discuss and debate at every opportunity over next 12 months especially via letters to our newsletter with view to what, if any action needed.
  5. New committee ratified.

## One Design or Unrestricted

Or somewhere in between.

RL class rules provide for design modifications to some aspects of the yacht while restricting others. An RL is not a strict "one design" class but actually provides for partial development. The hull is strictly one design and must be produced from a mould approved by the designer and must be a minimum weight. Most other components are either unrestricted or restricted only within fixed total measurements.

It is interesting to review the progress of significant design changes within the rules over the last 10 years.

Probably the most keenly debated change was the infamous trapeze issue. The RL started life as the first TS to utilize crew on trapeze. To many this was very much a part of the excitement of what was indisputably the fastest trailable yacht around. However the strong "anti" lobby won the day on the grounds of maintaining family boating appeal. The keen racing types wondered how they could ever cope in a breeze. That led naturally to the evolution of the flexible rig. While the original over rotating mast was again novel for trailer sailers and certainly had its advantages it was nevertheless a stiff rig with little scope

for depowering in a good blow. The rig now commonly used, with adjustable backstay enables the experienced crews to carry a kite on any reach the old trapeze assisted rig could handle.

Then, inevitably, other designers eventually came up with trailable yachts that began beating the previously invincible RL's.

That was hard to take and the cry went up for "bigger spinnaker" and "lets carry a reaching spinnaker" (in addition to normal running kite) Sensibly, however, our class rules remained intact. There have been many other tries at getting an edge: Fully battened sails seemed the answer - but apparently in a limited wind range; running backstays met with some success with tighter jib luff enabling higher pointing; dagger rudders have substantially outdated swinging blades; ultra tight rigging gear was used on a national champions boat. The latest change in vogue, however, has resulted in the VYC handicapper creating two categories of RL 24. So far the RL association do not agree and all RL's continue to sail on the same basis in RL sponsored events. What do YOU think?? Think about the consequences. Talk it over with other RL people. Watch how dagger boards perform. Let us know what you think via a letter to this paper. Or don't you care?

#### Dagger Boards

First came to notice on Peter Yeoman's "Calibre". Now a standard option on new RL24's.

It is an efficiently shaped aerofoil which is raised/lowered vertically. According to the VYC it is so much more effective than the swing keel that it justifies an increase in the CBH from .708 to .723. Not as convenient of course when you hit an obstacle you stay hit, lifting tackles so far observed need a hefty crew to manage, some have problems with water getting in (case is not enclosed). On the other hand they have all the weight where it matters, at the bottom. There is more room in the cabin, although there is something of a dividing wall with the plate up. And they do seem to go. Very inconclusive evidence as yet but all indications so far point to real light to medium weather improvement, as you would expect. Our class rules say: "Keel - shape unrestricted. 100 kg. minimum weight". There is no question therefore that these keels are quite legitimate.

So what to do, if anything?

Some might say change the rules! Probably little support there.

Perhaps argue with the VYC? Maybe worth while but best we could expect would be some reduction of the gap between the 2 handicaps.

Others may argue for two classes of RL to be recognised in RL championships. Very contentious.

Maybe its like other previous modifications - if you think it gives your boat speed then modify! After all we are all secretly jealous of the RL's reputation and want to show those other TS's how it can go. Well what ever you think, your association are interested. Lets hear it from the silent majority. We want to arrive at a concensus we do not want an issue that causes you to be dissatisfied with RL'ism.

To help in your pondering, our next newsletter will include an article by Jack Walsh on the do's and dont's of changing your yacht from swing keel to dagger keel.

### '83 Nationals, Southport

At least 7 Victorian yachts entering, that we know of, for this nostalgia trip.

Correct dates Monday 9th May to Sunday 15th May.  
7 heats plus an invitation race.  
Entries close April, 15th.  
40 entries expected.

Keith Hayes and Ken Duggan have both offered their abilities to crew at the Nationals on another boat.

### '85 Nationals

Will be in Victoria. Rhyll Yacht Club have offered to stage the series in January, '85. Your committee are considering this offer but would like to hear your views before accepting. Any other suitable venues to suggest?

### '84 Victorian Title

Its only a rumor that the current Gippsland based committee are planning to stage the next series on Sale Cup Day!! Time and venue are yet to be decided - now is the time to lobby your ideas.

### Marlay Point Overnight Race

Twenty-six RL 24's tracked to the fifteenth happening organised by the Lake Wellington Yacht Club on Labor Day Weekend.

Once again our 10 year old design demonstrated that it is still more than competitive with the latest go-fasts. Sasha was seventh across the line in a division of 125 entries, taking handicap honours; Big Deal, sailed by Dick Voller from Port Kembla was 11th across, 3rd on handicap and Ohau Rua took 19th line placing and 7th on handicap. Sasha has a conventional swing keel and both Big Deal and Ohau Rua have replaced their original keels with the new dagger boards.

Radical Lady, from Two Fold Bay had a line placing of sixth but her handicap for sailing as a modified RL 24 brought her back to 14th on handicap. This very new boat was sailing with over-size rig, dagger board, ultra tight shroud tension and a spectacular curved traveller track mounted some 300mm above the cabin top and extending for the full 2.3m width of the hull. The other modified RL, Peter Yeomans new "Dump Truck" came in between Sasha and Big Deal, finishing 17th on handicap. Sasha, Ohau-Rua and Pegasus also took out the top team trophy for Division 2. 26 RL 24's entered, 26 started and 26 finished.

### In The Wake of Batman:

An intrepid party of RL24 explorers will retrace the voyage of John Batman, late of Hobart, up the Yarra River to the Morell Bridge where they will declare that to be the village for a spot. A spot of what will be revealed only to those who join the party which departs from the St. Kilda Marina at 10.00 hrs sharp on SATURDAY 4th JUNE 1983. The expedition is to be led by Rowan & Pat Smith (ALICA II) who advise those interested in making the voyage to bring their own RL24 (no other type of craft being suitable) and sufficient meat/drink as will satisfy the demands of themselves and those under their immediate care & control.

P.S. Electric bar-b-ques are available at the Morell Bridge as are tolerable toilet facilities. Boats can be rafted safely and conveniently by the Morell Landing but bring plenty of fenders. Those proposing to join this cruise might let Rowan know on (03) 232 8577

### Toasted Crumpets, Hot Coffee & The Odd Glass of Port

The Port & Log Fire Night will be held at Jan & Ross Corben's home on Saturday 30th July from around 8.00pm. The address is 161 O'Connor Rd KNOXFIELD 3180 (Melways Ref 73: A3) The night will feature a high quality & comprehensive presentation of 35mm color slides of the Whitsundays with commentary by Dougie & Geoff Olney who were recently in the area. So note the date & book your baby-sitters now.

FOR SALE.

RL24 Mark II "LENARO "

Sail No. 162

On galvanised Stebbings tilt single axle trailer.

Over-ride or vacuum disc brakes.

Extra rollers, mud flaps, 13 inch wheels.

Fitted for racing and cruising.

Top Equipment Includes;

Main with 2 sets of reefing points.

Jib with roller furling.

Storm jib hanked to forestay.

Spinnaker.

Pulpit, pushpit, and lifelines.

Stainless Bruce Castles type rudder box and sliding rudder.

The lighter keel with 100 lb. of lead ballast.

All electrics.

VDO Sum Log.

Stern boarding ladder, bilge pump, water tank.

Bunk cushions, Porta-potti, 2 burner metho stove.

Storage shelves, food and cutlery drawers.

Mariner 8 hp with 5 amp charging- able to be tilted and well closed.

FOR INSPECTION AND SALE AT: ~~THE YACHT SHOP~~ SUNDANCE MARINE  
~~405 WARRIGAL RD OAKLEIGH.~~ HUNTINGDALE  
Phw 01 579 4711

WANTED To Buy

LEGG ORIGINAL TAPERED MAST SECTION  
WITH OR WITHOUT SPREADERS

CONTACT KEN DUGGAN 561 4051

McLENNAN	PE-TURNER	CARTERS BANK	SHAVING POINT	TAMBO BLUFF	POINT KING	McMILLAN STRAIT	FINISH
10:13 PM Big Deal	8:14 AM PAMPERO ?	8:56 AM Radical Lady	10:08 AM Radical Lady	10:40 AM Radical Lady	11:08 AM Radical Lady	11:45 AM Radical Lady	1150.39 Radical Lady
10:20 PM Street Car	8:16 AM Radical Lady	9:25 AM SASHA	10:25 AM SASHA	10:50 AM SASHA	11:00 AM SASHA	11:49 AM SASHA	1152.58 SASHA
10:23 PM SASHA	8:33 AM SASHA	9:40 AM Dump Truck	10:35 AM Dump Truck	10:52 AM Dump Truck	11:57 AM Dump Truck	11:51 AM Dump Truck	1156.50 Dump Truck
10:24 PM KARINHAL	8:47 AM Dump Truck	9:40 AM Big Deal	10:41 AM Big Deal	10:59 AM Big Deal	11:24 AM Big Deal	12:00 Big Deal	1205.54 Big Deal
10:29 PM DUMBERT	8:50 AM Big Deal	10:02 AM OHAI RUA	11:01 AM OHAI RUA	11:32 AM OHAI RUA	11:58 AM OHAI RUA	12:34 PM OHAI RUA	1239.28 OHAI RUA
10:30 PM LOUANA V	9:18 AM OHAI RUA	10:31 AM JACQUI	11:35 AM JACQUI	12:00 PM JACQUI	12:30 PM JACQUI	12:50 PM RAMENA	1309.27 AMANUS GAZE
10:32 PM Pampero	9:18 AM TAEKA	10:43 AM BUNYIP	11:48 AM STREET CAR	12:09 PM STREET CAR	12:30 PM STREET CAR	1:00 PM STREET CAR	1309.35 STREET CAR
10:34 PM BUNYIP	9:46 AM JACQUI	10:44 AM AMANUS GAZE	11:50 AM AMANUS GAZE	12:09 PM AMANUS GAZE	12:37 PM AMANUS GAZE	1:01 PM JACQUI	1309.36 SPICE
10:40 PM RAMENA	10:02 AM BUNYIP	10:48 STREET CAR	11:53 AM BUNYIP	12:12 PM SPICES	12:45 PM BUNYIP	1:05 PM SPICE	1310.17 JACQUI
10:46 PM Radical Lady	10:03 AM AMANUS GAZE	10:57 AM SPICE	11:59 AM RAMENA	12:13 PM BUNYIP	12:59 PM LOUANA V	1:04 PM AMANUS GAZE	1321.32 BUNYIP
10:47 PM SPICE	10:07 AM STREET CAR	11:10 AM LOUANA V	12:10 PM LOUANA V	12:25 PM LOUANA V	1:02 PM CASPER	1:15 PM BUNYIP	1323.45 LOUANA V
10:55 PM ANIRA	10:12 AM SPICE	11:23 AM DUMBERT	12:15 PM CASPER	12:42 PM CASPER	1:05 PM PEGASUS	1:15 PM LOUANA V	1328.15 RAMENA
10:57 PM OHAI RUA	10:17 AM RAMENA	11:23 AM CASPER	12:20 PM PEGASUS	12:49 PM PEGASUS	1:11 PM ANIRA	1:25 PM PEGASUS	1333.17 PEGASUS
11:00 AM PEGASUS	10:28 AM LOUANA V	11:24 AM PEGASUS	12:25 PM KAWASAT	12:55 PM ANIRA	1:20 PM Jody Jane	1:30 PM CASPER	1334.10 CASPER

All times taken from MPOR declarations except official finish time

