

VICTORIAN NEWSLETTER



RL₂₄

Association of Victoria

AFFILIATED WITH THE RL24
OWNERS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

1ST ⊕ 1987

President:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
Editor:

Mike Shannon
Barry Aitken
Geoff Vaughan
Ross Corben

RL 24
6/57

FROM THE COCKPIT

Here it is at last - the first RL24 Association Newsletter for 1987. Its gestation period has been longer than we would have liked mainly because your editor is so slack, but we hope the terrific line-up of material will be a satisfactory reward for your patience.

It is planned to publish the Newsletter quarterly from now on which will give us a chance to collect the sort of material we hope will be of interest to all members.

Speaking of members, the sad fact is that while the number of RL24's in Victoria is increasing (slowly) the number of members of the RL24 Association is decreasing (not so slowly). If you know someone who owns an RL24 and isn't a member of the Association, how about trying to sign them up. Alternatively, dob them in to Mick Shannon (890 2122) or Barry Aitken (723 4761) who will harrass them mercilessly until they agree to join. There are lots of good reasons to belong to the Association, all of which help owners maximise the pleasure they can extract from their RL24. And at only \$10 per year it represents great value.

But back to the Newsletter. In this issue we bring you up to date with the highlights of the 1986/87 season, give advance notice of important events in the RL24 calendar next year and whet your cruising appetite with a couple of yarns and a proposition you can't refuse.

Hope you enjoy it!

If you have a point you'd like to make, a yarn to tell, a question to ask or would like to communicate with RL24 people for any reason at all, please feel free to use this Newsletter. Just drop a line to Ross Corben, 161 O'Connor Road, Knoxfield, 3180, or phone 763 7732.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987

A total of seven RL24's assembled at the Rhyll Y.C. on the Australia Day weekend to contest the 1987 Victorian Championships. Breezes ranged from light to fresh over the first four heats, but the fifth was abandoned because the wind had strengthened considerably and, anyway, everyone was fed up with racing.

Barry Aitken sailing LOWANA V was consistently better than the rest of us, winning three of the four heats and finishing 2nd in the other. Geoff Vaughan (Liaison) opened his account by convincingly winning the first heat and although he couldn't repeat the performance, he was always on the pace and finished 2nd overall.

Mick Shannon, bleeding new crew (Gillian James Fred & Jenni) to replace the aging Cristina (jar) and Anita, finished a comfortable third with LOWANA VI. Fourth spot was a close tussle between Jack Lucas (RADICAL LADY II) and Bruce Castles (PEGASUS). On this occasion Jack and Bruce shared the points. Sixth place went to HAPPY DAYS, the first of the swing keelers sailed by Geoff Gronow while ANITRA (Corben family) brought up the rear so consistently she would now be in a tin had she been a race horse.

Although the weather was patchy, all crews had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend thanks to the efforts of the Rhyll Y.C. in organising not only an excellent series of races but a superb social calendar as well. The highlight was the Miss (Ms or Mrs) RL24 Figurehead competition which looked very promising until it was announced that 1st prize was a night out with the Association President, while 2nd prize was two nights with the same gentleman. At this news, all contestants were very deflated and withdrew from the competition but we're hoping for bigger things next year.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 1987

A full report of the 1987 Nationals held at Gladstone, Queensland, will be included in the next Newsletter, reprinted from the National Newsletter. At the time of going to press it had not arrived.

The placings were however, first and again National Champion, Warren Walters, sailing Wings; 2nd, Rod Young sailing Piping Dreams; 3rd, Dave Parmentor in F Troop; following in 4th place the 1st "Mexican" Barry Aitken in Lowana V.

RL24 NATIONAL TITLES 1988

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see details of the next RL24 National Championships to be held 3 - 10th January, 1988 on Twofold Bay Eden, N.S.W. Jack Lucas has already put in a lot of spade work to get this series off to a great start and all it now requires to be an outstanding social and sailing occasion, is you.

A welcome innovation for this series (and all future series, hopefully) is a division system which will give all competitors a chance to feature in the results be they hot-shots with a high-tech boat or only occasional racers. Incidentally, Twofold Bay is not only an exciting racing venue, it is also a superb cruising area which, at that time of year, will be just ripe for exploring. Peter Webster of "Australian Boating" says, "..... Twofold Bay offers a unique haven for exploring and cruising in safety almost regardless of the weather." Of course, in January, there will be heavy pressure on Eden's camping/accommodation facilities so it would be wise to let Jack Lucas know if you're a likely starter as soon as possible.

By the way, the National RL24 Association executive has approached the Lake Wellington Y.C. to seek its agreement to staging the 1989 national titles. More on this in later Newsletters.

RHYLL BOYS RULE - OK?

The Association AGM held at Rhyll Y.C. on 22/2/87 saw a classic example of democracy at work. Despite frantic lobbying by Messrs Shannon, Vaughan and Aitken (all members of the Rhyll Y.C.) the tide of popular opinion was racing against them and, for their sins, they were unanimously swept back into office for the 1987/88 season. Better luck next time fellas! For the record, our executive is as follows:

President:	Mick Shannon	Ph: 890 2122
Secretary:	Barry Aitken	Ph: 723 4761
Treasurer:	Geoff Vaughan	Ph: 848 7250

The meeting also appointed two Measurers. They are:

Geoff Gronow	Ph: 592 8553
Lloyd Graham	Ph: 870 5439

Lloyd Graham and Dick Armstrong are to act as links between the Association, the Western Trailable Yacht Group and the Geelong area, while Bruce Castles will do the same job with the Gippsland fleet. Ross Corben will help with the preparation of a quarterly Newsletter. The Minutes of the AGM are attached.

OLNEY'S GONG

History was made at the now traditional RL24 Rhyll Weekend (held this year on 21st and 22nd February) when the SCUD Perpetual Trophy was not only presented as usual by Geoff Olney, but was won by a boat on which he was sailing.

"Olney's Gong" as the trophy (a ship's bell) is affectionately known, is a most coveted prize presented to the handicap winner of a deadly serious fun race usually held round the eastern extremities of Western Port Bay.

This year the race started in a fairly fresh breeze which rapidly strengthened to about 35-40 knots and had the fleet fairly flying down to the Lowelia Shoal marks near Newhaven.

The slog home was something else causing many members to question not only the joys of sailing but their sanity too. One crew member was seen to desert his ship but was quickly hauled back on board by his alert skipper who was keen to ensure he finished the race with the same number of lackeys with which he started.

(Rule 59) Mick Shannon had the race stitched up until he hit a mud bank about 1 km from the line (home ground advantage Mick?) which allowed the Vaughans to nip through to take the gun. Third home was Pegasus onto which Geoff Olney had been shanghaid with LOWANA V (Barry Aitken) fourth. Jacqui wisely retired when sea-sickness threatened a young member of her crew. On handicap the winner was Bruce Castles and Pegasus.

WHITSUNDAY WANDERINGS

Since purchasing "Bumble Bee" (the ex Pat and Rae Mahon Mk.IV) Sue and Lloyd Graham have become very active and supportive members of the RL24 Association. Last year they trailed "Bumble Bee" to Airley Beach for a two month cruise through the Whitsundays. In the first of a two part account, Sue writes

Having been urged on by many of you, I have finally put pen to paper to write about our recent trip to the Whitsunday Islands.

We spent August and September living on "Bumble Bee" (RL24) in the islands, in the company of "Carousel" (Ultimate 18), and "Nessie" (Farr 6000). We travelled in convoy, which proved a good move as it gave us, (and particularly the kids), company during breaks. We also reduced weight by carrying one tool kit between us.

The trip took 3 1/2 days, with stops at caravan parks on unpowered sites (\$3.10 per night). The first two stops at Dubbo and Goondawindi were freezing. We woke to find a layer of ice over the boats! The weather had improve noticeably by the third night at Rockhampton. The roads were generally good, and the bad sections under repair.

On the whole, the trip was better than expected, with only minor problems such as flat tyres and the odd large bumps causing the boats to shift on the trailers. Travelling together was useful in these situations, particularly when "Nessie" moved a lot on the trailer and smashed the clearance lights.

We spent 1/2 day at Mackay doing our shopping for 6-7 weeks on the water. The range of goods was excellent, with prices not much dearer than Melbourne. In contrast Airlie Beach had a poor range of exorbitantly priced food (\$4.70 for 2 litres of orange drink, approximately \$3.00 for 500gm margarine, \$2.00 for a small jar of the ever essential vegemite). The fruit and vegetables were very poor quality, and the butcher was totally unreliable. Would you believe on one re-stocking trip he didn't have sausages, chicken or steak?

After being caught out the first time, we retrieved a car from storage and went to Cannonvale to re-stock the next time. Both the prices and range were good there. The car shuffle was a bit inconvenient, but less so than not being able to get fresh food.

Car and trailer storage wasn't a problem. There are several yards where you can leave them for about \$6.00 per day. We spent a couple of nights at a lovely caravan park on the Shute Harbor road called Flame Tree. (Be prepared for the 0600 wake up as the adjacent airport goes into action!). We were able to leave the cars there for \$2.00 per day, although I don't believe this is common practice.

The launching ramps are terrible! Firstly, the carpark is a paddock, so pray it doesn't rain. Secondly, the ramps are only usable near high tide. Thirdly, they end abruptly with rocks just waiting for your boat. As there is nowhere to "beach" the boat while you deal with the car and trailer, you'll need a few extra hands to hold the boat. This is difficult if there is a strong wind or tide flow. The other solution is to have one crew on board to drop and start the motor, and reverse out as soon as the boat is off the trailer. I managed this successfully, and Lloyd rowed out to where I had anchored, after storing the car.

Hopefully, a new marina complex planned for the area will improve things somewhat.

Once out in the islands we soon realised how admirably suited to trailer sailers the area is.

Each island is unique and offers you something special. Hook Island has the underwater observatory, Butterfly Bay and Cateran Bay have superb diving over coral reefs, Ad Harbor has beautiful (and plentiful) creek water, Nara and Galnare Inlets offer protection when the wind blows up. Other islands have walking tracks, exposed reefs at low tide, etc.

Many islands have protected beaches, with real sand to dry out on. This was great for the kids, reduced marine growth, and most importantly saved me having to row the dinghy to shore. Believe me, this is an acquired skill!

Part 2 coming soon.

Sue Graham

NAMES THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

"Liaison" (Geoff Vaughan) - "Vaughan Free" or "Vaughan to Win"
"Lowana V" (Barry Aitken) - "Black & Blue & Aitken All Over"
"Pegasus" (Bruce Castles) - "Castles in the Air"
"Yogi Bear" (Peter Trigger) - "Trigger Happy"

Any Others?

WINTER CRUISING ANYONE?

A couple of years back Bruce Castles sailed Pegasus from Port Welshpool to Refuge Cove and back over the Queens Birthday weekend in June. It was a magic cruise and his recounting the story recently has kindled the enthusiasm of 2 or 3 other RL skippers who are keen to make the trip this coming Queens Birthday weekend (6/7/8th June next). Bruce has also indicated his willingness to participate and act as "pilot" if necessary. Naturally it's a weather-dependant proposition but even if it's too heavy to sail outside there is every chance of a pleasant cruise around Corner Inlet. Welshpool to Refuge Cove is about 26 naut. miles according to the chart (AUS 350) so a 5-7 hour sail could be anticipated.

This sort of trip would require careful preparation, good equipment and provisions and lots of common sense, but the results could be the cruise of a lifetime. The general idea would be to gather at Welshpool on the Friday night and prepare for an early morning departure on Saturday. Tide times are roughly as follows:

Sat. June 6:	Sun. June 7:	Mon. June 8:
H.T. 0615 hrs	H.T. 0715 hrs	H.T. 0815 hrs
L.T. 1145 hrs	L.T. 1245 hrs	L.T. 1345 hrs
H.T. 1800 hrs	H.T. 1900 hrs	H.T. 2000 hrs
L.T. Midnight	L.T. 0100 hrs (Monday)	L.T. 0200 hrs (Tues)

If you're interested in joining the party (and the more the better) give Bruce a ring on (051) 44 2639 or call Lloyd Graham on (03) 870 5439 or Ross Corben on (03) 763 7732.

WESTERN TRAILABLE YACHT GROUP - INVITATION

On 21/6/87 the W.T.Y.G. is conducting its Winter Championships off Altona. The event is a stern chaser and consists of two laps of a triangular course.

The W.T.Y.G. people, through Lloyd Graham, extend an invitation to all RL24 skippers to compete in this event which will carry a trophy for the first RL24 across the line.

Lloyd suggests an 11am arrival at the Altona ramp to prepare for a start at about 12.40pm. If you're interested, give Lloyd a ring on 870 5439.

ANOTHER INVITATION

The annual coffee, port and crumpets are on again - this year at the Corben residence on 8th August next.

More details in the next Newsleter, but how about noting your diaries now.

AND FAREWELL

The Association has lost the membership of Doug and Denni Lee who have had the gross misfortune to buy a Noelex 25. They were great contributors to the Association and when this temporary alteration passes, we hope to see them once again back in an RL24.

Meanwhile, Charles and Joan Blackney have forsaken the veteran "Timtarri" for a Flinders 7.8 called "Tia Maria" (Rule 26?). Charles has recently sold his business and is now only working 18 hrs a day so he and Joan are frequently seen just pottering around and enjoying life immensely. Good luck and best wishes to them both.

RL24 ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

MINUTES OF AGM

Rhyll - 22nd February 1987, meeting opening 11.20am.

PRESENT:

Mick Shannon, Geoff Vaughan, Barry Aitken, Bruce & Barbara Castles, Ross & Jan Corben, Lloyd & Sue Graham, Geoff Gronow, Dick Armstrong, Graham McDonald, Rod Mellor, Geoff Olney, plus families.

APOLOGIES

Nil

MINUTES/REPORTS

Minutes of previous meeting, held at Rhyll Y.C. on 23/2/86 were passed as read on the motion of Lloyd Graham, seconded by Geoff Olney.

Membership as at December, 1986 - 25 members.

TREASURER'S REPORT

See attached sheet.

ELECTION OF BEARERS

Roff Corben (again) moved that "current office bearers should continue for the coming season", carried.

President: Mick Shannon
Treasurer: Geoff Vaughan
Secretary: Barry Aitken

The following appointments were made or confirmed.

Measurers: Lloyd Graham (Western Trailable Area)
Geoff Gronow (Phillip Island, Melbourne)

To assist with compiling the Newsletter, area representatives were nominated:

Lloyd Graham: Western Trailable Group
Bruce Castles: Lake Wellington
Dick Armstrong: Geelong Region

NYC, Trailable Sub-Committee Representative: Barry Aitken

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Subscription fee to remain at \$10.00 for coming season.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Discussion on following points:

- State Titles
- Social functions during Winter
- Class trophies to be presented by Association for open events
- Newsletter to be prepared quarterly
- Newsletter could include list of supplies, sailmakers, etc., found to be helpful/expert by Association members. Articles describing modifications, such as drop keel conversion.
- State titles could be sailed in divisions to encourage more to participate.

STATE TITLES

Resolved that State Titles in 1988 could be held over the Australia Day weekend at Lake Wellington. Association Executive to pursue.

THANKS

Ross Corben moved a vote of thanks to the Committee.

MEETING CLOSED - 12.30am

JACK LUCAS EDEN

OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA NOTICE OF RACE

NATIONAL TITLES 3rd-10th JAN ~ 1988-
TWO FOLD BAY, YACHT CLUB, EDEN. N.S.W.



SOMETHING DIFFERENT



A SERIES DESIGNED TO SUIT YOU!
WHETHER YOU'RE A RACER OR A CRUISER.

DIVISION 1 HIGH TECH. RACING MACHINES.

DIVISION 2 STANDARD DROP KEELERS.

DIVISION 3 STANDARD SWING KEELERS.

DIVISION 4 CRUISING BOATS ANY TYPE
NO SPINNAKER.

A BOAT MAY ONLY ENTER ONE DIVISION.

THE NATIONAL CHAMPION WILL BE THE FASTEST
BOAT OVERALL FROM ANY DIVISION.

ALL BOATS START AND RACE TOGETHER.
THE SEPERATE DIVISIONS ARE TIMED SEPERATELY.

PRIZES FOR EVERYONE

WHETHER IT'S A FAMILY PRIZE OR THE YOUNGEST
OR THE OLDEST CREW OR THE "SEXIEST" CREW OR
WHO KNOWS WHAT !!??!!!

IF YOU SAIL YOU WILL GET A PRIZE.

CONTACTS

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PH: 051-442639

* MICK SHANNON - MELB

PH: 03-8902122

* KEVIN + BRIAN TROY

ASQUITH - N.S.W.

PH: 043-844289 or
02-4774785

PL 24 ASSOCIATION STATE TTRES 1986/87 APRIL Y.C.

RACE RESULTS :

BOAT NAME	NO.	SKIPPER	RACE 1					RACE POINTS	FINAL POSITION	POINTS			
			1	2	3	4	5						
LOWANA IV	427	MICK STANNON	3	3	3	6	5	11	3	14	10	3	9
UNISON	431	GEOFF VAUGHAN	1	3/4	2	2 3/4	3	5 3/4	2	7 3/4	7	2	4 3/4
HAPPY DAYS	158	GEOFF SPENCER	7	7	6	13	6	19	6	25	7	6	18
ANTRA	332	ROSS DORRIBEN	6	6	7	13	7	20	7	27	10	7	20
LOWANA IV	402	BARRY ATKIN	2	2	1	2 3/4	1	3 1/2	1	4 1/4	0	1	2 1/4
PEGASUS	152	BRUCE CASTLES	5	5	5	10	2	12	5	17	2	=4	12
RADICAL LADY II	707	WICK DEAS	4	4	4	8	4	12	4	16	4	=4	12
SPUCE		RAINER FAMILY									0		