



# NATIONAL NEWS



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

WELCOME BACK!

Well it is sailing season again around the country and time for a bit of news on the happenings in RL24 land.

It has been nine months since the Nationals were held over the the New Year period at the very hospitable MANNERING PARK YACHT CLUB, at Lake Macquarie. As all those who attended could verify a very enjoyable time was had by all who attended. The events of that week are summed up perfectly in the following letter and poem provided by the lovely Rachel Parker who with her husband David and two lovely children is terrific addition to the RL24 Association.

The racing results for the National Titles are as follows,

DROP KEEL

1 <sup>ST</sup> OHUA-RUA	SIMON WALSH
2 <sup>ND</sup> LOWANA 6	MICK SHANNON

SWING KEEL

1 <sup>ST</sup> STREET CAR	JOHN WOOD
2 <sup>ND</sup> RAGGALUFFIN	BRIAN HOLLINGWORTH

HANDICAP

1 <sup>ST</sup> DODGY VINDALOO	TIM JACKMAN
2 <sup>ND</sup> MINKI	ALEX COSTIN

FAMILY

1 <sup>ST</sup> THE OTHER WOMAN	DAVID AND RACHEL PARKER
---------------------------------	-------------------------

TOAD AWARD - RAGGALUFFIN

BOOZE AWARD - CRACKERJACK

So once again welcome to all our old and treasured members and hopefully we will be extending a warm welcome to many new ones throughout the 97-98 season.



e will be back

The newsletter came mid November. We pondered for two weeks then decided that since the Nationals would be only 25 minutes from home, that we would go. We sent off our membership and entry fees, my husband David rang Peter McKay to say we would be coming.

A bit of background:

We bought our RL 24 Jan '94 it was very basic, so we added the cruising necessities. Radio, battery, solar panel, BBQ, lights, new cushions etc, etc.

We were off. Over the next two years, weekends were spent on the Hawkesbury river or Lake Macquarie, they were frequent, comfortable and most enjoyable. Every holiday we were out on our boat, we could spend up to two weeks away as long as I could find a laundromat. The thing we loved most about our boat was the fact that she cost us nothing when we were not using her, no mooring fees, no anti-fouling and when something needed fixing or improving she was right there in the front yard. Much time was spent pondering whilst sitting on his boat so I named her "The Other Woman".

We have been club racing out of Sunshine, Lake Macquarie since Jan '96. Every Sunday we have three hours of quality kid free time together to do what we love best, sailing.

Now where was I, that's right I am going to the Nationals. Well over the next month we bought a new jib (a major investment) and a signwriter officially named our boat, proud and confident we set out to do battle. We borrowed a friend's tent, booked a powered site, packed half the house and arrived with plenty of time to set ourselves up.

We camped mainly to give the kids quality land time as they love cruising, but at 5 and 3 years they find racing very boring, shame that the natural resource 'grandparents' were unavailable. Our tent was one hundred meters from the sailing club, we launched our boat and tied her up out the front, what convenience.

The next morning we met the competition. It was great to look at other boats all basically the same as ours. To see how the experts rig different systems was stimulating. Club racing with a majority of mixed fixed keels yachts is great fun and advice from club members has been very forthcoming but not necessarily helpful as we are a frailable yacht.

As we introduced ourselves around we found 2 other local boats, 2 from QLD as far north as Cairns and the rest were Victorian (Mexicans, south of the border). We were amazed at the distances travelled to Mannering Park, Lake Macquarie. The invitation race was that afternoon and as Dave wandered around the other boats he overheard conversation of "did anybody want another crew". He had noticed that everyone seemed to have 3 mostly 4 crew and since we were only 2, he offered, his offer was honoured and now "The Other Woman" gained another woman. Amanda was a great asset to us that week she raced every race with us and taught me everything I needed to know about spinnakers. Thanks again Amanda.

The invitation race was the indication of results for the rest of the week and we went from last to last with dignity, but that is not important. What was most important was that in 7 days we learnt more about our boat than we had in 3 years. We improved our sailing performance by 30 minutes and we made some very valued friendships. The expertise was there and more than willing to help, we broke things and with everybody's help they were fixed for the next day.

More efficient systems were installed with minimal cost and others suggested for the future. We were inspired by the speed of the others and not one person snobbed us for our placing, we were welcomed open armed into the fold of the RL Association.

After every race everyone socialised, it was like we had known them for years. Some of us partied harder than others but midnight sails and other party tricks are stories to be reminisced at next year's Nationals, not for me to tell of now. As a family we had the best holiday. To those cruising RL's filled with families out there I highly recommend the Nationals as a holiday because if you own an RL you love love to sail and this is a great way to do what you love, gather a wealth of information and meet a great bunch of people.

A special cheerio to everyone we met and we will see you at Lake Wellington 97-98 Nationals.

Rachel Parker

## ODE TO THE NATIONALS

The series started Saturday,  
New Years Day was Wednesday,  
Thank God it was a layday,  
Friday was presentation day,  
The race of invitation  
Gave a pacer indication,  
The cause of speculation,  
Gave Ohau-Rua congratulations.

The Other Woman gained another woman,  
Amanda was her name, spinnakers her game,  
When she sprang aboard us, that reassured us,  
That this was no lame dame.

The boozers of the year, by God they drank some beer,  
They were full of new year cheer, but vision wasn't very clear,  
Their camping gear was fearful, when Ricky became too cheerful,  
As demolition, though not an ambition,  
Gave cause for some laughing stimulation.

Because the wind prevailed,  
Some of us enjoyed a midnight sail,  
Only one became very pale,  
Not because it was blowing a gale,  
It was more to do with amber ale.

Now Toni had said she could swim,  
"Aha" thought Red with his giant grin,  
As she slipped quietly in,  
He tried to pick her up downwind,  
It took about ten minutes for it to sink in,  
The best way to save her was of course upwind.

To those who came, too many to name, hope to see you all again,  
To the boys from Colac, we take off our hats,  
But in twelve months time we will be back, With spare livers in our packs,  
And as long as there is Birds, Beer and Boobs who cares if we loose!

A POEM BY THE VERY TALENTED Mrs RACHEL PARKER



# JANUARY '97 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CLASS RULES

At the January 1997 Annual General Meeting, two motions were put forward, regarding changes to our class rules. It was decided that these motions should be put to a ballot so that all FINANCIAL members of our association could have a say in the future of the class and it's direction.

## MOTION 1:

That the association adopts a minimum hull weight for swing keelers at 700 KGS.  
That the weighing procedure be done with swing, keel and rudder with it's associated fittings in place. The mast, sails and booms not be included in the weighing procedure.  
That any extra ballast needed by "below minimum" hull weight boats be declared an evenly distributed in afore and aft plane in the boat.

## MOTION 2:

That the drop keel has a maximum draft of 1100 mm.  
That a permanent locking device be fitted to prevent lowering beyond maximum legal length.  
That the keel retract fully inside the cabin.

" WANTED



DEAD OR ALIVE "

WANTED : Information on the RL 28.

Could anyone with any information on this subject please contact : Sherry James  
Phone/Fax: 03 9836 9445

WANTED: "RL34 Table of Offsets" by Ralph Ackerman of SALE.

Phone : 03 5156 7399

Mobile: 017 119702

URGENT: WANTED FOR ' 98 SEASON

Sexy woman to cook and clean. Must have competitive RL24 Drop Keel with tilt trailer.

Contact Trevor Woods :

Phone : 03 52311108

P.S. Please include photo of boat and sails .

FOR SALE

Spunspar Mast - including spreaders and mast base, set of sails, 1 Kevlar Main and Dacron Jib.

Drop Keels available - made to any weight - \$900

Contact Peter McKay

Phone: 03 5231 3600 A.H. 03 5231 4073

TO "THE OTHER WOMAN"

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON... LOVE NIGE (President RL24 Assoc.)

## RL 24 STATE TITLES

The RL 24 State Titles will be held over the Australia Day Long Weekend (January 24,25 & 26). Hosted by the Colac Yacht Club, all interstate boats are welcome to attend these titles.

P.S. A good idea to start training for the Chug-A-Lug!!

## NOTICE OF MOTIONS:

Please forward any notice of motions before November 20<sup>th</sup> 1997 in time for the December newsletter, ( Yes there will be newsletters on a regular basis now that the sleeping bear has come out of hibernation after his winter sleep !!)

NEWS !! \* # @ % % ??? WANTED !!!

Any news, jokes, For Sale items etc. please mail by November bigger & better.

RL 24's in Fine form:

The RL 24 is still one of the most competitive yachts on the water. This was proven, yet again, in the "Milang to Goolwa" South Australian Classic in which over 100 yachts took part in 25-30 knot winds. "Slippery When Wet" skippered by Peter Stephens took out line honours and handicap in race record time leaving the skippers of the expensive Elliots etc very red faced and disappointed.

Simon Walshes Ohua-Rua also showed great form taking out the Geelong to Queenscliff race in similar conditions, leaving the RL 24 once again on top of the heap.  
"KEEP THE FLAG FLYING BOYS, WELL DONE"

RL 24 OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

1997 - 1998

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

\* Please complete all questions.

Skippers name:.....

Families / crews names:.....

.....

Address. Street:.....

Town:.....

Postcode:..... Phone No:.....

Name of Boat:.....

Sail No:..... Registration No:.....

Hull Colour:..... Deck Colour:.....

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Membership fee \$24.00

Associate Members (ie: crew, family etc.) \$12.00

Please fill in this form and send it with your subs to:

Peter McKay 38 Bolnsgowan Av Cdrc 3250

Ph. 0352313600 AM 0352314073

BALLOT

Motion 1

For	Against
-----	---------

Motion 2

For	Against
-----	---------

DO YOU REQUIRE AN UPDATE OF OUR CURRENT RL 24 CLASS RULES AND RESTRICTIONS.

Yes .....

No .....

Please tick the box of your choice

1997 - 1998 RL 24 VICTORIAN TITLES.

SPONSORED BY: COMMERCIAL HOTEL MOTEL, COLAC.

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....

.....

BOAT NAME:..... SAIL NO:.....

COLAC JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup>, 25, 26 1997. (Australia day weekend).

ENTRY FEE \$35.00

CAMPING REQUESTED .....YES. ....NO.

ACCOMODATION AVAILABLE: COMMERCIAL HOTEL/MOTEL  
PH: 052 315777.  
\*All sailors to receive discounted rates.

\*\*\* PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS, AS THEY SUPPORT US. \*\*\*

PLEASE FORWARD ENTRY TO

Peter McKay  
38 Robinson Av  
Cobe Vic 3250  
Ph. 0352313600  
AM 0352314073.