



JULY '09

RL - it's YOUR kind of boat

RL24 Owners Association of Australia Inc.

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Greetings.....

With yesterday's top temp. of 8C. at salubrious downtown Merton ("poverty's certain when you live at Merton") and only 11C. in that heat island known as Melbourne, one could be forgiven for not having a firm focus on the sport of sailing and RL24's in particular. However, duty calls, or rather our ever diligent Hon Secretary, Jane Davis, called, to remind me that an Association Newsletter was due and that I'd best get cracking. Given that Jane is aka *She Who Must Be Obeyed* (just ask Paul D!) I've cancelled my plans to cross the Rockies by hot air balloon, abandoned the holiday in The Seychelles and might even defer the weekend in a caravan in Dromana to ensure that I meet her deadline. It's that serious! Believe me, the Lady is not for crossing. Which is why y'all should read her Notice of Race for the forthcoming Nationals at Mannering Park on Lake Macquarie NSW and get your Entry Form lodged as soon as possible. Of course, members who have enjoyed a series at Mannering Park in the past won't need to be reminded as they will know that it is a marvelous place to sail, the club is really friendly and the facilities very good. If you haven't previously participated in an RL24 National regatta, there can hardly be a better place to begin. If you need more info or just want to talk about the place, Jane or Association President Darren Dyer will be only too pleased to take your call.

The Old Order (Slowly) Changeth...

I was on the phone the other day with that wise but not so old owl, Rob.Legg. Amongst a number of other issues, we discussed matters RL24 (fancy that!) The subject of the longevity of the RL24 Association crept into the conversation and I ventured that it may have a lot to do with a group of discerning people coalescing around an object that represents extraordinary virtue in all its aspects. An RL24 is both the Mona Lisa and the pure bred kelpie of the trailable yacht genre. There is no other boat that works as well or looks as good, kilo for kilo, in the world. The ever-modest Rob, for his part, took the view that the success of the Association has more to do with the attitude and the calibre of the people doing the coalescing rather than the object of their sailing desires. After some more chit chat, we rang off but a little later, I had some news that caused me to reflect again and appreciate the wisdom of Rob's point. Our Hon. Secretary, Jane Davis left word that **Graham McDonald**, a foundation member of our Association, was retiring from the Association 35 years after he joined in 1974. Graham (and his wife Jenny) purchased *Solitaire* (Sail # 25) from Rob. as a bare hull/deck combination and fitted her out at home. She has been in their hands ever since. She started life as a swing keeler (as they all did in those days) but as an astute and keen developer and experimenter rather than a racer, Graham was soon tinkering with the rig. He was one of the first to move to a fixed rather than rotating mast set-up after which he turned his attention to the keel. To facilitate his interest in this regard, he went to the trouble of constructing a pit in his workshop and modifying his trailer to make it easy to remove the fin and replace it at will. He was one of the first, if not *the* first, to play with bulb keels and he certainly had many others of varying lengths and weights, all of which he made in their entirety. Graham's particular sailing interest was cruising the Gippsland Lakes which he happily did frequently, in all weathers and, to the consternation of his friends, alone. We needn't have worried. *Solitaire* had been superbly set up for this sort of sailing and after a long career in and around the Royal Australian Navy, Graham was a most accomplished seaman. But cruising wasn't the only string to *Solitaire's* bow. Her racing potential had not been overlooked and in the hands of Graham's eldest son, Jamie (of 14ft and 16ft skiff fame), she finished 3rd. in the Nationals at Rhyll in 1995 and won or was highly placed in open fleet races around Port Phillip.

Now an octogenarian, Graham has decided to hang up his slicker, swallow the anchor and part with his old friend, *Solitaire*. We thank him for his loyalty to and support of the Association over 35 years and wish both he and Jenny a long and happy post-sailing life together.

You Can't Keep A Good Man Down.

Many of you will recall the 2007 floods which devastated much of East Gippsland and in particular, Paynesville which was totally inundated. As frequently happens, such disasters are also the stuff of much humor although at the time the funny side often seems fairly obscure. For example, the uncrowned King of Paynesville, Bernie Ryan (he of *Spud Gun* fame) set out to raise a few laughs among the battling townspeople by constructing a "sight-seeing cruiser" from an old farm gate welded to a couple of 44 gallon drums he just happened to have lying around in his yard. Such a

vessel was, of course, useless without a motor but as Bernie probably has more outboards in his yard than you or I have had hot dinners, a suitable unit was quickly added to the transom of his new craft. A bit more fiddling here and there and to everybody's amazement away he went – straight up the main street! Unfortunately, and unknown to our Bernie, the local plod had called in constabulary reinforcements to maintain law and order in the submerged village (it's incredible the mischief some people will get up to when their houses are under water and they are in danger of drowning!) and one out-of-town zealous member of Victoria's Finest spotted Bernie as he proceeded in a Westerly direction, y'r 'onour along the main drag. With an appropriate sense of outrage at this blatant and flagrant abuse of the Marine Act, the good constable semaphored Bernie to dock his wonderous creation and presented him with an on the spot ticket for about \$150.00 for operating an unregistered water craft! That'll teach him!!

With a record like that, you'd think a canny bloke like Bernie would abandon his career as a naval architect and take up origami or tiddlywinks. But he's nothing if not persistent is our lad and after years of laying about *Spud Gun* with an angle grinder and chainsaw, he has now come up with the definitive example of excellence in the realm of trailable yacht design. As the photo shows, Bernie's latest offering from his drawing board is a well proportioned multi hull featuring standing headroom accommodation, plenty of deck and storage space, ample freeboard and a shallow draught. And this time, the new "boat" is registered!



New Members – we would like to welcome 2 new members to the Association – David Pullin - from Paradise Point in Queensland. (Note from Secretary - Don't you just love the thought of living in a place called Paradise Point?) and Andrew Haynes, also from Qld. Both sail a MK II SK called Chill Outat.

The Association always welcomes any new members to our Association.

Since the last newsletter, many of you have been competing in various competitions and races.

Bay-to-Bay :

The 29th Annual Bay to Bay race, conducted by the Hervey Bay Sailing Club in beautiful sunny(?) Queensland : was a success by all accounts.

Out of the 175 entries, 21 were RL24's (17 Sk's & 4 Dk's) – a great turnout. According to the Hervey Bay website, "The RL 24s remain the largest class group in the event and Rob Legg the designer and original builder has a Perpetual RL 24 SK PBH trophy in place now and we have made significant progress in sorting out individually modified (mainly large spinnakers) to the satisfaction of all concerned."

PERPETUAL TROPHIES

RL 24 SK Rob Legg Perpetual Trophy - 1st RL 24 PBH corrected time Peter Bailey's RL 24 SK "Got Salt" from the Tin Can Bay Yacht Club, Tin Can Bay

Munjai Cup - Peter Lynch's RL 24 SK Touché from the Noosa Yacht and Rowing Club, Sunshine Coast

Marylay Point Overnight Race Race – Lake Wellington Yacht Club – Congratulations go to Simon Walsh (Ohau-Rua) and Mitchell Dyer (Whatever) for their great results in this year's race. Mitch achieved 3rd place in Div. C, while the boys were also successful in winning the Interstate Challenge Trophy. Well done!

Results :

Interstate Challenge Trophy

Won by the Victorian team	-	17.25 points
Whatever	RL24 SK	Mitchell Dyer
Ohau-Rua	RL24 DK	Simon Walsh
Executive Suite	Noelex 25	Herman Van Ree

Handicap Placings

Division C	1 st	Frou Frou	Ross 650	Trevor Dunn
	2 nd	Executive Suite	Noelex 25	Herman Van Ree
	3 rd	Whatever	RL24 SK	Mitchell Dyer

MEMBERSHIP

As it's the month of June – that means the financial year is just about over....which also means that the annual subs. are now due and payable.

Please find attached this years' Invoice for membership for 2009/2010.

It is \$25.00 again (we're cheap!!) – it would be appreciated if this could be paid BEFORE too long.....especially before the National Titles.

NATIONAL TITLES

These will be held on Lake Macquarie, from Monday 28th Dec, 2009 until Friday 1st January, 2010. Mannering Park Amateur Sailing Club will be our hosts, and a good time for all entrants will be assured. Please find attached the Notice of Race – with special emphasis placed on the section regarding Late Entries.

Further detailed information regarding the week's activities will be forwarded during the months for follow.

We strongly suggest that you organise accommodation as soon as possible, especially if you wish to stay in the park adjacent to the Sailing Club as it is a very popular place. The contact details of the Park are -

BIG4 Lake Maquarie Monterey Tourist Park

Lot 26 Monterey Avenue

Mannering Park NSW 2259

Ph. 02 43591033

www.monteraypark.com.au

Email : fun@monteraypark.com.au

From The Royal Yacht Club of Victoria :

"Would you please inform your members that the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria will be conducting The Lipton Cup Regatta 2009 on Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th November 2009.

Trailable Yacht & Sportsboats are invited to compete at this sailing regatta which is the first high Value regatta of the season.

All information may be found at www.liptoncupregatta.yachting.org.au . the Website also contains the Notice of Race & Online entry. All other enquiries may be directed to the Race Secretary on 0393971277"

