

Victorian 2018-2019 State Titles.

The Victorian State Championships were held in conjunction with the running of the 58th Easter Regatta conducted on the beautiful Lake Bullen Merri, by Yachting Western Victoria over the Easter Long weekend.

The lake is situated in an extinct volcano near Camperdown in Western Victoria and offers challenging sailing conditions. With the lake being set deep within the volcano, winds at times are challenging and ever changing.

The RL fleet had eight boats, 6 swingers and 2 drop keelers who competed with over 70 other yachts on the large lake. The RLs had there own starts and the racing was close with nearly all boats either in the lead or close to it over the 5 races held .

Entrants in the series were:

Boat Name	Sail Number	Skipper	Final Places
This Way Up	110	Ian Cook	1st
Liquid Limo	211	Matt Harper	2nd
Blue Sky Mine	269	Andrew Stinchcombe	6th
Bumble Bee	409	Luke Sleeman	7th
Toucan	103	Cuthbertson	8th
Lightening Jack	607	Alister King	3rd
Cool Running	98	Noone family	4th
Pipe Dream	454	Adam Chambers	5th

Great weather with an ever changing breeze tested the fleet of RL24s.

There were 8 RL24s competing for the Victorian State Championships. At the head of the fleet were the Harper family sailing *Liquid Limo* and *This Way Up* sailed by Ian Lane and Daryl Langdon with guest crew Mike Rodgers (past World Fireball champion and Australian Sailing official of the year).

The racing between these two boats was always close with *This Way Up* winning on a count back with 3 firsts and 2 thirds from the *Liquid Limo* sailed by the Harpers with 4 seconds and 1 first. Both being on 9 points, but with no drops, *This Way Up* by winning the last race won on a count back.

Finishing in equal third on 22 points, were three boats, *Lightning Jack* skippered by Alister King, *Cool Running* sailed by the Noone Family from Derrinallum, and *Pipe Dream* sailed by Adam Chambers. On a count back again, *Lightning Jack* was placed third. Fourth was *Cool Running*, and *Pipe Dream* was placed Fifth. In Sixth place was *Blue Sky Mine* sailed by Andrew Stinchcombe on 31 points followed by Luke Sleeman in *Bumble Bee* on 34 point and *Toucan* sailed by the Cuthbertson family on 35 points.

All in all it was a great series with excellent racing on the water and camping on the water's edge with large campfires and a movie night on the beach for the kids.

A great venue and regatta and would again make a great venue for another state title in the future where hopefully a lot more RLs could attend.



THIS WAY UP Ian Lane



LIQUID LIMO Matt harper



PIPE DREAM Adam Chambers



BLUE SKY MINE Andrew Stinchcombe



COOL RUNNING Noone Family
BUMBLE BEE Luke Sleeman



Group of RL24s in close racing