

Richmond River Sailing and Rowing Club Ballina

(Northern Northie News)

About an hour's drive into NSW is the Ballina enclave of the Queensland part of the NS14 family. As on many of our coastal rivers, the Richmond River's estuary expands before reaching the sea and offers a triangular course in some weathers. Luckily, nor-easters at Ballina are superb. And yes, we are tidal people!

The season saw three boats wandering away to interclub events: the Qld States on Moreton Bay in October, the Nationals also at Darling Point at Christmas and the NSW States at Gosford over Easter. Mark made it to the Nationals in #1857 *Aphrodite* but otherwise it was Duncan with various crew in #1945 *in a frenzy*, Chris & Nick Larsen in #1997 *Don't Panic* and Bob & Matty Engwirda in #1941 *Space Invader*. Duncan notched up a First in the Qld States with crew Zac Heuchmer, Ninth in the Nationals with Ehren Hyde and a Fifth in the NSW States with his nephew Tim Dey. Team Engwirda was close behind in each series and often ahead of Duncan on the water. Bob has promised to lose weight as Matty gains. It is glorious to see our other father-and-son team Chris & Nick getting it together and starting to perform well on a very regular basis. They have crewed together for much of the season (apart from 2 MG14 events) participating in the Nationals and the NSW states. Darcy Woodward made a guest appearance as crew for the States since last sailing together in the 2007-8 season.

Club racing on Sunday afternoons usually sees eight or so of our dozen NS14s on the River. Boats of all ages compete, and their finishing order is not in line with boat age!

We are expecting more of the same next season, and hoping for more good weather. Please adjust your club programmes to leave our two regatta weekends free.

Cheers, Duncan Dey



In a Frenzy
National Titles, Brisbane, Invitation Race



In a Frenzy
National Titles, Brisbane,
Heat 3