

New South Wales Report

We have just completed a strong season for the class with many of our clubs enjoying growth in numbers and good strong racing throughout the season. Our various series were also reasonable well attended with around 30 boats competing in all or some of the heats of our Travellers and Metropolitan Trophies.

It was pleasing to see several new boats launched through the season. Interestingly this saw quite a diversity of hulls being built with Tiger and Aero 12's coming from their respective manufacturers and a few homebuilt Moondance hulls. All have performed well on their day. We have also seen experimentation with rig configurations continue in our fleet and while Peter V won the National with a now, fairly traditional set up, Rob Fish won the NSW State Championship with his comparatively radical set up.

Our State Titles built on recent successful events and we were able to grow our fleet to 72 boats. The regatta was held at Gosford Sailing Club on the NSW Central Coast and the local race management team did a very good job in what were reasonably testing Easter conditions. Overall though we were fortunate with the wind and we enjoyed very competitive big fleet racing and a great social atmosphere. Our main regatta dinner was held at the club and we had over 130 attendees. A different and I think successful element of this regatta was a communal accommodation option that provided for a lot of post and pre race discussion. The regatta was quite generously sponsored by Sunbeam Appliances and Zhik and again I would like to thank both groups for their involvement.

At this early stage it looks as though we should be able to hold the momentum into next season. I think the key reason for this is the strength at the club level is growing. To single out a couple, Taree (one of the largest fleets at the States) seems to just get stronger and stronger and I think they have more new boats in the pipeline. Also Cronulla seems to be building a core of really competitive boats and also had a few new juniors at the last State Titles. I have also heard that numbers are building at Wangi which will give us a second strong club on Lake Macquarie

Our new Race Secretary, Colin Wiley, has almost finalised the schedule for the coming season which will be published soon. Also, we are already in the early stages of planning for our next turn at hosting the Nationals.

Regards

David Aylward