

HERON

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



June 2026



1010 Suttie at Qld State Titles Lake Cootharaba May long weekend sailed by Simone Dougherty and Alexandra Glauert

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 Measurement - James Gough
 Treasurer - Chris Sant
 Secretary - Brett Buckley
secretary@heronsailing.com.au
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 Newsletter Editor - Kate Carey
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Welcome to the June National Newsletter. I hope everyone is enjoying a winter break - or, even better, getting out on the water and participating in some winter sailing events!

Here in Queensland, we wrapped up our season with our traditional May long weekend and State Championships at Lake Cootharaba. A fleet of 33 boats took to the water, and we extend a huge thank you to the many sailors who travelled from NSW and even Tasmania to join us. It was a fantastic weekend, filled with great racing, catching up with friends and enjoying the many traditions that make the Lake Cootharaba long weekend such a special event.

Since the last newsletter, the Association has held its Annual General Meeting. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to take roles on the Management Committee, and in particular Chris Denman, Chris Sant and Kate Carey for the outstanding work you each do to keep our class thriving. We are incredibly grateful for your time, commitment and contribution.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We were also delighted to appoint three new Life Members at the AGM. In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the class over many decades, Jacquie Carroll, John Nobbs and Wayne Spencer were awarded our Association's highest honour. On behalf of all members, congratulations and thank you for your dedication and service to the class.

The Association has also circulated a proposal to amend our by-laws to allow a slightly larger window in both the jib and genoa. This proposal has been developed by the Measurement Committee following extensive discussion at the members' meeting held during the most recent National Championships in Wangi. Many members highlighted the safety benefits of increasing the window size, and both the Measurement Committee and Management Committee support the proposed change.

Members have until September to provide feedback on the proposal. Following the consultation period, we will conduct a vote to determine whether the amendment should be

adopted into our by-laws, with the hope of having the change in place before the next Nationals.

We sadly lost one of our most beloved members in April, with the tragic passing of Peter Connor. We all send our most heartfelt sympathies to his family and many friends. We will miss Peter very much!

Take care and see you all on the water soon

JUSTIN CAREY
9671 - LITTLE AUSSIE



NEWS

Sailing identity mourned



Tributes flow for sailor Peter Connor, who died doing what he loved. The Jannali sailor, 70, died during a Port Hacking regatta.

BY EVA KOLIMAR

THE sailing community of Port Hacking is in mourning following the unexpected death of Peter Connor, 70, of Jannali, who died on April 12 doing exactly what he loved - sailing his Heron dinghy.

A fixture of the Port Hacking Open Sailing Club, Mr Connor was described by those who knew him as a man whose passion for the water was matched only by his dedication to his family.

The tragedy occurred during a Sunday afternoon regatta when Mr Connor appeared to suffer a medical episode. "They saw him collapse," said friend and fundraiser organiser Sharyn Wilkins. "He was floating face down in the water. They dragged him onto the rescue boat and did CPR." Among those who fought to save him was Russell Sullivan, the club's rear commodore and a friend of 55 years. "I'm proud I did it," Mr Sullivan said. "It was very quick, but we gave him a chance."

Mr Connor was a larger than life character known for his gregarious nature and

“
Peter lived and
breathed the
club

tireless work ethic. An architect by trade, he operated Peter Connor Designs from his home, earning accolades including awards. "He never stopped thinking about improving life for everybody," Mr Sullivan said, recalling his "phenomenal" battles with the council over club leases and his meticulous nature.

Within the club, Mr Connor was a driving force, instigating the Single Handed Heron Worlds and the Cryogenic Cup. The club described him as "without doubt one of the most enthusiastic sailors," a man who "lived and breathed the club" and served as everything from support boat coordinator to the lead negotiator for Crown Lands fee appeals. His heart was on the deck. "Peter's son James sailed with Peter for several years,"

friends said, "and it was lovely to see what great mates they were."

His absence leaves a profound hole for his wife, Rose, and their two sons, Stewart and James. The family now faces significant challenges; Rose provides essential care for James, who has Down syndrome, while Stewart lives in South Korea. Mr Connor had been working full-time to fund and oversee major repairs to the family home - projects Rose must now navigate alone without his income or guidance.

"He was an enthusiastic fella... always laughing," Ms Wilkins said. "We want to surround Rose with the same kindness Peter showed to everyone he met."

A fundraiser has been established to assist with funeral costs and urgent household repairs to ensure a stable environment for Rose and James.

Mr Connor's funeral was held on May 1. Those wishing to support the family can contribute to the memorial fund: <https://tinyurl.com/7jwpk56c>

Vale Mike Fletcher

Earlier this year we lost former 1968/69 Australian Heron Champion Mike Fletcher aged 92. Fletch or 'Coach' was a regular part of my life since he made the sails for my various Sabot campaigns. He was a family friend and was always around at our home socially when I was growing up.

Originally hailing from Melbourne and being an outstanding sailor in classes such as Gwen 12's and Moths, his raw talent was spotted by the proprietor of Modern Motor Magazine and later Modern Boating Magazine, Olympian, Colin Ryrie. Colin had struck up a friendship with fellow Olympian and Danish Gold Medal Finn Sailor. Paul Elvstrom, who had offered Colin the Australian franchise for Elvstrom Sails. Colin convinced the recently married Melbourne domiciled Fletcher, then a qualified tool maker, to go to Denmark for six months to learn the trade under Paul's tutorship. He then moved to Sydney and the loft was opened in the mid 1960's in Bathurst Street, Sydney in the then Modern Magazine building. I worked there in my school holidays.

The sails starting winning major regattas including the 1966 Australian 16 ft Skiff Championships when Ken Beashel won in Elvina Bay. The connection to the Beashel dynasty became evident again in his Heron dominance when Ken's son Colin crewed for Fletch when they won their championship at Woollahra in straight heats. Colin of course went on to be part of Australia II's historic win in the 1983 America's Cup.

I was most fortunate to do lots of racing miles and campaigns with Fletch, including being his forward hand and winning the 1977 Australian One Ton Championships.



Mike Fletcher and Michael Spies catching up in 2025

I sat down with him at the end of last year at the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia during Badge Draw to solely discuss his Heron days and subsequent dominance of supplying sails to the class when there were up to 500 new builds a year. His health and memory was less than ideal.

Having been brought up in the era I was aware of most of the details. My late father and I finished 4th in the regatta but went into it as current NSW Champions. Fletch lifted the bar to another level.



7472 Nook taking pole position of a heavily biased pin end start in the 1968/9 Nationals. That's the author upfront in 6464 Snoopy, next cab off the rank.

While his memory was pretty sketchy on some of the details, with a bit of prompting and I confirmed the missing details of the build and program before he sold 7472 Nook and it then went on to claim numerous other titles under the name of Chain Valley Bay.

Fletch was living in a rented flat in Hunters Hill when he started to build the boat in the complex's car port. AV Jennings, which was one of the first project home builders in Australia, had developed a new housing estate off Pittwater Road North Ryde (near North Ryde RSL and Channel 10).

Mike and wife Di purchased a home off the plan. When it was finished, they moved in with the then partially completed Heron. Di wanted a lounge suite and was urging Mike to finish the boat, sell it and use the proceeds to buy the lounge suite. Fletch had other ideas. It was finished and he grabbed a new local neighbour's daughter and firstly raced Nook at Clontarf. They were soundly beaten in the first outing. A few changes and mods coupled with the addition of 10 year old Colin as crew saw Nook dominate the next week at Clontarf. The rest is etched in Heron history.

At the conclusion of the Regatta the boat was sold. Di got her lounge suite.

Elvstrom were making about 200 plus sets of Heron sails per year ending Garry Fogg's dominance of the Sydney market. The boat that was probably the most geometrically symmetric correct Heron ever built at that stage went on to become one of the most successful Herons ever.

I could fill this whole Newsletter with Fletch's other achievements but they have been articulated and covered by far more qualified people than me in the main stream yachting press.

In closing I was was discussing Mike's passing with his best mate and noted Victorian boat builder Bruce 'Stumpy' Keir's son. He said his father's favourite saying was, 'If you have to race against Mike Fletcher - just don't!'. Yes he really was that good.

RIP Fletch.

MICHAEL SPIES - 10264 MARITIMO

AUSTRALIAN HIGH SCHOOLS REGATTA 2026 CHS



1st - Archer Sacre and Tristan Davies - Topsy

Heroners dominated the CHS regatta taking home the prizes for first place, second place, first females and first interstate entry. The young Heroners sailed a brilliant regatta showing once again that the best place to learn to sail and race is in the front of a Heron!



14 / 1st Interstate - Teegan Mitchell and Max Latter - Boolong



4th / 1st Females - Mia Vaiciurgis and Claire Cabuil - 2 Flamingos Dancing



2nd - Finn Savage and Joel Vaiciurgis - Flo



The Heron fleet at the CHS regatta

AUSTRALIAN HIGH SCHOOLS REGATTA 2026 CHS



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2026 HERON JUNIOR NSW STATE TITLES



YOUNG SAILORS HAVE FUN AT THE 2026 HERON JUNIOR NSW STATE TITLES

The 2026 Heron Junior NSW State Championship, hosted by the Concord Ryde Sailing Club on 7–8 March, delivered a classic weekend of contrasting conditions, testing the patience and skill of the young fleet before rewarding them with proper sailing breeze on Sunday.

A total of 22 boats competed across two divisions:

- Junior / Junior (Jnr/Jnr) – where both helm and crew are juniors
- Junior / Senior (Jnr/Snr) – where the junior helm is accompanied by an adult crew

With six races scheduled and one discard, competitors had plenty of opportunities to demonstrate consistency across the weekend.



Theo and Rupert having their first Heron experience on Phar Lap

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on which we walk and waters on which we sail. We recognise their continuing connection to the land, water, culture and community. We pay tribute to all of those who have nurtured the sea, rivers, lakes and streams over many thousand of years. May we sail gently and respectfully upon these waters. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

A TRICKY SATURDAY IN FICKLE BREEZES

Saturday began with extremely light and shifty winds, forcing the race committee to delay the start of racing by approximately 90 minutes while waiting for something sailable to settle across the course.

When racing finally began, conditions remained unstable. The first race got underway but the breeze faded dramatically midway through the fleet, forcing the committee to abandon the race as the wind shut down across the course.

Patience eventually paid off, however, with enough breeze returning to allow racing to proceed later in the day. Sailors had to stay sharp through the patchy shifts and pressure lines — the sort of conditions that reward relentless focus, careful boat handling and tactical awareness.

SUNDAY DELIVERS FANTASTIC HERON SAILING

Sunday was a completely different story.

A well-established 10–15 knot breeze, with gusts reaching 18 knots, filled the course area and allowed the fleet to enjoy some classic Heron conditions. The stronger wind rewarded confident boat handling and smooth teamwork, particularly on the downwind legs.

Remarkably, despite threatening skies throughout the day, the rain held off during racing, only arriving during the prize giving and while competitors were packing boats away — a small mercy for the fleet.



Sanna and Alan on Sir Old Tacker



Koen and Chris taking flight

JUNIOR / JUNIOR DIVISION

The Junior / Junior fleet delivered tight racing throughout the series.

Taking the Scratch win was the Narrabeen pairing of Archie Sacre and Tim Harvey aboard Topsy, finishing the regatta on 9 points after six races. They came from behind as they were third after Day 1, but their consistent performance across the weekend and two race wins in the last two races kept them ahead of a competitive chasing group.

Second place went to Tristan Davis and Narrabeen newcomer Patrick Parker sailing She Said Yes on 12 points, an impressive result and a memorable first regatta for Patrick with two race wins through the regatta.

Third overall on scratch were Mia Vaicuirgis and Joel Vaicuirgis of Coffs Harbour aboard Two Flamingoes Dancing, also finishing on 12 points and with one race win in the bag.

All the Jr/Jr crews sailed excellently with only a few minutes ever separating the fleet.



Junior/Junior top three places

2025-26 Heron JJunior Scratch

Provisional Result

Entries: 9

Races Sailed: 6

Discard: 1

Sail No	Boat	Helm	Crew	Handicap	Series							
					Points	Place	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6
10362	Topsy	Archer Sacre	Tim Harvey	1	9	1	3	2	3	2	1	1
10288	She Said Yes	Tristan Davis	Patrick Parker	1	12	2	2	1	5	1	3	5
10298	Two Flamingoes Dancing	Mia Vaicuirgis	Joel Vaicuirgis	1	12	3	4	5	1	3	2	2
9637	Phar Lap	Theodore Anderson	Rupert Anderson	1	13	4	1	3	2	4	5	3
10270	Blue Pearl	Justin Chan	Freddie Chan	1	25	5	6	4	7	5	4	6
10286	Mirabelle	Claire Cabuil	Sam Gough	1	27	6	5	6	6	6	7	4
10366	Forever Young	Nasha Pickles	Sophie	1	33	7	7	7	4	7	8	10
1024	Billy Blue	Malcolm MacKenzie	Harrison Chauvier	1	42	8	8	8	10	10	6	10
10295	Red Santa	Thomas Lawrence	Theo Morrissey	1	50	9	10	10	10	10	10	10

JUNIOR / SENIOR DIVISION

In the Junior / Senior division, the competition was equally intense.

The series was won on Scratch by Sanna Agarwal and Allan Takacs from Concord Ryde, sailing Sir Old Tacker with 9 points.

Second place went to Luna Phillips and Max Phillips aboard Blue Berry on 10 points.

Narrabeen's Thea Campbell, sailing with Andrew Campbell aboard Sublime, secured 3rd place on Scratch, finishing the regatta with 15 points.

Given the challenging conditions on Sunday it was impressive to see very young Heroners getting around the course, planing at times and all with smiles. There were lots of swims too but that didn't dampen their enthusiasm.

Raphael Lacker described it perfectly saying "Spending a weekend on a Heron is probably the best weekend I've had in a long long time"» (in the middle of a 15 knot gust during the last race of the day).



Junior/Senior top three places



2025-26 Heron JS Scratch

Provisional Result

Entries: 13

Races Sailed: 6

Discard: 1

Sail No	Boat	Helm	Crew	Handicap	Series							
					Points	Place	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6
3920	Sir Old Tacker	Sanna Agarwal	Allan Tackacs	1	9	1	2	4	12	1	1	1
10369	Blue Berry	Luna Phillips	Max Phillips	1	10	2	1	1	1	4	3	4
9983	Sublime	Thea Campbell	Andrew Campbell	1	15	3	5	3	2	2	8	3
10290	Non Sequitor	Archer Brigden	Chris Sant	1	17	4	7	5	5	3	2	2
10157	Cirrus	Harley Kelaher	Tegan Franklin	1	18	5	3	2	3	7	5	5
10246	Flying Circus	Koen Fernando	Chris Gildersleeve	1	30	6	10	7	4	8	4	7
10163	Murra Nyurra	Raphael Lacker	Aymeric Cabuil	1	33	7	11	10	6	5	6	6
10249	Windstalker	Macenzie Forster	John Burwood	1	36	8	6	8	8	6	9	8
9685	Lost In Space	Dylan Fernando	Barry Roy	1	46	9	4	11	11	10	10	14
9197	Sea Gherkin	Zaliah	Shane Greaves	1	46	10	12	9	9	9	7	14
10204	Black Duck	Enoch Jiang	Andrew Hoy	1	49	11	8	6	10	11	14	14
10255	Unleashed	James Phillips	Mathew Phillips	1	61	12	14	14	7	12	14	14
8765	Boss Cocky	Georgette McIntosh	Keith McIntosh	1	65	13	9	14	14	14	14	14



PIES, VOLUNTEERS AND A GREAT REGATTA ATMOSPHERE

While the sailing provided plenty of excitement, one of the undisputed highlights of the weekend was Jenny's famous homemade pies, which were warmly welcomed by sailors and parents alike after a wet and breezy Sunday on the water.

Combined with the friendly and supportive atmosphere created by the Concord Ryde Sailing Club volunteers, the event was a reminder of what makes junior sailing regattas so special — great racing, great food, and a community that works together to make young sailors feel welcome.

The regatta will take place at the Narrabeen Lakes Sailing Club next year so we're already looking forward to late Summer 2027! See you there!

SA Heron Sailing Celebration

\$60

Cocktail Dinner

Saturday, 22nd August
Time: 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM



Electra House
131- 139 King William Street,
Adelaide 5000

Book Now!!



Evening Highlights

- Induction of Life Members and Legends
- Reunite with old sailors and friends
- Launch the 2028 Heron National Championship
- Cocktail Dinner
- Drinks available at the bar



Book Now : use the QR code or the link above

Queensland State Titles LAKE COOTHARABA



Wild weather on Day 1 of the Queensland State Titles

Wow! What a great QLD state championships we have just had.

33 Herons made the trip to Lake Cootharaba, and once again we must thank the huge NSW and even a Tasmanian entry for making the big effort to come and join us. The May long weekend has been the time, and Lake Cootharaba the location for the QLD state championships since the 1960's and it is always a great event.

The weather as always was a bit of everything. On the Saturday it was windy, (like quite windy), and it certainly tested the fleet from top to bottom. But even in the high winds the racing was close and exciting. David Johnson won all three races on day one but didn't really have it all his own way, he was too good when it mattered at the finish. The rest of the fleet battled hard in testing conditions with more than the usual share of retirements and the famous Lake Cootharaba 'chock top' mud stains...



10365 Chicken Dinner sailed by David Johnson and Timmy Avery



9699 Purplexed sailed by James and Lachlan Flemming



Wild weather on Day 1 of the Queensland State Titles

Anthony Morgan was heard commenting that he thought the QLD weather was normally better... so right on queue we arranged an absolutely perfect day for the Sunday racing. Another three races, but this time in perfect 12 to 15 knots and sunny skies.

Once again David Johnson showed the way winning two of three races, with National Champion Kylie V finding the Sunday conditions more to her liking and winning race 6. So by the end it was David Johnson winning on the scoreboard quiet easily, although not so easily on the racecourse. Second, and sailing the with great consistency were Ryan Savage and Max Ross in Aloha who were outstanding in all conditions. Third were Kylie and new crew Penny Harrigan.

Finn Savage and Joel Vaiciurgis won the Juniors and sailed brilliantly with a 6th overall and a 2nd in heat 3.

Following on from the success at the National Titles the South Brisbane Sailing club also sponsored a special novice division for those people who had recently come up from the various learn to sail classes. This has been a huge success story for all involved and given the conditions all boats did an amazing job.

In the end Douglas Flemming and Kimberly Nguyen got home with a big last race finish to beat Georgie Hornibrook and Luke Williams by one point. Well done Doug and all the SBSC competitors. We look forward to the re-match in the nationals in January!

Another great weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone up at "The Lake" for the National Championships in January 2027.

See you on the water soon
JUSTIN CAREY



9988 The Devil Made Me Do It sailed by Mark and Rosette Hughes



Junior State Champions 10289 Flo sailed by Finn Savage and Joel Vaiciurgis



2nd on scratch 10299 Aloha sailed by Ryan Savage and Max Ross

Amazing photos by:
Russell Witt Photography



5805 Hazardous Jam sailed by Aymeric Cabuil and Claire Cabuil



10298 2 Flamingoes Dancing sailed by Kylie Vaiciurgis and Penny Harrigan



10359 Hooray for Birds sailed by Adam Ross and Ned Ross

Amazing photos by:
Russell Witt Photography

Queensland State Titles RESULTS



Rank	Boat	SailNo	HelmName	CrewName	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Total	Nett
1st	Chicken Dinner	10365	David Johnson	Timothy Havery	1	1	1	1	1	-4	9	5
2nd	Aloha	10299	Ryan Savage	Max Ross	2	2	6	-7	4	2	23	16
3rd	2 Flamingos Dancing	10298	Kylie Vaiciurgis	Penny Harrigan	3	-6	5	3	5	1	23	17
4th	Hooray for Birds	10359	Adam Ross	Ned Ross	6	3	3	2	-7	3	24	17
5th	The Hopeful Heron	10169	Nick Bilett	Hannah Bilett	4	4	-8	4	6	6.5	32.5	24.5
6th	Flo	10289	Finn Savage	Joel Vaiciurgis	10	-12	2	5	3	5	37	25
7th	Little Miss Magic	10280	Nicole Carey	Rosie Breadsell	8	5	7	-11	9	8	48	37
8th	sCarey	10275	Christopher Carey	Feb Brown	-16	10	10	8	8	6.5	58.5	42.5
9th	Patchwork	10363	Michael Armstrong	Mariella Brady	12	8	9	10	-14	12	65	51
10th	Nan	10194	brett buckley	Amanda Kennedy	7	9	(34.0 DNC)	16	15	11	92	58
11th	The DEVil Made me do it	9988	Mark Hughes	Rosetta Hughes	13	11	11	14	-21	14	84	63
12th	Murra Ngura	10163	James Gough		5	(34.0 DNC)	34.0 DNC	9	12	9.5	103.5	69.5
13th	Beached Az	10167	Joel Harrigan	Megan Harrigan	11	7	4	(34.0 RET)	16	34.0 UFD	106	72
14th	Purplexed	9699	James Fleming	Lachlan Fleming	9	(34.0 RET)	34.0 DNC	13	10	13	113	79
15th	Hazardous Jam	5805	Aymeric Cabuil	Claire Cabuil	14	13	(34.0 DNC)	19.5	19	15	114.5	80.5
16th	Suttie	1010	Simone Dougherty	Alexandra Glauert	15	14	12	-23	22	21	107	84
17th		10278	Tom King	Hamish King	(34.0 DNC)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	6	2	20	130	96
18th	Ugly Duckling	10368	Mia Vaiciurgis	Teegan Mitchell	(34.0 RET)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	12	13	9.5	136.5	102.5
19th	Amazing Grace	10364	Anthony Morgan		(34.0 RET)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	15	11	18	146	112
20th	Ard-Ri	10131	Isabella Winks	Joe Thompson	17	(34.0 DNC)	34.0 DNC	21	23	17	146	112
21st	Lake Heron	9676	Ben Hamilton	TBD	(34.0 RET)	15	34.0 DNC	24	24	23	154	120
22nd	Carew	9506	Kate Carey	Laura Parker	(34.0 DNC)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	18	18	16	154	120
23rd	Popeye	10127	Robert Preston	Seh Hoey	(34.0 DNC)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	17	17	34.0 DNC	170	136
24th	Little Aussie	9671	Mollie Carey	Elizabeth Carey	(34.0 RET)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	19.5	20	34.0 DNC	175.5	141.5
25th	Jaws	9700	John McKeown	Christine McKeown	(34.0 DNC)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	22	34.0 DNC	19	177	143
26th	Maximum Mischief	9799	Douglas Fleming	Kimberley Nguyen	(34.0 RET)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	25	27	24	178	144
27th	Pedro	10291	Georgie Hornbrook	Luke Williams	(34.0 DNC)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	28	28	22	180	146
28th	Floating Dollar	10160	Luis Pedro Coelho	Anna Teresa Fragao Coelho	(34.0 RET)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	27	26	25	180	146
29th	Dooneys Fiddle	9646	Thomas Shorter	Sarah Fragao Coelho	(34.0 RET)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	26	25	34.0 DNC	187	153
30th	Zen	9712A	Teoman Belek Fialho Teixeira	Sean Poh	(34.0 RET)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	204	170
30th	Jawani	9690	Sarah Shorter	Mitchell Westmoreland	(34.0 DNC)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	204	170
30th	She Said Yes	10288	Liz Gough	Sammy Gough	(34.0 DNC)	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	34.0 DNC	204	170
30th	Forever Young	10366	Paul Armstrong		(34.0 RET)	34.0 RET	34.0 RET	34.0 RET	34.0 RET	34.0 RET	204	170



10365 Chicken Dinner sailed by David Johnson and Timmy Avery

SEASON WRAP UP

Season 2025-26 came to its conclusion in much the same way it was for most of the summer; either too much wind, or too little. The final day of the season saw Dean helming Sarie with Ava in about 15 knots, when they lost their leeward sidestay. With good, calm seamanship, they were able to sail back to the shore on the one tack, keeping pressure on the windward stay all the time. With an accompanying support boat radioing shore, Sarie was met with a number of club members helping prevent the rig going overboard. A great result. Brendan and Joe in 'Happy Hour' are now sailing independently and are making great progress.

'Dynamite Jack' flew the flag for the Heron Class in the Montrose Bay Yardstick Championship held over two Sundays, in a wide variety of conditions, emerging winners from a field of Sabres and Impulses.

We saw 'Wot Not' on two occasions, as the Andrewartha family took their first steps in introducing the next generation to the sport. On one occasion we also saw Tristan's former crew Jarryd take his son for his first sail in 'This Is The Life'. While conditions were pretty calm, a successful first sail was enjoyed. We are hoping to see much more of them when their Heron restoration project is completed.

In further good news for the class, Brett Clark, a former Nationals runner-up, has bought back 'Family Ties' to race with his grand-daughter. Sadly, this National Championship winning Heron is in need of some repair, but Heroners who know the boat would know that it was always kept in immaculate condition, and undoubtedly it will be returned to this.



Brendan and Joe



Relaunched Wot Not

TASMANIA NEWS

Anthony attended the Queensland State Titles and sailed 'Amazing Grace,' which is now in Queensland owned by Peter and Rosie D'Abbs, but was built by Anthony in Hobart. Despite a wipe-out on the first day, the second day saw some much better mid field results. Special thanks to Robert Preston who loaned his intended crew Seth from the South Brisbane training Program to Anthony. Seth did a great job in his first proper race and has agreed to crew on 'Dynamite Jack' in the Nationals early in the New Year.

Winter has now hit hard, and Heron sailing is at a stand still. Despite this, some work is going on in sheds and we hope to see a bigger and stronger fleet next year.



Tristan and Jarryd



Dynamite Jack in light weather in Montrose Bay Hobart

HERON RACING CALENDAR

2026-27 REGATTAS



To keep us all aware of racing opportunities and to assist with planning sailing holidays here is a national calendar of upcoming events. Please send any dates or even tentative dates for regattas in your area and we can let the wider Heron sailing community know.

Send dates and regatta details to the newsletter editor
katedcarey@gmail.com.

Heron Sailing National Calendar

Oct 17-18 2026	NSW State Titles	TBC
Oct 2026	ACT Dinghy Championships	YMCASC, Canberra, ACT
Dec 12-13 2026	Battle for Waterloo	Darling Point SC, Brisbane, Qld
Jan 4-9 2027	66th National Championship	Lake Cootharaba SC, Qld



FOR SALE

HERON 10294 BOOLONG

FULLY RIGGED, ON A TROLLEY
AND READY TO WIN RACES!

\$10,000

YOUR CHANCE TO OWN THE
FABULOUS ASSOCIATION BOAT
WITH 'SAIL A HERON' DECAL.

CONTACT JUSTIN CAREY
(0455 068 101)



10294 Boolong sailed by Francesca Orchard-Hills and Heidi Mortimer



66TH HERON NATIONALS

LAKE COOTHARABA, QLD

4-9 JANUARY 2021

MONDAY

Registration
Opening Ceremony
Invitation Race

TUESDAY

Championship race day

WEDNESDAY

Championship race day

THURSDAY

Reserve day

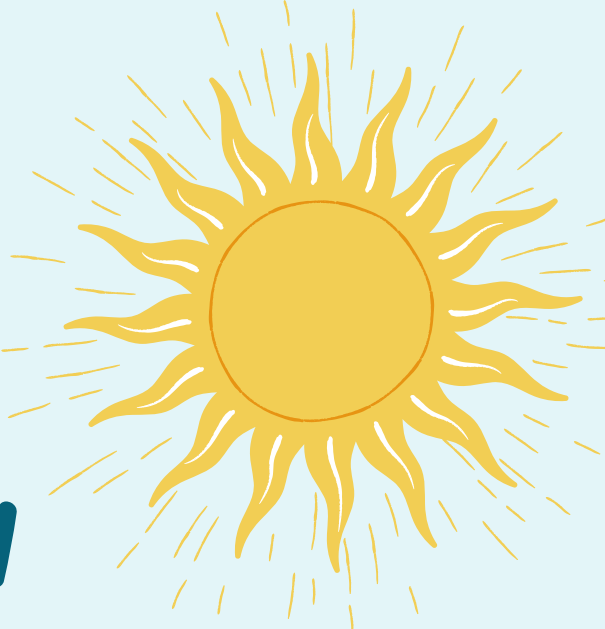
FRIDAY

Championship race day

SATURDAY

Championship race day
Presentation

Contact: katedcarey@gmail.com
Accommodation options: [click here](#)



66TH HERON NATIONALS

LAKE COOTHARABA, QLD

4-9 January 2027

Contact: katedcarey@gmail.com

Accommodation options: [click here](#)





National Heron Sailing Association of Australia

Annual General Meeting - MINUTES

Date	Wednesday 13th May 2026
Time	8.00 pm AEDT
Venue	Zoom
Chairperson	Justin Carey (JC)
Present	Chris Denman (CD), Chris Sant (CS), Anthony Morgan (AM), Jeremy Brown (JB), Andrew Campbell, Aymeric Cabuil, Michael Bolenski, Bryan Clark, Greg Harris, James Gough (JG), John Veale, Peter V, Shane Woods, Wayne Spencer, Kate Carey, John Nobbs, Jacqui Carroll, Brett Buckley, Amanda Kennedy, Fraser Galloway, Robert Preston, Nicole Breadsell.
Apologies	Neil Burford (NB), David Johnson, Alan Hackett.

Ref.	Item	Responsible	Due
1	Minutes and actions from previous meeting		
1.1	The minutes from the previous AGM held on Tuesday 13 th May 2025 were tabled and accepted by the members.	Accepted	
1.2	Actions from 2025 AGM Subsequent to the meeting Michael Hitchens agreed to act as Auditor for the association for another year.	Completed	
2	Presidents Report		
2.1	A report from the association President (Justin Carey) was sent to members prior to the meeting and Justin gave a short summary in the meeting from those present.	Noted	
3	Treasurers Report		
3.1	The association treasurer (Chris Sant) distributed the audited financial accounts of the association to all members prior to the meeting. Chris gave a short summary in the meeting outlining the associations continued stable and relatively strong cash and asset position. The associations strategy is to continue in	Approved	



National Heron Sailing Association of Australia

Annual General Meeting - MINUTES

Ref.	Item	Responsible	Due
	maintaining roughly a similar asset balance and not accumulate any further funds. All members present accepted and approved the treasures report as presented.		
4	Measurement committee report		
4.2	The chair of the association measurement committee (James Gough) gave a short briefing to the members present in the meeting. Outlining that no real issues or changes had been raised in the year, with the main topic for the committee being the work to propose a change in the by-laws to allow for larger window size in both Jib and Genoa. This proposal is now ready for formal consultation and approval by members and will be sent out soon after the AGM. No formal approval was required in the meeting.	Noted	
5	Registrar's report		
5.1	The association Registrar (Chris Denman) distributed a report to all members prior to the meeting. Chris gave a short summary to members present in the meeting highlighting the growth in membership over the 4 years from 2022 through to 2026. The report was distributed and discussed as noting and no formal approval was needed.	Noted	
6	Newsletter Editor		
	25/06 No new issues to report – proposal for increased window size in jib and genoa to be sent out before next committee meeting. 15/04 – Jib and Genoa window proposals now accepted by committee and ready to distribute to members. 18/03 – measurement committee has submitted to the management committee wording for a jib and genoa window change in the association by laws. This has been		



National Heron Sailing Association of Australia

Annual General Meeting - MINUTES

Ref.	Item	Responsible	Due
	distributed to committee members for consideration ahead of being sent to members for consultation.		
7	Newsletter		
	The Newsletter editor (Kate Carey) distributed a report to all members prior to the meeting and Kate gave a summary of the report for members present in the meeting. No formal approval is required but all members present expressed huge gratitude to Kate for the work that goes into producing the association newsletters and for the quality of the finished product.	Noted	
9	Election of officers for 2026/27		
9.8	Justin Carey declared all positions vacant and notified members that no nominations had been received prior to the meeting. President – Justin Carey was nominated from the members present. He accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously by all members present. Treasurer – Chris Sant was nominated from the members present. He accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously by all members present. Secretary – There were no nominations in the meeting for Secretary. Subsequent to the AGM Brett Buckley volunteered for the role of Secretary and he has now been appointed into the vacant role by a later meeting of the NHSAA management committee. Registrar – Chris Denman was nominated from the members present. He accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously by all members present. Newsletter Editor – Kate Carey was nominated from the members present. She accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously by all members present. Noting that Kate has now been the editor of the newsletter for a	Approved	



National Heron Sailing Association of Australia

Annual General Meeting - MINUTES

Ref.	Item	Responsible	Due
	significant number of years and would like to pass on the role so has asked members to think about who might take this role on in the future. State Vice President roles – it was discussed that these roles are actually nominated from the respective state associations and then appointed directly to the measurement committee. But for completeness the meeting noted the following: NSW – Chris Denman (continuing) SA – Neil Burford (continuing) QLD – Nick Billet (continuing) WA – Jeremy Brown (continuing) TAS – Anthony Morgan (continuing) ACT – Chris Sant (continuing) There is currently no vice president from Vic.		
10	Confirmation of Public Officer		
10.1	Wayne Spencer agreed in the meeting to continue as the official public officer. All members in the meeting agreed and approved.	Approved	
11	Auditor		
11.1	Member were advised that Michael Hitchens would not continue as Auditor for the accounts in the new year. No nominations or suggestions were made in the meeting and the management committee has taken this as an action to find and appoint an appropriate person to audit the accounts.		
12	Amotions put to the AGM		



National Heron Sailing Association of Australia

Annual General Meeting - MINUTES

Ref.	Item	Responsible	Due
11.1	The following three motions were distributed to members prior to the meeting and carried unanimously by members present. Motions to members were: - That Wayne Spencer be awarded life membership to the association for significant contribution to the class over many years. - That John Nobbs be awarded life membership to the association for significant contribution to the class over many years. - That Jacqui Carroll be awarded life membership to the association for significant contribution to the class over many years. All three have made significant and lasting contributions to the development of the class over many years (decades) and the members thanked each of them and congratulated them on receiving the recognition of life membership. The citations sent to members prior to the meetings for each life membership nomination will be included in the minutes of this meeting.	Approved	
12	Meeting closed		
12.1	The meeting was closed at 8:50pm (AEDT).	Note	
13	Next meeting		
13.1	Next AGM will be held: Wednesday 12th May 2027.	Note	

Presidents Report 2025-26

Welcome everyone to the National Heron Sailing Association of Australia (NHSAA) annual general meeting for 2026. Once again it has been a big year with a fabulously successful national championship hosted by NSW. A big congratulations to our national champions Kylie and Mia Vaiciurgis who once again claimed the title of Australian Heron Champions!

This year also saw encouraging fleet build-ups in South Australia thanks to the hard work of the local association. We also saw continued fleet strength in Coffs Harbour, and throughout the NSW fleet. And most pleasingly a steady increase in activity in Tasmania, to the point that the committee has now allocated the 2029 National titles to once again be hosted in Hobart, giving us all a fabulous excuse to visit the wonders of Tasmania. *(Well done Anthony Morgan and the team in Tasmania).*

At the committee this year we have continued to hold a steady financial position, with our strategy to maintain roughly flat with our cash balances and spending moneys where we can in promoting the class. In 2025/26 that was mostly in the form of another T-Shirt promotion, and judging by the number of shorts we see in the rigging yard that seems to have been a success. We have also decided to sell the association Heron "Boolong" and once sold we will consider what next in the class promotion.

Finally, the measurement committee has spent the months since Christmas responding to the discussion around allowing larger Jib and Genoa window panels. This motion to alter the measurement bylaws is now endorsed at the committee and ready to be distributed to members for review and ultimately for a vote of all members.

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable season, and after a short break I look forward to seeing you all back on the water.... and especially at the National Championship in Lake Cootharaba (QLD) in January 2027.

See you all on the water

Justin Carey
10280 Little Miss Magic



2025/26 National Register Report

It has been a pleasure to be the National Heron Register for the 2025/26 racing season. The past 12 months has been a very strong year with memberships and also racing over the past 12 months.

The Following is how the membership has grown over the past 4 years

2025/26 - 247
2024/25 - 253
2023/24 - 234
2022/23 - 200
2021/22 - 181

New Members

2025/26 - 19
2024/25 - 25
2023/24 - 37
2022/23 - 19
2021/22 - 40

We have 152 paid members as of 13/05/25 . There is 95 unpaid members

This year there has been some great numbers across the country

NSW - 67 /101
QLD - 40 /68
ACT - 6 /8
VIC - 10 /19
TAS- 3/4
WA - 2 /4
SA - 24/43

The Membership breakdown is listed below

Family Membership - 184
Single Membership - 21
Crew - 32
Non Boat Member - 6
Life Member - 10

1 New boats were registered this year . 1 being a Freddy Built boat that is heading to SA .

Overall as you can see there are a mixed number of new members and also members that have been part of the Heron Association for years. There is still an issue with members that have invoices that are unpaid for membership year on year. Also this year there was a clean up in our membership numbers as members that have been inactive for 5 years have now been put into our archive.

The Use of the revsport platform has been increasing year on year and has been a great platform for not only the commutation to the members but also for use of events from Nation Titles and also State base events .

I would like to pass on my Thank you to the National committee for their hard work over the past 12 months and a special thank you to both Justin Carey for his support with what has been a crazy time for myself as not only doing the Register work and a very full on with organising and running the National Titles at Wangi in January .

We have had some great results with more then 100 boat have been registered on the national data base boat register but during winter I will be sending out this google link if you could all have a look into it and if you have not had a chance to enter your boat details that would be great as it gives the National Committee some great insight as to where the boats are.

Hope you have all had a fantastic year of racing and enjoy the winter to prepare or build some new herons ready to go for what is shaping up as another strong calendar and will be a great national titles that the team in QLD are busy and hard at work getting it arranged .

Chris Denman
National Heron Register

National Heron Sailing Association of Australia

Treasurer's Report 2025/26

I am pleased to report that the Association's finances remain in good shape.

Both revenue and expenditure were down slightly this year, and a greater proportion of expenditure was spent on the purchase of promotional material, in particular a new supply of 'Sail a Heron' t-shirts.

The Association continues to own 2 Herons: 10194 – *Boolong*, which has been located in New South Wales this season, and was once again used to promote the class, including by enabling new sailors to compete in the National Championships; and 10185 - *This is the Life*, which is located in Tasmania and is used to promote the class in that State. *Boolong* has been revalued and made available for sale to interested parties, with the intention that if it is sold, the Association will commission a new boat to replace it.

Overall, there was a net deficit for 2025-26 of \$889.74, up slightly compared with last financial year, and a closing bank balance of \$26068.89, together with the Herons mentioned above. We continue to have the capacity to undertake initiatives to promote the class.

Income relating to the running of the 65th Nationals, as well as other regattas, was processed through the Association accounts, at no cost to the Association.

Following auditing of the 2024-25 financial accounts, a minor adjustment was made to reallocate income and expenditure between the 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years, resulting in a revision of the net outcome for both years. In addition, the purchase of *This is the Life* was recorded as an expense for the 2023-24 financial year. These accounting decisions did not affect the financial health of the organisation.

Chris Sant
Treasurer

National Heron Sailing Association
Accounts 2025-26

Income	2021-2022	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Subscriptions	5088.65	5277.84	4527.00	5021.20	4406.40
Plans and handbooks			300.00	150.00	150.00
Regatta income - nationals			16541.50	19698.00	15828.30
State funds received			3127.00	3136.00	2732.4
Other			443.12	0.00	37.08
Total Income	5088.65	5277.84	24938.62	28005.20	23154.18
Non-regatta income			5270.12	5171.20	4593.48
 Current Expenditure					
Website	99.00	99.00	119.00	232.10	195.90
Handbooks and plans	185.88	265.00	0.00	285.00	
Insurance	981.20	982.01	1445.74	1475.65	1462.29
Affiliation			256.73	307.76	315.00
Business fees			289.26	99.44	56.00
Bank charges	11.36	8.28	12.38	11.28	5.51
Transport of Association Heron			823.99	248.25	
Promotional material, incl t-shirts	148.50	0.00	1817.00	1301.85	3198.53
Boat running costs			603.95	1118.30	249.99
Regatta expenses - nationals			16606.43	19698.00	15828.30
State funds remitted			3127.00	3136.00	2732.40
Miscellaneous	1463.34	765.20	1214.00	876.60	
Purchase of assets			3000.00		
Total	2889.28	2119.49	29315.48	28790.23	24043.92
Non-regatta expenses			9582.05	5956.23	5483.22
 Net Revenue	2199.37	3158.35	-4376.86	-785.03	-889.74
 Assets					
Bank Deposits	28962.17	32120.52	27743.66	26958.63	26068.89
Heron <i>Boolong</i> fully rigged	14000.00	14000.00	14000.00	14000.00	11000.00
Double road trailer	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00	2500.00	2000.00
Heron <i>This is the Life</i>			3000.00	3000.00	3000.00
Total Assets	45462.17	48620.52	47243.66	46458.63	42068.89
 Liabilities					
Accounts payable					
Total Liabilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Members' Equity

Retained earnings	43262.80	45462.17	48620.52	47243.66	46458.63
Net revenue	2199.37	3158.35	-4376.86	-785.03	-889.74
Adjustment in value of Assets			3000.00		-3500.00
Total Equity	45462.17	48620.52	47243.66	46458.63	42068.89

**REPORT TO MEMBERS OF
HERON ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED FOR
YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2026**

I have reviewed the financial statements of the Association.

In my opinion:

- 1) The financial statements of the Association are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the matters required by the *Associations Incorporation Act*.
- 2) Proper accounting and other records have been kept by the Association.
- 3) The review was conducted in accordance with the rules of the Association.



Michael Hitchens
michaelhitchens01@gmail.com
5/5/2026

Newsletter Editor's report 2025-26

Over the last year we have produced four newsletters.

The general format of each letter is as follows:

- June 2025 – Report on AGM including minutes of meeting with details of resolutions announcements and election results. Sate news.
- September 2025 – Details for next National, state news.
- December 2026 – Proposed amendments to the Bylaws, calling of nomination for election of officers.
- March 2026 – Report on National Championships, Notice of AGM, notice of prosed amendments to constitution, election of officers.

The newsletters are an important historical record of the class and association. The newsletters record not only great stories and photos from around the states but also document outcomes of the AGM and any other relevant general meetings and committee decisions throughout the year.

I hope you enjoy the newsletters and feel free to send feedback on social media or directly to me so we can continue to provide a newsletter that is enjoyable and informative for all. We encourage Heron members who have an interesting article and photos to contact me via email katedcarey@gmail.com.

Please let me know if anyone is interested in taking on the role the newsletter editor, I am ready pass the baton.

Cheers

Kate Carey
10280 Little Miss Magic

