

HERON

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



September 2026



Hérons at Lake Macquarie Wangi January 2026

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Welcome to the September newsletter.

The start of a new season brings lots of fabulous Heron sailing, and plenty of opportunities to catch up with old friends and make new ones on the water.

Hopefully, you are all planning your holiday in sunny Queensland for the 2027 Heron National Championships at Lake Cootharaba!

Getting big fleets at regattas like this is what keeps our wonderful Heron fleet alive and thriving, so please make the effort to join us if you can. We would love to see you all at Lake Cootharaba, January 4-9!

Congratulations to James Gough on an amazing restoration — what a great story! There's great news this month from Narrabeen Lakes Sailing Club. The local council has approved plans for the construction of a new clubhouse. Perhaps, at some time in the future, once they are all completed, we can all visit and celebrate the new digs!

The Association Committee continues to meet monthly, and I'm pleased to report that the class is tracking well financially. We have progress from the Measurement Committee regarding the proposal to alter the by-laws to allow larger window sizes in both the jib and genoa. This proposal will be sent to members in October for a vote, with the aim of having everything finalised by November, in time for the Nationals.

Once again, I hope everyone is enjoying the new season, and we look forward to seeing you all on the water soon!

JUSTIN CAREY
9671 - LITTLE AUSSIE



The Queensland team is excited to launch our Regatta landing page to give you the opportunity to order 66th Heron Nationals merchandise and get all the information you need about Lake Cootharaba and the 2027 Nationals

[CLICK HERE](#)

66TH HERON NATIONALS



LAKE COOTHARABA, QLD

4-9 January 2027

Contact: katedcarey@gmail.com

Accommodation options: [click here](#)

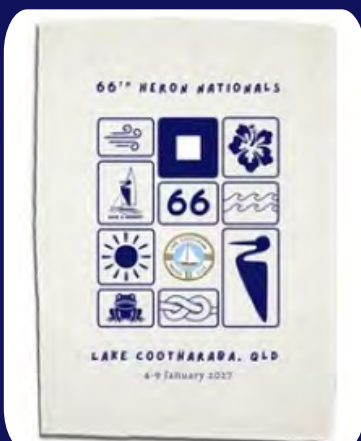
66TH HERON NATIONALS MERCHANDISE INFORMATION



T-shirts \$25
Sailing shirts/rashie - \$49
Sizes - kids 8 to XL
Caps \$19
Bucket Hats with chin strap \$28
Teatowels \$12
Totebags \$25



66TH HERON NATIONALS



LAKE COOTHARABA, QLD

4-9 January 2027

ORDERS AND REGISTRATION
ON REV SPORT SOON

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](#)

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

24 Oct 2026	Interclub 1	Concord & Ryde Sailing Club
29 Oct 2026	Interclub 2 Annual Regatta	Teralba Amateur Sailing Club
14 -15 Nov 2026	ACT Dinghy Championships	YMCASC, Canberra, ACT
28-29 Nov 2026	62nd SA State Championships	Port Lincoln Yacht Club and Coffin Bay Yacht Club
5 - 6 Dec 2026	Mono Masters	Lake Cootharaba SC
12-13 Dec 2026	Battle for Waterloo	Darling Point SC, Brisbane, Qld
4-9 Jan 2027	66th National Championship	Lake Cootharaba SC, Qld
13 - 14 Feb 2027	NSW State Titles	Saratoga Sailing Club
6 - 7 March 2027	NSW Junior State Titles	Narrabeen Lakes Sailing Club
24 - 25 April 2027	Interclub 3 / Sprint Series	Coffs Harbour

South Australia **NEWS**

The 62nd South Australian Heron State Championships, and Junior State Championships are to be held at Port Lincoln Yacht Club and Coffin Bay Yacht Club on 28-29 November 2026.

Entries now open

<https://www.revolutionise.com.au/saheronsailing/events>



Neil Burford sailing 7801 EOS at the 65th Nationalas - Wangi

Tasmania

MONTROSE BAY

Thoughts are now turning to the new season at Montrose Bay Yacht Club.

In some great news for the class, George will be skippering the well-known Tasmanian boat 10176 *Gorilla Biscuit* for the 2026–27 season. The boat has an excellent pedigree, having won a State Title in very competitive company and finished third at a Nationals. Still owned by Chris Williams, Chris is loaning the boat to George and his friend Oscar, and is delighted to see *Gorilla Biscuit* back on the water and sailing regularly.

George sailed the class trainer *This Is The Life* several times last season and is now progressing to the next step. *Gorilla Biscuit* was campaigned by Chris Williams and Hannah Morgan for many years, and the photo (right) shows them racing at Lindisfarne in the early 2000s.

Another positive development is that Heron 8984, originally *Sinn Fein*, is to be restored to sailing condition by, current owner, Marty.

Sinn Fein, built for Anthony Morgan in 1974, competed extensively in Nationals across most of the country during the second half of the 1970s, usually in company with 9106 *Wot Not*, sailed by James Andrewartha. In a happy coincidence, *Wot Not* returned to the fleet last year, sailed by James' son and grandsons.

The picture (right) shows *Sinn Fein* on the roof of the car and *Wot Not* on the trailer. They were on their way to the 1978–79 Nationals at Perth Dinghy Sailing Club. This photo was taken shortly before the HG Holden blew its engine on the Nullarbor Plain. Quite a trip!

With the season starting in early October, we are looking forward to seeing a number of sailors convert their training experience into participation in the racing fleet.

ANTHONY MORGAN
9753 DYNAMITE JACK



10176 Gorilla Biscuit at Lindisfarne in the early 2000s



The HG and Herons heading to Perth for the 1978/79 Nationals

New South Wales RACING NEWS



The NSW Heron Committee has been hard at work during the off-season to bring together what is shaping up to be another great year of racing.

It is pleasing to see that we will be back on the lake again this year, participating in the annual Teralba Sailing Regatta. Additionally, from what I have heard, there looks to be a great fleet of Herons heading up to Noosa for the National Championships in January. I know Justin and the QLD team have been working hard to make this event another fantastic week of racing and social events.

Looking at the calendar, you can see events are well spread out over the year so you can race at your home club while also supporting major events around the state. We have booked the State Titles, which is sure to be another great weekend of racing and camping, so please make sure to lock that into your calendar.

Our first event is only a few weeks away—let's get out to Concord Ryde Sailing Club for their annual trip up the Parramatta River. This event is always a highlight and throws up all types of surprises as you navigate through the river. An email with full details will be sent out soon.

I can't wait to see you all on the water this year. If you have any local events at your club, please reach out to me directly; we are keen to support where we can and help build Heron racing in your local area.

Thank you again for all your support.

Best regards,

CHRIS DENMAN
LAVA GIRL 10356
NSW STATE PRESIDENT



Hérons at the Coffs Harbour Sprint Race Series April 2026

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.

THE LEGEND OF 7451 BUNABAROO



Built in 1968, Heron 7451 Bunabaroo was purchased by Andy Gough from Alan Macintosh of BYRA, in 1989.

Alan's son Keith is still sailing Herons with his kids. They are another 3rd generation Heron family!

After being raced, repaired, and raced again for many decades, Bunabaroo was looking very tired, and her future was hazy...

I began by fairing and glassing the outside of the hull but it was depressing to turn her over and look inside. The ply bottom wasn't for saving after all, and had to be replaced. This presented something of a problem though, as the frames had already been removed.

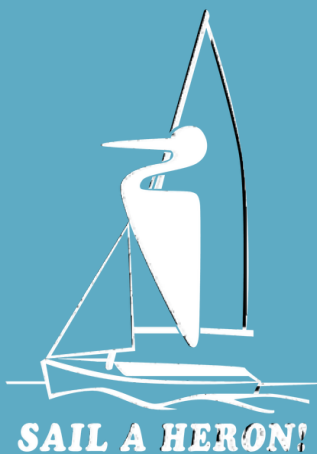
A combination of alloy bracing and temporary timber frames kept the keel and chines in place while new frames and stringers were grafted to the original bow and transom.



Extensive repairs were required to the cracked and rotten keel, as well as fitting a new bulkhead and kingpost, along with new stringers and framing.

Bricks and timber chocks were used to straighten the twisted hull while the new bottom was glued on.

Now faired, glassed, and in primer, it was time to turn her over again.





Now upright, it was apparent that the deck frames were all cactus, but with liberal use of rot converter I saved the No. 2 deck beam. The port gunwale was completely replaced, along with sections of the other.

A new balsa centreboard case was dry fitted, most of the temporary frames removed, and the inside of the tanks and hull sides sealed and painted. Much coffee was needed...





Gaboon is lovely ply, but I find it a little boring, so I used a 50/50 cedar and walnut stain to jazz it up a bit!



With the deck framing done it was time to cut and stain another sheet of ply.

Then start glueing, and sanding. And glueing, and sanding. You get the picture, the task seemed endless.

But the first coat of varnish (actually 4 coats of Everdure), makes it feel like the finish line may be almost be visible.



Gunwales, carlins, capping, trims, fillets, glassing, it never ends! OMG, I never want to see another pot of epoxy in my life!!!

Finally, the deck and cockpit are done, finished in two very ordinary coats of norglass 2-pack varnish, great product but the brushwork leaves a little to be desired...



Joy Gough with 7451 Bunabaroo

Becky helped me weigh the boat, 58.65kg as it is now, so she should be close when finished.

Now she's upside-down again, and there's more to do! Finish the centreboard case, and find a skeg, I'm sure I have the original around here somewhere...

Or maybe we should chuck the skeg out? Next rule change? Only joking, lol...

The finishing touch will be a shiny red paint job, but you'll have to wait for that!



Becky with 7451 Bunabaroo

She's ready to sail!

Interior finished, then painted the brightest red I could find, and finally ready to sail.

A journey and a half, I think it has taken 7 years in fits and starts to get here, and I'm super chuffed with the result.

Thanks go to my ever patient wife Liz, Andy Campbell for motivation, Joy for lifting heavy things, and Dad for introducing me to this wonderful class, where I find all my best friends.

Cheers, Goughy



7451 Bunabaroo

FOR SALE

HERON 10294 BOOLONG

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

\$9,000(ON0)

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