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H E R O N

National Newsletter December 2025

A great training day at Wangi, checking out the Nationals venue

Hi all, and welcome to the December Newsletter. 2025 is almost over and we are all looking forward to the 65th National Heron Sailing Titles being hosted at Wangi RSL Amateur Sailing Club, 5-10 January. If you haven't yet registered but think you would like to join, it is never too late. I am sure the hosts will accomodate you and it will be a great regatta. As always the Nationals are a time to catch up with old and new friends. People you might not have seen all year, or perhaps for 30 years, as is often the case. The Nationals are also a time for competitive close racing, and in keeping with our Heron culture also a time for fun and enjoyable racing throughout the fleet. We look forward to to seeing you all there!

I would also like to take this time to thank all the committee members for their efforts in keeping our wonderful class going through the year.

In particular Chris Denman does a mountain of work as Registrar and general workhorse for the Association. Also big thanks to Chris Sant as Treasurer and of course Kate Carey for all the work producing our amazing Heron Newsletter. If you see these people in the rigging yard please give them a pat on the back and say a big thank you!

Hope you all have a wonderful holiday period, and if you are travelling, (hopefully to Wangi) then safe travels and we will see you on the water soon!

Justin Carey

9671 - Little Aussie

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OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President - Justin Carey

Measurement Committee - James Gough

Vice President SA - Neil Burford

Vice President NSW - Chris Denman

Vice President Qld - Nick Billet

Vice President WA - Jeremy Brown

Vice President TAS - Anthony Morgan

Treasurer - Chris Sant

Secretary - David Johnson

secretary@heronsailing.com.au

Registrar - Chris Denman

Newsletter Editor - Kate Carey

Immediate past president - Paul Armstrong

65TH HERON NATIONALS

WANGI, NSW | JAN 2026

Wangi RSL Amateur Sailing Club in conjunction with the National Heron Sailing Association of Australia invite you to join us in January 2026 for the 65th National Heron Titles.

5-10 JANUARY 2026

MON 5	Registration, invitation race, opening ceremony
TUE 6	Championship race day
WED 7	Championship race day, Heron Idol
THUR 8	Reserve Day
FRI 9	Championship race day
SAT 10	Championship race day, Presentation

Contact
Chris Denman
nswheron@gmail.com

Accommodation options:
visitlakemac.com.au

NSW ready for Wangi !

Great news! There are only a few days to go until Christmas, and we all know what comes next, the National Championships! The NSW team has been working hard to make this a fun-filled and fantastic event. There will be plenty to enjoy both on and off the water throughout the week. Wangi Wangi RSL Sailing Club is ready and keen to welcome all the happy, smiling Heron sailors.

The club has advised that if you are travelling on Sunday, you may drop your boat off at the sailing club during the day. A mud map will be provided and sent around prior to this day. The main requirement is that no cars are to be driven on the grassed area in front of the clubhouse. Trailers are welcome to remain at the club for the duration of the Championships.

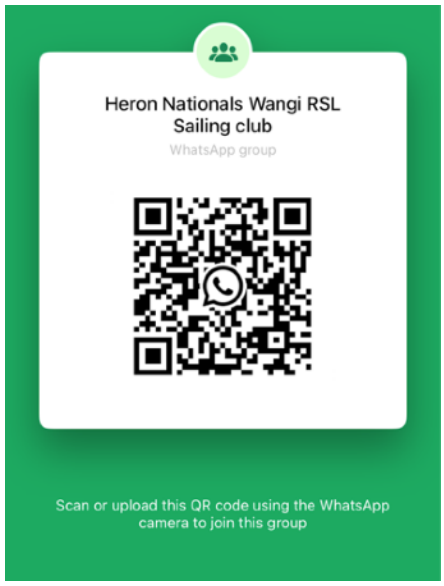
On Monday, please arrive ready for your boat to be weighed and for your safety check to be completed. You will need to bring your completed pre-regatta checklist for sighting in the morning. We will be running two sets of boat scales to help streamline the process. If you are racing a genoa boat, please also be ready to hop on the scales at the registration desk. You will not need your sailing gear, as this will be provided on the day.

An official WhatsApp chat will be set up for the Nationals and will be the main form of communication throughout the regatta. Please sign in using the QR code below.

We are really looking forward to seeing you all on Monday, 5 January, at Wangi Wangi RSL Sailing Club. It's also not too late to get your entry in!

Chris Denman

NSW Vice President



Happy times in Hobart!

Season 2025–26 has kicked off with some wild equinoxal winds that have persisted well into November—much to the frustration of the entire sailing community. Even keelboat racing has been cancelled on numerous occasions, and the conditions have made things especially challenging for our fleet of mostly beginners.

Despite the weather, Sarie has managed to get out on the water for a couple of coaching sessions, and *Happy Hour* has also returned to the yacht club for the same purpose.

Anthony has been working with a new crew, and together they've achieved some good results in a mixed club fleet made up largely of Sabres and an NS14.

10175 Happy Hour - finished and ready to go back in the water after a refurbishment.

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.

In early November, Tristan and Julie Andrewartha brought their two boys to the club for their first ever sailing experience aboard the Association trainer *This Is The Life*. For once, the weather was kind; a gentle sailing breeze set the scene for Igon and Hjalmar to enjoy an excellent day on the water. When asked by their grandfather James—a former State Heron Champion—what the best part was, an enthusiastic Igon replied: "Swimming in the river at the boat ramp!"

Their own boat, *Wot Not*, is ready to go, and with a few trailer repairs and some more cooperative winds, we hope to see the family on the water more often. We wish them all the best for their sailing journey.

Finally, *Dynamite Jack* will be the sole Tasmanian representative at the upcoming Wangi Nationals. We wish them fair winds and a great regatta!

Anthony Morgan

9753 Dynamite Jack

Tristan with association trainer 10185 'This Is The Life'

The next generation of Andrewartha brothers on debut.

ACT Dinghy Championships

Torrid conditions on Lake Burley Griffin

This year's ACT Dinghy Championships were held in consistently strong winds on Canberra's Lake Burley Griffin. Five races were completed in gusts reaching 30 knots, with one race – the third on Saturday afternoon – abandoned after a storm front, unseen on the weather radar, blasted through at over 40 knots.

For several classes, the regatta became a battle of attrition. The Herons were no exception: a mix of inexperienced crews and punishing conditions saw much of the fleet exercising their discretion to remain ashore or return soon after launching.

Non Sequitur, sailed by Chris Sant and Archer Brigden, embraced the conditions early on, only for the Vang and King Post to part company at the end of Heat 1. As a result, Chris and Archer had fortunately joined the other Herons on shore, when the unexpected front hit.

A somewhat dodgy repair was completed in time for Sunday's racing, and Non Sequitur headed out as the sole starter in Division 4. The pair again enjoyed the fresh conditions… at least until the final gybe of the first race, when the vang made its opinion of Chris's repair work abundantly clear. (In hindsight, re-setting the existing self-tapping screws with a bit of putty may not have been the best idea.) Still, two finishes proved enough, and an early mark gave Chris time to prepare the regatta results once the committee and rescue crews were safely back on shore.

Despite the significant gear damage across multiple classes, all sailors returned safely on both days. The committee and rescue boat teams – including regular Heron sailors Bill Arthur (both days) and Mike Hitchens (Sunday) – certainly earned a well-deserved beverage and the thanks of the entire fleet.

Chris Sant

Non Sequitur

2025-26 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

Dec 13-14 2025	Battle for Waterloo	Darling Point SC, Brisbane, QLD
Dec 13-14 2025	1 Day Training	Wangi RSL SC, Lake Macquarie, NSW
Jan 5-10 2026	**65th National Championships**	Wangi RSL SC, Lake Macquarie, NSW
Jan 21-22 2026	NSW Junior State Titles	Concord Ryde SC, Sydney, NSW
Feb 28-March 1	Harwood Regatta	Big River SC, Harwood, NSW
Feb 28-March 1	World Single Handed Regatta	PHOSC, Port Hacking, NSW
March 7-8 2026	South Australian State Championship	Port River Sailing Club, SA
April 25-26 2026	Coffs Harbour Sprints	Coffs Harbour Yacht Club, NSW
May 2-3 2026	Qld State Titles and Jack Holt Regatta	Lake Cootharaba SC, Qld

The 51st South Australian Heron State Championships will be held at Port River Sailing Club on March 7-8, 2026.
More info and Notice of Race will be out soon.