

2012 Presidents Report

The 2011- 2012 has been a good year for the Taipan association with a reemergence of fleets sailing at a number of clubs in South Australia. This has been aided by some great work being done by Evan Steele and others to promote events in South Australia and Western Victoria. From all reports events such as the Lacepede Bay Lobster Regatta and the Western Victoria regattas have been very successful for both competitors and for promotion of Taipan sailing. It looks like a few of the Taipans that have been gathering dust in the shed for a number of years have been dusted off and put to good use.

To quote Evan, *"Yes the Taipan's are back in town, SA that is. I couldn't believe the support of our Western Region/Cat challenge regatta with 13 Taipan's fantastic effort to all the travellers. The support also showed to hold a SA State Titles blew me away and have now been put in motion to be held Australia Day long weekend 26th-27th January. So if your not totally burnt out from giving your all to the Nationals then come on over and enjoy some of the most pristine sea water on offer."*

In addition to the growth in SA congratulations to the Batemans Bay Sailing club and Kurnell Catamaran Club for increasing the numbers of Taipans on the water. Batemans Bay has had 8 Taipan 4.9's racing on a regular basis. Kurnell have been boosted by a number of parents of juniors buying boats and the return of Steve Brewin to the ranks of Taipan sailing.

On a personal note the NSW State Titles (combined with the A's) held at Mannering Park last year was one of the most enjoyable events that I have ever sailed at, great organisation, wind, good length courses and lots of races! Well done Sam, Brett and Mannering Park.

I'm sure we will hear more from the State representatives at the AGM about the state of play in each State.

Future consideration/Issues for the class

Some of the following has been placed on the agenda for the AGM and will as such be discussed in detail. That said I thought it prudent to give the Presidents perspective on some the issues that we are facing as a class going ahead in the future.

1. Selection of the National titles Venue.

This year we have tried to make the selection of the venue for 2014 a more objective process and the "expression of Interest" form was developed. see link on our website:

<http://www.taipan.asn.au/eoi.html>

The information contained on the website is attached at the end of the report.

To date no club has been nominated for 2014. Could you please have a serious look at this during the next week and if you have already had discussions fill in the form? As an organisation we need to have certainty for the nationals venue for 2014.

It is disappointing that no expression of interest has been completed for the 2014 nationals.

I am aware that Mannering Park are seriously considering putting in an expression of interest 2015, but are unable to host in 2014.

2. Vipers/ C2's and Capricorns

This year marks the beginning of a division 4 (and 3 minute starts) comprising of Vipers having their second official Nationals titles. The first being at P.K.S.C in 2012. Division 3 will comprise of Taipan 5.7's, Capricorns and C2's. The non-Taipan boats are again welcomed as invitational classes at the nationals. As it has been previously these boats will be required to join the Taipan association as associate members to compete.

For those who are not aware of the history of the involvement of non-Taipan classes competing at the Taipan nationals you may be interested in the following. At the AGM in 2006 discussion took place around the inclusion of AHPC's latest boat (that replaced the 5.7 Taipan) the Capricorn. Those present

voted to include the Capricorn at all future events run by the Taipan association. The association logo was changed to reflect this and the future titles included the Capricorn name.

The constitution was never changed to formally include Capricorns as the meeting and vote did not strictly fit the requirements of notice and 2/3 majority as required by the constitution.

When the C2 replaced the Capricorn at AHPC they were then also invited to compete. This has been a benefit to the association giving a more viable fleet in Division 3. Subsequently when the Viper was put into production the committee decide to invite this class to the nationals. It is interesting to note that some the frontrunners in this class are ex Taipan sailors.

The 2013 nationals Notice of Race includes an invitation to Capricorn, C2 and Viper classes to compete at the titles. When this was sent out/ posted in March all Capricorns in Australia were produced solely by AHPC. Since this date another rival manufacturer has started production of a "New Capricorn" only loosely based upon the original AHPC product. This has the potential to cause some divergence of views at this year's Nationals. The NOR was written in good faith and does not specify which Capricorn was invited to compete, only the term Capricorn; the officials of the association could not possibly have envisaged the current situation of two manufacturers producing a boat of the same name.

At the 2013 Nationals we should welcome any boat that fits under requirements specified in the NOR.

Even though the association is not directly linked, controlled or managed by AHPC my personal view is that we should in the future clearly specify in the NOR that Capricorn, C2 and Viper classes invited to the Taipan nationals must be of AHPC manufacture. AHPC has supported the Taipan Association since the inception of the class and as such should be supported in return by the association. I am aware that this will be on the agenda for further discussion at the AGM.

3. The Forum and Website

It appears that the forum is becoming the main source of communication for Taipans sailors. To date we have had 1310 Posts in 185 Topics by 852 Members. I'm sure those who are new to the class would be very happy with the advice that they have been receiving through the forum. When posting notices please be aware that the site is not the place to make any negative personal comments about your fellow sailors. Please keep posting but be positive.

Thank you to Greig Bannister for the maintenance of the site and forum.

Report 2011/2012 Nationals Port Kembla Sailing Club.

Fifty Five boats competed in 2012 Magic Marine Taipan Nationals that was hosted by Port Kembla sailing club on Lake Illawarra, NSW. PKSC ran a near flawless series and much credit must go to the hard working volunteers who gave up their time to run the event and man the canteen.

The standout at the 2012 Magic Marine Taipan nationals was the dominating performance of Mat and Chris Homan in winning the 4.9 Taipan sloop rigged division. Ten straight wins from ten races, it is not often that a boats dropped races are bullets. As former National champion Andrew Williams said at the presentation night, "this is the most dominating performance by any crew in the history of Taipan sailing". Chris Munro/ Trevor Grimes battled it out with Andrew and Petra Williams for second place.

With Chris eventually getting up by the narrowest of margins. Sam/Mel Breadon and Antony Edwards showed great speed and improved performances in the tricky conditions to take the minor places.

The performance of Chris and Mat was even more impressive when you look at the conditions that prevailed during the titles. The expected predominant sea breeze only appeared briefly on one day. Sailors had to put up with mostly light shifty breezes.

The 4.9 Taipan Cat rigged division was not decided until the last race day, up to this point, five different sailors had each won heats. Chris Boag showing great consistency and very smooth boat handling skills came to the fore on the last day to take the title from 2011 champion Luke Donovan. It was obvious that Chris had put in the preparation and time on the water essential to win big events. Steve Floyd had a good regatta sailing his new boat finished third after leading the fleet for the first two days. Jamie Christensen and Andrew Vize filled positions four and five after each had strong performances winning earlier heats.

Tom Cobden showed that he will be a star of the future keeping the front runner honest in the lighter heats and was the best performing skipper under 20 years of age. Division 3 was made up of a mixture of Capricorns, Taipan 5.7's and as an invitation class, Vipers. The Vipers held their inaugural national championships during this event. The skippers in this fleet were world class and included the likes of Carolyn Brouwer, Adam Beattie, Jason Waterhouse and Greg Goodall. The winner in this division was not decided until the last race on the last day. This led to some interesting pre race maneuvers between Carolyn and Jason. Jason had the better of the start and lead early. Carolyn Brouwer and Brett Goodall eventually took the lead and won the race and the series. Vipers filled the first seven places in this division, the first Capricorn home was Greg Rogers and the first Taipan 5.7 was Peter Scott.

Special Thank you

On behalf of the Taipan association I would like to formally thank Dennis Baker and Shirley Caines and the other officials for the work that they have put out in over the last 12 months. Without the help of the State reps and supporters events such as the nationals and the state titles would not have been held. Personally they have been very supportive of me in the role as President, thank you.

Again this year, the Taipan association is being supported by both Magic Marine and AHPC. Thank you to Marja, Brett, Greg and the crew. This has been a long-standing relationship and assistance is much appreciated by all. I'm not sure how many you have spoken informally to Greg about boat tuning, sails or tactics, but I know that you would have received a warm smile and some very good advice!

Due to family commitments I will not be standing for a position on the committee for 2014, for those who are elected I hope you have a great year and the same support and assistance that I have received from sailors this year.

Les

Website Page – Expressions of Interest for Hosting National Titles

Preamble

This is a call, particularly directed to members of the Taipan and Capricorn Association, for an Expressions of Interest, EOI, from their associated or preferred Sailing Clubs for the hosting of the National Titles.

Each year the Taipan and Capricorn Catamaran Club of Australia arranges National Titles at which, over a series of races, National Champions are determined in the Taipan 4.9 Cat and Sloop, 5.7 and Capricorn Classes. There may also be invited classes.

The preferred format for the racing is 10 races over one full week with a lay day.

The preferred start to the event is the first week in the New Year

A sample Notice of Race is here:-

The event is cycled through the three states, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. The 2013 event will be in Victoria and the host club has been decided as GLYC, Paynesville, the 2014 event will be in Queensland, and the 2015 event in New South Wales and so on. Host clubs have not yet been selected for 2014 or 2015.

There is no special requirement that the event should not be held at the same State club on consecutive State visits for the sake of variation or in the belief that this will promote the class. The priority is a well run event that promotes strong and enjoyable competition.

The size of the fleet is typically 50 boats. Families often accompany sailors and so up to 100 people may be involved.

Responsibilities

The Association is required to select a host club at least one year in advance of the event. An earlier selection is preferred. Association members often have a range of requirements and preferences that must be considered and balanced. A structured EOI is expected to assist the process but will not be the sole means of determining the host club.

Members are encouraged to contribute by submitting an EOI as laid out below. It is the responsibility of the respondent to contact the club/s involved and research the proposed event before completing all sections of the form accurately

All sections need to be completed so that the Association, at its AGM, has as complete a picture as possible. It is anticipated that the direct involvement of Association membership supporting the Committee in this sometimes difficult choice will expand the options available. It is hoped that when the choice is made, all those that have strong opinions will have had an excellent means of presenting real data that supports those views and that they will also support the Committee no matter what the eventual choice.

If members believe that this form is incomplete such that an important aspect is left out of the appraisal, please contact the Association by means of the links provided on the Association web page.

[Go to EOI Form](#)

A photograph of a sailor on a white catamaran sailing on the water. The sailor is wearing a white cap and a dark long-sleeved shirt. The catamaran has two hulls and a central mast. The background shows a body of water and a distant shoreline with trees.

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