

Snake Tales

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Editors Note

Roellen Gillmore

Those with a sharp eye will notice something different about this edition of Snake Tales. With Vant stepping up to be Pin-head Prez, I thought I better take this one off his to-do list.

Vant has done a fantastic job wrangling content and keeping us entertained over the last couple of seasons. His wit won't be missed for long though, as he still gets a regular column as the incoming President of the association.

Snake Tales is our living history of the class. I'll do my best to capture the defining moments of each season, but am relying on all Taipan sailors to keep this publication up to date.

In my view, this isn't just a space to record winners from the titles; it is a place to share all the thrills and spills in between. Whether that's a new recruit to the class, a stand out Junior, upcoming events or just a great photo from club sailing, I want to share it!

Below: symbolic photo of Roe jumping in to help Ant



On the cover

The Hancock boys send it down Lake Albert at the 2017 Taipan National Championships. The 5.7s had the largest fleet in recent history with tight competition, with Wayne and Josh winning on a count back.

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Pennings from the Prez (outgoing)

Richard Nicholson

This is my last report as President, as I am stepping aside after three years in the role.

I am proud of what has been achieved over this period and highlight the following big ticket items:

- Incorporating our association
- Implementing electronic event registration and payment
- Adopting electronic banking
- Improving our financial reporting
- Cleaning up the Class Rules for both the 4.9 and 5.7 (a work in progress)
- Returning 4.9 hull production to Australia
- Reinvigorating the 4.9 sloop fleet (another work in progress)
- Returning South Australia to the Nationals rotation
- Chasing down unused boats and updating the Taipan 'Who's Who'
- Reviving the Queensland States
- Holding the NSW States as a stand-alone regatta

This is an impressive list by any measure, and I would like to single out the Sugarloaf Mafia (David McBain, Greig Bannister and Lachlan Cameron, plus Chris Tucker) for their considerable individual contributions, along with Mark Colecliffe for his role in revving up the NSW and Queensland fleets.

Another massive achievement has been new 5.7 hulls, and a special shout out to Brendon Case for making this happen. Same goes for Ant Richards for his work on 'Snake Tales'. These guys show that you don't need an official title to contribute to the class. If you want to make a positive contribution and have the passion to make it happen, you will find the Committee is all ears.

Of course, good administration counts for very little without boats on the water. Thank you to all Taipan sailors and their support crews, who continue to support the class by attending State and National championships, along with various mixed class regattas on local waters. A strong class is attractive to future boat owners and this underpins the value of our boats.

A strong class also provides easy access to a supply of new boats. For various reasons, the return of 4.9 hull production to Australia has not resulted in the flow of new boats we had been targeting - but we have a plan for a 'turn key' solution that we hope will be available shortly. More to follow. As a general committee member I will work with Technical Officer, Rohan Gillmore to kick start the flow of new boats.

I believe the infrastructure now in place for the operation of the TCAA will make it easier for the Committee to manage the association into the future and provides an excellent base to grow the class. It is my hope that you will join with me to work with the incoming Committee to make this happen.

Good sailing.



Pennings from the Prez (incoming)

Ant Richards

So I've now started this intro approximately half a dozen times, but I keep coming back to this quote.

"I've sailed in a lot of classes, but hands down this is the most welcoming, helpful class I have ever been a part of".

The quote shall remain anonymous, but I have had many similar discussions in recent times.

So apparently I'm now the new 'Prez'! As far as I'm concerned, Richard Nicholson shall keep the name 'The Prez', I'm just Ant, or Vant, or if need be Pant.. I'll leave it up to you!

My first order of business is to thank the previous committee for their hard work and commitment to the class. We've had some cracker regattas of late and there is plenty of behind the scenes activity which has taken place over the past couple of years.

Whilst the incoming committee really hasn't changed a great deal, there is a notable alteration; Richard Nicholson. Richard and I have spent a great deal of time chatting about all things Taipan and I can honestly say, there aren't too many blokes who have given so much of their blood, sweat and tears to the class, as has Rich. I, on behalf of the incoming committee and the wider Taipan community, would like to sincerely thank Richard for the countless hours he's devoted to you all and to everything he's achieved during his reign as 'The Prez'. Richard remains an integral member of the TCAA committee, with a particular role of getting new boats back on the water.

I've now had the chance to be Prez at 1.5 regattas since being elected (1/2 of the Nats and the Vic States). And one thing I keep coming back to is the word 'family'. Everywhere you look, there's family and in so many variations. I could rattle off a hundred examples of family, but if I can indulge for a moment, I want to make mention of a couple.

It was my third Nationals, but the first for my young family. (MMYC didn't count as it was at home!) We arrived with the van (a HUGE thanks to Paul Fleming

for double stacking our boats for the journey to and from S.A.) and realised we had Taipan'ers surrounding us! Within minutes, there was offers of help to set up (not heckling Mick D/Luke D ;)), extra equipment shared, and of course a welcoming beverage or two.

The highlight of the week was my kids and the families of other Taipan'ers. My youngest, Gussy or 'Little mate' as we call him, found out that there were plenty of kids to play with at the yacht club. We didn't even know if my daughter Tilly was still with us. She was having so much fun with the daughters of the Zadow's, that we never saw her for the whole week! But that was my family.....

I saw the Taipan clan rally around a number of our fraternity (including some extended family) during various illnesses. I saw so many father/offspring combinations during the event, which hopefully is something we'll see more of. Of particular note was watching young Boyd get thrown around during a 16.5 knot blow (it always blows 16.5 knots at Meningie!) and then turning up the next day with a smile in his face. Or perhaps it was Cormac Lamb trying to beat his 'old man' Ian in the Cat Rigged fleet. I could keep going...

At the Vic States, whilst my tribe couldn't attend, there were so many more examples of family. To name but a few; the father/son, father/daughter combinations (Carvers, McMahons, Jopps, Floyds, Shepherds) and the subsequent friendships formed across the weekend (three of the girls squealing with laughter whilst trying to kayak '3 up' in the Portland harbour!), the Heins and Donovan kids running amok in and around the club and on the water, and of course the various generations all helping out across the event.

So this is why I put my hand up to be Prez. I started off with my Dad on AUS017 as a teenager and he had his last sail with me on O67. I can't wait to attend regattas as a sloop with my kids! My aim as Prez is to continue to build the 'family atmosphere' I've been a part of over the last few years. I'm not setting out to change anything, in fact quite the opposite. My plan is to identify 'the Taipan sailor/s' and market us accordingly.

On that note, Roellen and I would love to hear what you think a 'Taipan sailor' is. We're working on a marketing strategy to push forward into the coming years, but we'd really love your help identifying who we really are! If you have a spare few minutes, please put a sentence or two together and email either Roe or myself.

But there's no point in marketing ourselves without having boats available for people to purchase, either new or second hand. As everyone knows, this has been a contentious issue over the last few years. New and second hand boats have been difficult to attain of late and this is not good for the class.

Richard Nicholson and Rohan Gillmore have been instrumental in fixing the new boat (4.9's) situation because without new boats being available it has a big flow on affect throughout the class. The story is long and involved, but in a nutshell, we're getting really close to having the problem solved and new boats back on the water! It was discussed in detail at the AGM, so I have included the section directly from the AGM minutes. (Please see website)

4.9 Hulls: Rohan and Richard have been working through a refined product. Rohan offering a Turn Key solution. The association is buying hulls and Rohan will fit it out and it will be for sale. Rohan will sail the boat and it will be moved on ASAP, Rohan will then build a new boat." Richard and Rohan will continue to head this development and of course I and the committee will oversee it. Once things have been finalised in the very not too distant future, we will make a further announcement. I'm happy to have a chat with anyone if you have any questions, or better yet if you are looking at possibly buying a new boat/set up hulls etc!

Getting back to the Nationals at Meningie....what a great regatta! To Tim and Jeff Wright and all the hard working crew at Meningie S.C., a huge thanks and congrats on holding such a successful week. From what I heard, there was not one sailor who was not happy with the event! I won't go over the Nationals report, but a couple of things of note.

The Cat Rigs were again the dominate configuration with 14 entries, but this was down on previous years. Numbers were on the increase in the Sloops with 6 entries, but the most impressive was the 5.7's. With 11 entries, it was the biggest fleet in recent memory. It was also the closest, coming down to the last 100 metres on the last race!

So where to from here?

The class really needs people to continue to be passionate about it. We all know it's a great boat and the people who sail them are grouse! "What can I do?" I hear you ask. Simple, get out there and sail. Be it travelling to an event (particularly the Nationals, States and the events that make up the Australian Traveller Series – more info to come in the next edition!), or it could just be being active at your club. Whatever you choose, just get out there! If ever you get the opportunity, put a youngster on the front (or someone who's in limbo about the choice of boat they'd like to sail) and go for a spin. I've had the pleasure of having two crews with me over the last couple of States. Fingers crossed, we may have these kids enter the association in some way over the coming years, as both of them expressed how much fun they had, which was verified by their parents!

But if you can't sail for whatever reason, please don't hang onto your boats allowing them to gather dust. There are plenty of people out there who are looking for boats (particularly entry level), but can't find any. If we don't have any For Sale, this usually means that unfortunately people head to alternative classes.

Better yet, if you're in any way thinking of purchasing a new boat, let me know! It's a win for everyone.

Happy to have a chat if you need anything!

Nationals Report, 2017 Meningie Sailing Club South Australia

Roellen Gillmore

Lake Albert greeted the Taipan catamaran fleet with a solid 18-25kt invitation race on January 1 2017. Many sailors took the conservative option to keep their boats in one piece with only 14 of the 31 boats signing on and one finishing the race.

Day one of racing had 15kt morning and kept building to an average of 20kts for the afternoon. Meningie Sailing Club Commodore and Principal Race Officer Jeff Wright assured sailors that this wasn't Lake Albert 'angry' and the racing will go on. The heavy conditions in flat water were fast and manageable.

Day two and three proved "it is normally like this" with steady building southeasterly sea breezes. Competitors were kept on their toes with plenty of knocks and holes to keep clear of, as evident by the shuffling leader boards in all fleets.

Coming into day four the fleet had eight races under their belt and planning for three more back-to-back. Lighter winds provided a leveler for some of the competitors offering a wide cross-section of conditions. A sudden heavy downpour swept across the fleet in the last leg of race two, whipping up a half meter sea mist. As race three was getting underway a hair-raising crack of lightning hit the lake out of blue sky causing the Race Officer to immediately abandon for everyone's safety.

Meningie Sailing Club's hospitality and the strength of the South Australian 5.7 fleet proved SA is well and truly back in the nationals' rotation. We're all looking forward to returning.



Nationals Report, 2017 Meningie Sailing Club South Australia



4.9 Cat

1st Anthony Richards

2nd Mick Colecliffe

3rd Paul Flemming

Total fleet size: 14



4.9 Sloop

1st Rohan and Roellen Gillmore

2nd Evan Steele, Caitlyn McMahon

3rd Steven Floyd, Evelyn Floyd

Total fleet size: 6



5.7

1st Wayne and Josh Hancock

2nd Michael Crouch, Brad Spencer

3rd John Newman, Ben Clark

Total fleet size: 11

Taipan 5.7's show up in force for the Nationals

Wayne Hancock

Eleven of the big snakes made their way to the shores of Lake Albert in Meningie South Australia for the Nationals this January. There were 12 boats on the shore but the Dodd boat was never fully rigged as its crew was off to China during the week and couldn't find the time for a sail.

Boats travelled from Victoria, New South Wales and the home State. This number of boats may not have been the biggest fleet at a Nationals but it was the biggest in South Australia and with numbers declining over the last few years it was for current times.

The fleet had the hall marks for a great regatta with a new boat, "Bob" skippered by John Newman and crewed by Ben Clarke. Last year's winning boat "The Trident" (new owner Scott McDonald with the same crew Anthony Ducat), and all of the recent State Title holders.

Boats were weighed and sail measurement tags checked this year, something that hasn't happened for some time and came up with some interesting results. The lightest boat was one of the older generation in "Too Easy" and the new boat coming in somewhere in the middle. The older Boyer boats have stood the test of time and put little if any weight on giving the new builders a challenge to match him.

Due to the flexibility in rig configuration in the 5.7 rules we had three different set ups. There were 7 boats with self-tacking jibs and Kite, two with over lapping jibs and kite and two with over lapping jibs and no kite. This difference in rigs has and will fuel discussion for some time with the eventual winner and second place going to over lapping jibs with kites this year.

Because there are several long distance races and most clubs still race triangular course in South Australia the over lapping jib is preferred on the reaching legs where it is too shy to carry a kite. This said the self-tacking jibs were suited to the up wind down wind courses used for the Nationals.

With a fleet that has a difference in performance



with the boats not carrying kites all the results were run off a yardstick. 'Grinkari" Michael McGuire and Haydn Luckman sailed without a kite and were in the top three in the early heats showing that a well sailed boat in this configuration is competitive when the breeze is up.

The racing was fierce with 5 different first place winners and all of these boats finished in the top six places. The exception was the new boat "Bob" who finished third without winning a heat.

The first day was to set the pattern for the Titles with gentle shifting breeze in the morning and strong gusty wind in the afternoon. Local boats "Two Dogs" Tim Wright and Josh Wright taking the morning honours and "Too Easy" Michael Crouch and Bradley Spencer the afternoon. The afternoon tried the fleet out with a broken boom on Wayne and Josh Hancock's "Rikki Tikki Tavi" after a capsize, destroyed sail on "Biddy Hu Jnr" Paul and Boyd Lindemann and four other boats joining them in retiring from the race. During the Regatta the fleet suffered other damage including Broken Diamonds on "Angry Pirate" Marc Attwood and Amos Zadow and "Bob" a traveller car.

Day two started poorly for some of the caravan park campers as a mysterious stomach bug hit. "The

Shooter” (boat well named in this situation) skipper Brad Carver was left without a crew due to Matt Carver succumbing along with “White knuckles” Kym and Tom Luitjes. Both boats missing all 3 heats. “Too Easy” took the third heat and “Rikki Tikki Tavi” heats four and five.

Day three “Rikki Tikki Tavi” strung their third first together in heat six “Awesome” Greg Caines and Ross Neville won heat seven and “Too Easy” heat eight.

The Taipan Committee decided to shift the lay day to Friday as there was a poor forecast for this day thus ending the Nationals a day early.

Going into the last day four boats were in contention with perhaps a fifth if they could string a few firsts together. Heat nine was won by “The Shooter” and heat ten by “Rikki Tikki Tavi”. This heat turned out to be the deciding heat as a lightning storm crossed the lake and racing was abandoned for the day finishing one race short for the day and concluding the Nationals. “Two Easy” lead the series for the previous two days but had a bad result in heat nine. They were running second to ‘Rikki Tikki Tavi’ in heat 10 but had gained a lot of ground on the last kite run to the

finishing ID mark rounding meters in front. In their haste to drop the kite and reach to the finish Bradley didn’t get the trapeze wire on properly and fell off the boat allowing “Rikki Tikki Tavi” through to take the win and the Nationals on a count back from them with both boats finishing on 18 points.

This was a well-run Nationals by the Meningie Sailing Club and the comradery within the 5.7 fleet was outstanding. All of the breakages were able to be quickly repaired because of the way parts were willingly lent along with advise and a helping hand.

TAIPAN 5.7 Final standings

- 061 Wayne Hancock (RIKKI TIKKI TAVI)
- 124 Michael Crouch (TOO EASY)
- 364 John Newman (BOB)
- 081 Greg Caines (AWESOME)
- 073 Tim Wright (TWO DOGS)
- 198 Brad Carver (THE SHOOTER)
- 118 Michael McGuire (GRINKARI)
- 110 Marc Attwood (ANGRY PIRATE)
- 068 Kym Luitjes (WHITE KNUCKLES)
- 120 Scott McDonald (THE TRIDENT)
- 059 Paul Lindemann (BIDDY HU JNR)



State Report, New South Wales

Mick Colecliffe

So far a great start to the season.

Forster Wild Cat Regatta was huge as usual. Six Taipans turning up and showing good results. Strong winds sorted the men from the boys.

Regattas in NSW were well supported by Taipans. Supported events include Speers Point Catagatta, Kurnell Top Gun Regatta, Bridge to Brakers, Beware the Bullets, Kembla Klassic, Calling All Skippers, Oberon Dam, Mannering Park Open, Kurnell Australia Day Regatta, Stan Vitnell Memorial, Booti Booti Cup. Well done guys, thanks for your support.

The NSW State titles were held at Tanilba Bay. What an event. The weather was perfect. The facilities were fantastic. The competition fierce. A very big thank you to Tanilba Bay Sailing Club as they were like clockwork with everything.

8 Cat rigged and 3 Sloop rigged attended. 4 Juniors and 1 young lady.



Race 1: We all start together, 10-15 knots from the SW. smooth water and gusty winds. Ant Endwards dominated the cats and got a convincing 1st then Zac Breaden 2nd, Ethan Micallef 3rd and a very close 4th was Kimberly Russell.

Mick Colecliffe/Lauchy Grech (J) had a convincing win in the sloops with Ian Lamb and Bailey Hord (J) 2nd. Mark Colecliffe/Taylor Grech (J) surprise surprise their sail fell down and got a DNF.

Race 2: Again Ant denominated showing of his experience as a long time Taipan sailor. Ant was closely followed by Zac but a chain plat snapping made Zac retire. Ryan Graham was the cat amongst the pigeons and scored a 2nd closely followed by Ethan 3rd and Junior Kyle Micallef snatching a 4th.

Mick/Lauchy after some very close competition got the win with Ian/Bailey a very close 2nd. Oh that's right Mark/Taylor done a transom in. They were out for the rest of the day.

Race 3: Ant again showed his skills. He took out 1st. How about 2nd. The young lady Kimberly Russell did some very smart sailing and did it well. 3rd was Ethan.

Ian/Bailey showed us how a sloop should be sailed. They picked up their game and flogged Mick/Lauchy.

Race 4: Starting in 15knots the fleet were getting tired. Ant and Zac swapped leads a few times during the race but I think youth ruled over age. Zac had the eye of the tiger after his misfortune with his chain plate. He snuck in a 1st in the last race of the day. Ant true to form was on his heels with a 2nd and Junior Ryan got 3rd.

Due to some issues, Mick/Lauchy had a DNS so Ian/Bailey had an easy win.

Race 5: Day two provided different wind conditions. NE 10-15knots. Some chop but again perfect conditions put on by the weather gods.



Different conditions mean different results, which is exactly what we got.

The local sailors knew where to go including Ethan who pulled of a convincing win followed by his brother Kyle and another local Zac got 3rd with Ryan Graham from Kurnell 4th and the lady of the fleet Kimberly 5th.

Now I know this will not surprise a lot of sailors but Mark/Taylor had another DNF with the sail falling down. Ian/Bailey got the better of Mick/Lauchy. Well done guys.

Race 6: The wind has picked up. Very fast course. Small chop and shifty winds.

We have a new winner! Ryan took it out, and closely followed by Zac the Ant. Junior Kyle managed a 4th.

We have a 3 cat race again thanks to Mark getting his act together. In all fairness Mark has not had the (Time on Water) with his crew like us but who has he got to blame for that. Great racing and the lead changed 4 times in the race. Mick/Lauchy 1st, Ian/Bailey 2nd and Mark/Taylor 3rd.

Race 7: Things at hotting up just like the weather. A change of the guards. Ant and Zac are going toe for toe. The lead changed 4 times and the final close winner was Zac with Ant hot on his tail. Amazingly Ryan managed a 2nd sneaking in front of Ant who got 3rd.

Huge turnaround for the sloops. BIG NEWS. Mark/Taylor finished a race and got 1st. Mick/Lauchy 2nd and Ian/Bailey 3rd.

Race 8: Locals ruled and Zac lead the way with another

win. Ant hot on his tail got 2nd and Ethan put in a great performance for 3rd. The young lady Kimberly there with a very respectful 4th.

Mick/Lauchy kept their form for 1st, Ian/Bailey a very close 2nd and Mark/Taylor managed to FINISH 3rd.

Final results

Zac Breaden and Antony Edwards equal 10 points but Zac won on count back with 2 races dropped. Then Ryan Graham 3rd and 1 point behind him was Ethan Micallef 4th.

Mick/Lachlan 1st and Ian/Bailey 2nd only had 1 point between them with Mark/Taylor 3rd.

It was a great experience to not only have a crew but a junior crew. It gave me that warm fuzzy feeling watching him lean the ropes as we went. Thank you to all the juniors for putting up with the old guys. Kimberly not only managed to be competitive but stayed upright the whole time.

Trial Bay Daren Lowder Memorial regatta saw 8 Taipans competing against 63 other cats. Willy dominated on his sloop and took out 1st in the regatta. Zac Breaden was 4th, Sam Breaden 5th and Mick Colecliffe 6th. Not bad considering the quality competition from NSW and QLD. It was great to see so many travelers. The conditions were perfect, the venue second to none. Every one had a ball.

The NSW State Titles will be held at the Kurnell Top Gun in 2017. Keep your eye on facebook and the web site for more details.

Fast and furious sailing to you all.

State Report, South Australia

Wayne Hancock

The SA State Titles were held on the 4th & 5th February along with the F18's at the Lacedpede Bay Sailing Club Kingston SE. The 5.7 fleet is the bigger class in SA and had 6 boats with 4 running kites along with 3 4.9 sloops. Boats and sailors came from Milang, Meningie, Rivoli Bay, Portland and the home club Kingston.

Winds were light for the weekend with Saturday producing west to north west winds at a top of 10 knots recorded and flat seas. On the Sunday conditions remained very similar to Saturday except by the end of racing rain had set in.

The 4.9 sloop class was taken out by Rivoli Bay SC sailors Evan Steele and Kaitlyn McMahon on "Serenity", second was Tim Wright from Meningie and Damian McMahon on "Obsession" and Brad Mann sailed in a couple of races on Sunday on "One Toy Too Many"

Luke Donovan from Portland borrowed Tim Wrights 5.7 "Two Dogs" and teamed up with Viper and F18 crew Beau Delaine from Adelaide to take out the 5.7 Title with a clean score sheet of 7 firsts and a drop of a second. In second place was Wayne and Josh Hancock on "Rikki Tikki Tavi" from the local club with a first, 6 seconds and dropped third. Third place was taken out by Milang Sailors Mick McGuire and Dean King on "Grinkari". Fourth place went to Michael Crouch and Bradley Spencer from Meningie on "Too Easy", fifth was Jeff and Liz Southall who sail at Meningie on "Animal Scanning Services" and six was Neil and Tegan Ferguson from the local club on "Men Behaving Badly".

Luke and Beau showed the fleet how to sail low and deep in the lighter winds on the kite runs. They were not the fastest up wind a lot of the time with the Hancock's and Mick and Dean giving them a challenge to close the gap on the downwind legs. Luke's big fleet experience with boat placement and ability to get it up to speed quickly made him very hard to stay in front of. The non-kited boats also were well in the race up to the first mark but the lighter conditions really favoured the kites and even on yardstick they were unable to gain a top place finish. Jeff and Liz Southall sailed their new-to-them boat and were

in the top 3 at the first mark on more than the one occasion.

South Australia has had a busy season with the Nationals being run at the Meningie Sailing Club in early January. Two 4.9's have recently changed hands with one joining the ever growing Wright fleet and the other to Victor Harbour. Jeff Southall has purchased Ash Johnson's 5.7 to sail in Taipan events and Stewart Fergusons 5.7 "GT" is now owned by Mark Watters.



State Report, Victoria

Mick Doherty

The Portland Eyecare Vic States have been run and won. The local boys down at Portland took out the top three spots in the Cat rigged fleet in conditions that threw up a bit of everything.

Fifteen boats made the journey down to Portland to contest this year's state titles, and whilst the numbers were down it was a case of quality over quantity with plenty of talent hitting the water and providing some great close racing.

Brad and Matt Carver dominated the 5.7 division winning every race so convincingly that the boys who travelled 5 hours from Melbourne didn't even have to sail the last day to take the chocolates. Not only dominating on water but rumour has it they gave it a nudge Saturday night and pulled up a little dusty on the Sunday.

With light winds testing the sailors Saturday afternoon, TNT was dynamite collecting the first two bullets of the regatta as the new President continued his winning form from nationals this time sailing in the 4.9 sloop division.

The five Sloops had some great racing between them with 4 out of 5 boats getting a win at some stage over the weekend. It was great to see the sloop fleet making a revival and even more pleasing to see young crews jumping on board. With Ant Richards just sneaking home by 2 points after he made his poor crew hold the jib 1:1 after the jib blew apart, Richards and his crew Holly held off the fast finishing Michael Jopp and his crew Maxine while Evan Steele made the trip over from South Aus to take third.

Sunday was looking very bleak with no wind in the morning but thankfully Huey came through and gave us some breeze in afternoon where three back to back races were held.

In the Cat Rigged division it was Leigh Hein who had three wins, he also won two the day before and two the day after to convincingly take out the Cat Rig title from Luke Donovan in second and Brad Hein in third. Whilst Leigh took the gunsmoke he wasn't the only one to go home with chocolates, hey Demon...

Saturday night saw the crews switch to lasers for some match racing where most of the rules got thrown out the window and barging become the norm. After several heats and finals, it came down to Demon Parker and Super Coach Brad Hein. Hein just snuck home to take the cash narrowly from Demon.

With two major events left including Easter regattas at Bullen Merri and Lake Boga and then also Sauna Sail, it would be great to see plenty of boats see out the season at these great events.



Interviews With Bite

Tim Wright on the 5.7 resurgence at the South Australian nationals

This edition of interviews with bite we talk to a well known Taipan sailor, Tim Wright about the record 5.7 fleet at the 2017 Meningie Nationals.

1. Why is the Taipan 5.7 so popular in South Australia?

South Australia has always had a fleet of 5.7's but I think the reason the fleet has built to the number we currently have is down to a few factors. The lakes being the depth they are effects the boats that can sail on them. Distance racing is also a big thing in SA and with that there is a need for speed and water length the 5.7 fits the bill for both, last summer all the line honor trophies went to 5.7's due to their good pace on all points of sail.

2. What does the 5.7 have over a 4.9?

The 5.7 can be competitive between 145-200+ kgs combined by adjusting rig settings but the 4.9 starts to struggle when the combined weight hits 150kgs. Flying a kite also adds a different dimension to the racing that the 4.9 doesn't have and the tactics downwind can have huge gains and also huge losses when using the kite. Another point of difference between the 2 boats is the 4.9 reacts and behaves like a go-cart, it accelerates so fast and turns on a dime but also tops out speed wise very quickly. The 5.7 is more like a Formula 1 car it takes a bit to get going from a stand still but once rolling it just keeps gathering speed hence why it is a distance racing machine.

3. What does a new boat ton the water mean for the class?

The new boats are a godsend for the 5.7 class and have caused quite a stir in the beach catamaran circles. The 5.7 used to be a boat that was like a myth; everyone said they would like one but could never find one. With the new boats it eliminates this "shortage" of boats and if someone is super keen to get back into or to join the fleet they can, either through the second hand market freeing up or buying a new one with all the bells and whistles. The new boat also proved its pace at nationals with it sitting high up the fleet with some very well campaigned boats.

4. Were the SA nationals a once-off regarding fleet size?

I sure as hell hope not and it sounds like most of the fleet is planning to travel next summer to Mannering Park. But the reality is the average age of the guys sailing the boats is not exactly young and with the 5.7 being so physically demanding I don't know how much longer they will be active. The hope is that nationals will always have a steady fleet of 5-10 5.7's attending with the odd fluctuation depending on venue.



North Sails Ashby One Design Victorian Travellers Series

Ant Richards

Round 1 – Sauna Sail Hazelwood Pondage

5 Cat Rigged and 4 Sloops made the trek for the last warm water Sauna Sail. The fleet experienced the full range of conditions with Pete Bulka simply blitzing the field! If he had sailed the first and last race he would have won the whole event, but even with a DNC 20 points, he still managed a 3rd overall. Paul Fleming continued his rise up the ranks with a 2nd in the Cat Rigged and Doddsy made his yearly pilgrimage with a 3rd. Joppy and the Prez filling the other placings. In the sloops, Andrew Hill and Nicholas Jurovic took the chocolates from Jack Comrie, Brydon Bullard and Rod McKechnie.

Round 2 – McCrae Victorian Cat Championships

So the McCrae Cat Challenge was in a word, brutal. (Well the Saturday anyway.) Leroy came out of hiding and apparently had to gurney the dust of his hulls before making the trip. (at least that's what he told us!) Pete Bulka couldn't help but get one last blast on 'Tai Won On' and Dave Parker sported his new boat ready to tackle all and sundry! With a total of 11 Cat Rigged and 2 Sloops, we were close to having the biggest fleet. However, I can say I reckon we had the fleet with the biggest kahuna's!

On the Saturday, the A's all sat on the beach for the day (except for 2 in the first race only, including past Taipaner Tom Stuchbery). After being called back to the beach due to strong winds, we were finally let out there.

Throughout the first race, the wind built and built. Pete Bulka was unstoppable. Back in the fleet there was increasing carnage including yours truly, with only 5 finishing. Only 5 finished the second race with a number of retirements or DNC's due to conditions or damage. Leroy taking that race. I think most participants went over during that race!

The Prez, Pete Bulka and myself couldn't compete on the Sunday due to either injury or breakages, but the conditions were interesting. Light and shifty was the order of the day, with some big gains and some equally large losses. In the end, Leroy took the win, followed by Paul Fleming, Dave Parker, Tony Paul and John Knorr rounding out the top 5.

In the sloops, it was fantastic to see the girls out there. Jack Comrie and crew Madeleine Ritchie took the win over Joppy and his daughter Maxine, who still hasn't wiped the smile of her face!

In the 5.7's John Newman unveiled the brand new boat and it looked sharp! He and crew Peter Bartlett didn't sail the first day, but on day 2 managed a 3rd place in race 4 in their division.

Round 3 – Australian Championships Meningie S.A. (Triple Points)

See earlier report for full run down.

Round 4 – Portland Eyecare Victorian States (Double Points)

See earlier report for full run down.

Final Round – Easter regattas

Lake Bullen Merri is renowned for its finicky wind conditions, but that didn't deter the 65 race entrants including four 5.7s and nine 4.9s (including two sloops). Friday snuck one race before the breeze dropped with no racing on Saturday. Sunday proved worth the drive, allowing for three races and smiles all round. Ex-Taipaner Tom Stutchberry won Monday's Jack Lane Memorial perpetual stern chaser on his A Class, well done mate.

Lake Boga also drew a crowd with 74 boats, including 3 Taipans. Richard Nicholson took out second place cat rigged and Brad Mann and Elly Baggs putting in a good tussle with the Floyds on the Sloops, leaving them with equal points in fourth place.

Stay tuned to the Taipan Catamaran Association Facebook Page for the announcement of the final winners and the draw for 50% off a new North Sails Ashby One Design sail.



Announcement: Traveller's Series is going statewide!

Stack the trailer and pack the tent - In the 2017/18 season we are going National with the travelers series! That's right, it will no longer be the Victorian Cup, but it will be known as the Australian Traveller's Series.



How it works

We're still working on the regattas to be included in the championship, but here is the plan.

The Tapan Committee and State Reps will nominate a series of A, B and C class regattas. Nationals is an A class regatta worth tripple points, State Titles are a B class regatta worth double points, and nominated local events are C class regattas worth single points. Your accumulated points accross the series are based on your placings at each travellers series event. The most accumulated points wins.

But wait, there is more! Each event you participate in gets you a ticket in the Prez's lucky hat. At the end of the series a name will be drawn from the hat to recieve a major prize.

Welcome SailingKit as class sponsors for the 2017-18 season



SAILINGKIT

.com.au

SailingKit have come on board as the 2017/18 class sponsor. SailingKit will be at each of the State and National Titels throughout the year with some great prizes and give aways.

SailingKit are an online distributor of quality sailing gear. They're passionate about supporting club and youth sailors, the ones who may not be at the top of their class, yet nonetheless show up week after week to enjoy themselves, and make sailing the great sport that it is; inclusive of all ages and skill levels.

(Just ask PAnt how good the rooster pants are!)

For Sale at www.taipan.asn.au

Boats

4.9 Cat AUS153, \$5,000 ono



4.9 Cat AUS003, \$6,000



4.9 Cat AUS105, \$7,500

4.9 Sloop AUS334, \$12,800

4.9 Sloop AUS097, \$9,000

Interested in a new boat?

Southern Shipwrights is the new class builder based in Melbourne. If you'd like to know more, contact the Prez. Anthony Richards, richards.anthony.g@edumail.vic.gov.au



Gear

4.9 Cat spinnaker and kit, \$999



4.9 fully rigged mast, \$800

4.9 jibs x3, \$100 - \$150 each

Daggerboards, older style, \$250

Thorpe rudder blades, \$800

Taipan Merchandise



Cat or Sloop sticker

\$7 including postage

Order online at

<http://www.taipan.asn.au/merchandise.php>