

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL HOBIE CAT ASSOCIATION

2023/2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, The Esplanade Manly QLD, on Monday 1 January 2024 at 3:00pm.

Present: President Cam Weddell (Chairman)

 Julie Keenan, Rob Branch, Fletcher Warren Myers, Georgia Warren Myers,

 Patrick Butler, Bridget, Gavin Luxton, Juliet Bates, Cam Owen, Susan Ghent.

In attendance: David Brookes from IHCA joined during the meeting.

Apologies: Naomi Chiu

3. Minutes of the previous meeting, held on Friday 30 December 2022 were discussed. The action items were reviewed including:
- New role added for measurer – Gavin Luxton.
 - Reports from state associations but none from South Australia.
 - Committee confirmed - President Cam Weddell, Secretary Naomi Chiu, Treasurer Juliet Bates.
 - Nationals at RQYS, ANHCA media report by Patrick.
 - Australian Sailing affiliation agreed for the ANHCA to join, action taken.
 - IHCA delegate, action required, for discussion in meeting agenda item.
 - VIC discussing options for hosting of the 2024/2025 Australian Championships at time.
 - H16 national's trophies with historical plaques, action item still to be done (PB).
 - Measurement information, text for state events (IHCA compliant boat and exemptions), action item still to be done (GL).

The previous minutes were accepted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

4. Presidents Report – CW [appendix A](#)
- H14 World championships. Excellent representation and results for Australia.
 - John Forbes competed in America in the Hobie 18 class, great to see.
 - Vincentia hosted a successful Australian Championship event with over 100 boats. A few things to take away from the event, good focus on the social side.
 - State championships around the country and national tour scorecard.

- Naomi, Juliet and Cam W attending to some overdue long-term administration of the ANHCA. For note, the lapsed annual return of finances is now paid and up to date. Lodged with QLD office of fair trading, original registration of national association.
- Australia Sailing, now affiliated officially with the national body. Positive for the class and the state associations.
- Banking, now with Commonwealth Bank, this is more streamlined with online banking and no longer using cheques.
- Hobie 14 weight and Hobie 18 proposed rule changes.
 - Discussions with John Forbes (Hobie 18 sailor) and David Brookes (IHCA) and US national association representatives. ANHCA supportive of the proposal to put in a submission for changes. This will go to a voting process conducted by the IHCA.
 - Many things going on in this space, ANHCA supported as a general move to submit the proposal. Responsibility from there on is with the IHCA.
- 2023 – 24 Australian Championships currently running at RQYS in QLD.

Everyone was stoked with the President report.

5. Treasurer Report – JB [appendix B](#)

- Had been behind with the annual returns, start of each year. ANHCA financial year ends on 30 November.
- Up to date for current year, 2023. Will lodge after approval from the accountant
- \$13,694 current balance.
- Thank you to the state associations for keeping up to date with ANHCA fees.
- Paid IHCA fees for current year.
- Membership numbers 153 sailors, (approximately 128 senior / 20 youth / 5 Junior) Compared to 125 in 2022.
- Possibly works against AUS because of the year end. International deadlines for member numbers do not align well with the Australian season.
- 2,228, out of pocket due to insurance and IHCA fees. Did not collect fees because the AUS levy was dropped during previous years due to community restrictions during the global pandemic. Recent costs (bibs, trophies, accountant fees, office of fair trading and affiliation fees, software programs etc).
- Suggest reinstating a small affiliation fee to states to cover national costs. Previously \$10 per person.
- States invoiced only the exact amount of IHCA affiliation fees and (25 USD senior etc) plus one quarter of the insurance fee. This was not covering ANHCA costs.
- JB provided a breakdown of the annual costs for the ANHCA.

Discussion around recouping costs from the states to cover expenses.

Suggested to review the previous costs and find an amount to cover regular expenses over a year. It was suggested to make the fee \$10 per senior member to be paid by the state associations to the ANHCA. **The meeting agreed with this amount.**

Noted that the state associations were not currently aligned with their membership years.

JB thanked the states again for their prompt payment. Would like to see the \$10 fee instated. Idea to place some of the funds into a term deposit or similar to assist ANHCA with financial stability.

RESOLVED – the meeting agreed with a \$10 fee per person to be paid with the member association fee to the states which is to be passed on to the ANHCA.

ACTION – State associations to take the \$10 fee to their members at the next AGM for vote.

6. Measurer - GL

- Hobie 18 situation. Included in state championship in NSW, 8 of the boats were the 'reimagined' boats (John Forbes initiative).
 - Differences include top removed from centreboard above the hole (noted in measure). Stops bumping.
 - One piece tramp also takes jib blocks. Latest just has one hole for jib. Suggestion in proposal is limiting this position.
 - Rotating spanner usually above the boom, mast rotates with boom. Reimagined option is lower spanner can be controlled from the wire.
 - No rule on mainsheet purchase. Rule is 8:1 but some using 12:1.
 - Spreader rakes, example shown was factory provided not always the same.
 - Double traveller car added to mainsheet system. No material difference just making it safer, does not make any performance change.

Performance jib position, spreader rake and spanner. Idea is easier and safer for the sailors.

One piece tramp and additional eyelets already supported.

Other argument in support of these changes is that no boats are being manufactured at the moment.

30 teams have sailed in current year. Of those teams, 25 were not currently class legal boats. It is believed that 8 of these are members in NSW.

Overall, considered that the proposal for changes to the Hobie 18 rules will be supported by the class.

Hobie 14

- Spanners. Came through from Eric the IHCA Measurer. Raised at worlds and accepted for current boats and the manufacturer was asked to provide parts. This has not been resolved due to the Hobie Company removing the license to Hobie Sailboats from Start Line Sailing. Plates used by AUS teams are added to the outside of the mast and sealing the fittings on. The class rule requires the plug to be removed from the mast, raised and sealed. It was reported that the goal of the rule requirement and to exclude use of non-factory supplied equipment is so that sailors are not putting a hole in the mast and not sealing it, for safety reasons.

No other items from the Measurer.

7. Manufacturers Report – pending ([appendix C](#))

8. State Association reports had been provided by email to the ANHCA Committee. The State representatives gave a brief summary of their key points which included:

QLD – President Rob Branch ([appendix D](#)):

- Current committee noted. Membership numbers good, financially strong. Most activity around nationals hosting at RQYS.
- Healthy level of event sponsorship with cash provided and goods in kind and discounts for products.
- State championships in 2024 to be held at Humpybong Yacht Club at a date to be determined by the member vote. Suggesting a change of month to October for a more favourable weather window.

NSW – President Paddy Butler ([appendix E](#)):

- AGM conducted already by online meeting. Committee elected and noted. Membership numbers and summary of finances provided. Generally, break even with finance and use any profits to purchase equipment for youth. State championships report given, young female sailors from QLD travelled to the Wangi Wangi event. Hobie 16 included with an existing event again this year. Positives are showing the fleet amongst other classes but less positive for the social side of the fleet.
- Upcoming states in Toukley. Entries now open for the event, anticipating a strong fleet of Hobie 14's.

VIC – Fletcher Warren Myers (Proxy for Mads Gillard):

(report had been provided by President Mads, [appendix F](#))

- Upcoming state championships at Anglesea, all Hobie welcome, 17 included.
- McCrae to host next Australian Championship. Dates have not yet been determined due to the discussion around series. Would like to see a balanced fleet throughout the event.

WA – President Cam Owen ([appendix G](#))

- Committee noted. Financials healthy with good numbers in the membership.
- State AGM it was agreed that the travel grant policy be deleted and replaced with training provided to the fleet and a focus on youth and encouraging supporting the members.
- Local grant received from the Ron Tough Yachting Foundation and put towards a coaching weekend for the fleet.
- Two main events held each year. Cat Classic had good numbers. Now hosting Hobie 16 and Hobie 14 state championship events. Both 2023-24 events will be held in Busselton with the Hobie 14's as part of the AUS Day event and the Hobie 16 event over the Easter weekend.
- The WA President was asked about hosting of the following Australian Championship, suggestion to continue with the South Australian rotation with support from the other state associations mainly VIC and WA, discussion carried forward to general business.

9. Election of committee.

The meeting agreed with the nominations.

RESOLVED – The ANHCA officer bearers for the following year to be President Cam Weddell, Secretary Naomi Chiu, Treasurer Juliet Bates.

10. 2024/25 Australian Championships

To be hosted by the Victorian Hobie Cat Association and McCrae Yacht Club. See [appendix F](#)

11. Media and Comms

The meeting congratulated Paddy who had attended all state championship events in 2023.

Online media, mainly video files through TITV had been popular and positive for promotion of the Hobie fleet. The meeting congratulated Paddy for his efforts in media. In particular, the shorter style daily wrap ups.

Walk around stories are popular. Discussion around expanding the audience to the international community. The meeting agreed that the visibility of alcohol should be limited in the footage and avoided when possible.

Preference for promotion to the wider community and especially internationally is for the footage to be shorter content, stick to actual names rather than nick names, remove alcohol, exclude use of bad language and colloquial words.

ACTION – Collect list of recommendations from IHCA General Manager David Brookes around media for when promoting the Hobie class.

12. General Business

12.1 Constitution, requirement for an IHCA delegate.

It was reported that the current delegate, Kevlar, is looking to step down from the South Pacific role. The understanding of the role is that the person takes information from the council and provides this information back to their regional representatives. They are also to request information from the regional associations to provide back to the IHCA. It was reported that Australia is currently the only association in the South Pacific region that is currently financial with the IHCA.

A candidate is to be provided by the ANHCA. The President reported that he had spoken to Georgia Warren Myers about her interest in being nominated for the role and she agreed.

The meeting agreed with this suggestion.

RESOLVED – ANHCA nominated Georgia Warren Myers for the role of the Chairman in the South Pacific region.

ACTION – Send the nomination to the IHCA.

12.2 Constitution query from QHCA:

The association would like to change their constitution, mainly to protect the finances of the QHCA. It was reported the QLD office of fair trading requires their constitution to be linked to constitution of

their head body when one exists. It was noted that this requirement would be different in each state. The QHCA needs to take prompt action on this item and will need assistance from the ANHCA due to this requirement.

ACTION – QHCA to amend their constitution items and provide a copy to ANHCA for review. (Naomi and Cam W (ANHCA) in conjunction with Rob and Julie (QHCA)).

12.3 Wild Cats and Tigers:

Parts are not always available from a Hobie supplier and Hobie boats may have more participation in Australian Hobie class events without the restriction of the Hobie class rules. Noted that some Hobie Cat boats are sailed in the F18 fleet under different rules (F18 rules).

Proposal to have these boats who are Hobie Cat boats complying with the F18 class rules included as an F18 fleet rather than a Hobie class championship with the requirement to comply with the Hobie Class rules (this applies to the Hobie WildCat and Hobie Tiger) and name the event something different such as the F18 Cup. It was reported that this would be ok within Australia as long as it was not widely known internationally.

It was reported that the IHCA wishes to protect the Hobie class fleets in other regions that have strength in the F18 Hobie class are currently complying with the class rule requirements and does not wish for it to be seen that other regions are changing the class and allowing boats that are not class legal.

RESOLVED – The meeting agreed with allowing events to be included alongside association championship events with Hobie WildCat and Hobie Tiger boats complying to the F18 class rule but not necessarily the Hobie Class rules as long as this was advised to sailors only through local channels so that it did not become well known internationally. The events not to be named as a Hobie class championship event, use another word such as “F18 Cup” and invite entries from Hobie WildCat and Hobie Tiger that comply to the F18 class rules (eligibility).

12.4 Participation at Australian Championships:

Encourage entries to be in earlier, numbers collect more numbers.

Reported that it is difficult for sailors travelling long distance to attend Series One. For WA teams the Hobie 16 Open participation would potentially be higher if sailed in Series Two.

High numbers of Hobie 14 at the 50th event was discussed. Reported that the numbers could have been higher because of the excitement of getting the fleet back together after the global pandemic. Idea to have the Hobie 14 and Hobie 14 Turbo together and this could be more positive for participation.

Also, the Hobie 18 in the opposite series to the Hobie 16.

There could be an ordered approach by ANHCA, some feedback post events and structure and guidelines around the decision on how to run the Series.

12.5 South Australian rotation:

Positives include exposure of the Hobie class to the South Australian community and an easier location for all states to attend. This certainly assists with encouraging WA teams to travel to an Australian championship event and test the waters at this level of racing.

RESOLVED – to try to host an Australian Championship event in SA in 2025/26 prior to the WA event. Gain local support and setup a sub-committee directed by the ANHCA to support the organisation of this event. If the ANHCA deems it not possible then WA to host the 2025-26 event.

ACTION – HCAWA Committee to write to Adelaide Sailing Club or similar club on behalf of the ANHCA and request they host the event. Contact known local contacts who support the Hobie class and ask them to be a representative on the ground in the state. Report back to ANHCA with the outcome.

12.6 Email spam from website:

It was reported that a lot of spam emails were being sent using the contacts on from the association websites.

It was suggested to remove the emails from public view and use a web contact form instead. For example, the HCAWA uses a contact us form using the AS revSPORT system and the email is sent to a committee email address.

ACTION – Paddy to look in to web contact form options in the association website platform.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5:03pm.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held during the 2024/2025 Australian Championship period at a date time and location to be advised.

Appendix A

President's report

Hello Australian Hobie sailors!

With the 2023/24 season underway, it's a good time to recap on what's been happening over the last 12 months here in Australia. The association has been busy on a number of fronts in the off season and really looking forward to the nationals in Brisbane.

We've had a number of international + national events take place with plenty of Aussies competing everywhere. First and foremost, a massive congratulations to our man Paddy Butler at the Hobie 14 worlds. Not only was Pat on the top step but followed ever so closely by old man Butler and the evergreen Rod Waterhouse taking a clean Aussie sweep of the podium! An honourable mention also goes to Andrew Boyd who rounded out the Aussie contingent. Goes to show the quality of the Hobie 14 fleet here in Australia.

We had John Forbes and Caroline Forbes who travelled to Seattle in the USA to compete in their Hobie 18 National Championships. Team Forbes came away with the win after a hard-fought battle with the Americans.

The 2022/23 Nationals was a huge event at Jervis Bay in Vincentia. Across 2 series we saw in excess of 100 boats on the water, a great on-shore setup with a bar + food trucks to go. A really successful event where it was great to see lots of Hobie classes represented.

Plenty of State titles being held around the country too. Great to see some really competitive racing across the states with plenty of interstate invaders at each of the regattas. Always a great trip to make for sailors to attend other state titles as we even saw some East Coast sailors pop up in the West!

Unfolding over the year was the mighty Championship Tour. The tour allocates points for regattas attended across the country + internationally and weights them accordingly. Over the year we've had 178 boats compete across our various classes with Cam + Suz taking out the Hobie 16's, followed by Georgia + Fletch and in 3rd place Daz + Claire. Of little surprise in the 14's, Paddy took the honours, MB in 2nd + Rod Waterhouse in third. We are seeing more + more youth + women's teams competing across these events which is a really promising sign for Hobie in Aus!

In the quieter winter months, the executive ANHCA committee (Nomes, Juliet + myself) have been ticking off a number of administrative items.

The ANHCA is now officially affiliated with Australian Sailing. The benefits here include training, insurance, database management + administration support. As a national association, it's very important that we are aligned with our national sailing bodies.

While we were processing the Australian Sailing application, it became apparent that we had to revise our registration which is associated with the Queensland Office of Fair Trading. Safe to say the issues were dealt adeptly by Juliet + Nomes. We are now in the process of investigating registering ANHCA nationally which will suit our association needs a lot better and will make the future a lot easier for incoming + outgoing committee members.

Juliet has navigated the banking world and now ANHCA is up to date with modern standards! We have an account with online banking services which cuts out of lot of logistical issues that we faced

prior. The other benefit of this system is that it requires multiple signatories for every transaction which is critical for accountability within the ANHCA.

Over the last couple of months, we've had some really good discussions in the Hobie community around our class rules. In the Hobie 14's the IHCA issued a request for comment regarding re-instating a Hobie 14 minimum weight. As with any rule changes, the IHCA will analyse the results of the feedback informing their decision around the issue. Generally, the feedback from around the world was not in favour of implementing a minimum weight as the consensus was that this would restrict participation in the Hobie 14 fleet.

In the Hobie 18 class, the Hobie Cat Association of North America (HCANA) has submitted a proposal to IHCA to alter a number of class rules. The proposal is under consideration by the IHCA currently and it is expected to enter the comment period soon. As the USA + Australia are the only countries actively sailing the Hobie 18 as a class, it's important that our members get their feedback into the IHCA when the time comes.

Up next are the Nationals at Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. It's shaping up to be another fantastic regatta sailed in Moreton Bay. Over 2 series, we'll have multiple classes competing with plenty of socialising as well. As an association, we are really keen to see as many of our members at the event. Of course, if there's any topics that you'd like discussed at association level, please get in touch with your national representatives (i.e. State President's) so that they can raise it with the National association.

Happy sailing,

Campbell Weddell

President of Australian National Hobie Class Association

Appendix B

Treasurer's Report

2023 financial Year

Introduction

I took on the position of ANHCA Treasurer at the 2023 AGM, when the previous treasurer James Rhodes stepped down after seven years of dedicated service.

The ANHCA's financial year runs from 1 December to 30 November each year. In this report I will summarise its financial position on 30 November 2023, with reference to the following reports:

- Summary of financial transactions
- Balance Sheet at 30 November 2023
- Income and Expenses Summary for the financial year

Treasurer's comments

But first, I would like to provide a brief summary of some of the ANHCA's annual activities and responsibilities, and subsequent expenses

Annual verification and submission of an Annual Return to the Office of Fair Trading

- The ANHCA is incorporated in Queensland and must submit an annual return to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to maintain its registration. This return requires independent verification of the ANHCA's financial statements by a qualified accountant. (Verification is similar to an audit, and the OFT stipulates exactly which is required based on the total value of an association's assets.)
- Verification of the ANHCA's financial statements for the 2021 and 2022 financial years was outstanding when I became Treasurer and subsequently verified by an independent accountant in May 2023 and submitted to the OFT in June 2023.
- All documents required for independent verification of the ANHCA's 2023 financial year accounts were submitted to Optimal Accounting on 8 December 2023 and finalization of that verification process is still pending at the time I write this report. It is anticipated that this will be completed in early January 2024, if not before, and the return submitted to the OFT before the end of January 2024, as required.

Membership and Affiliation Fees

- As advised to state treasurers in October 2023, the ANHCA is required to remit affiliation fees to the IHCA by 1 January every year. State associations are asked for membership details – names, email addresses and membership category - as at 30 November each year and invoices prepared accordingly by the ANHCA.
 - The current IHCA affiliation fees, which took effect in 2022, are as follows:
 - Senior USD 25
 - Youth USD 15
 - Junior USD 7
- The ANHCA's total reported 2023 membership is 153 sailors, comprised of 128 senior, 20 youth and 5 junior members. (This compares with 145 reported in 2022.)

Insurance

- The ANHCA pays the annual insurance premium on behalf of its member states (Qld, NSW, WA and Vic), to cover the activities and operations of the associations. The ANHCA then invoices each state equally for reimbursement.
- The total insurance cost for the 2023 FY was \$1,779.69, paid by the ANHCA in February 2023. The states were invoiced for their portion of this insurance cover, together with their members' annual IHCA affiliation fees, in early December 2023.

Financial statements

The key points on the attached financial statements are as follows:

Balance sheet (on 30 November 2023):

- The bank account balance was \$11,914.61.
- Account receivable include the amounts invoiced to the four states on 30 November 2023, for their annual insurance and IHCA affiliation fees. (No ANHCA affiliation fees were invoiced.)
- Accounts payable are the IHCA affiliation fees (subsequently paid to the IHCA by the ANHCA on 13 December 2023).
- The net balance is \$13,694.30.

Income and Expenses:

- Total ANHCA expenses for the year, excluding insurance and IHCA fees (which are fully reimbursed by states) were \$2,328.15.
- Expenses included costs for the following:
 - bibs worn by sailors at national and state regattas,
 - trophies for the 2022 nationals,
 - annual fees for accountant verification of financial statements, and
 - various other fees for Office of FairTrading annual registration, Australian Sailing affiliation and Machform subscription.
- The total ANHCA income for the year was zero, following the pause on charges for ANHCA affiliation fees during the COVID period.

Summary

The ANHCA is in reasonable shape financially, although cannot continue to fund the various expenses and sundry items necessary to support sailing without some source of income. Historically this has been provided by the annual ANHCA affiliation levy of \$10 per member, which was discontinued in recent years, in an effort to reduce the financial burden on members impacted by COVID. It is proposed that this levy should be reintroduced again now.

Juliet Bates

Appendix C

Manufacturer's Report

Appendix D

Queensland Hobie Cat Association 2023 Report

Committee.

President – Rob Branch
Secretary – Halen Warneke
Treasurer – Juliet Keenan
Measurer – Andrew Warneke

Membership and Finances.

QHCA currently has 34 members (28 adults including 1 x life member and 6 juniors)
\$30k in term deposit and \$7.6k in working account but should balance back to about \$20k after the Nationals wash up – was \$49.8k before nationals.

Regattas held.

- State Titles at RQYS as a lead up to the 51st Hobie Nationals
- Sail Brisbane, while not an association organised event, was well attended as a lead up to the Nationals.
- Training day was held at RQYS starting with videos and a question and answer session followed by a H16 rigging session. Both racing and social sailors from “Southeast Queensland Hobie Sailing” attended. Was agreed to do more in the new year and have some on the water training with short 5 minute races around two marks.

51st Hobie Nationals.

Being delivered at the time of this meeting. Has been a couple of years in the making due to Covid related delays of the 50th Hobie Nationals. While fleet quality is very strong the numbers are down on forecast and the regatta is looking like a break even or a little better at best.

National association needs to have input on the schedule that best suits the Hobie class and drives better attendance considering a balanced fleet size across two series or maybe just one series but pushed back so there is a bigger gap between Christmas day and the start of sailing.

2024 States.

The states for 2024 will be at Humpy Bong on the Redcliff peninsular with the date yet to be determined.

General business to be discussed at the AGM.

- Personal contact details to be removed from the Hobie web pages?
- Alignment of the constitution between State and National associations. Wanting to add rules around the use of funds to protect the asset base.

Appendix E

New South Wales Hobie Class Association

Committee

Paddy Butler (president), Doogie (vice-president), Clare Eastment (secretary), Dave Fisher (treasurer), Bryn Robinson-Mills, Craig Hatton, Jake de Rooy, Peter Manley, Aaron Robinson, Peter Walker, Mick Butler

State Championships

Vincentia Sailing Club (needs no introduction)

60 boat fleet, consisting of 35 Hobie 14s.

Introduced the new form of trophy giving

Twofold Bay Yacht Club

Great club to work with, and an excellent sailing destination

Tagged on the back of their annual regatta, showcasing the Hobie Class greatly amongst other fleets

Continued with new forms of trophy giving. e.g. masters etc. trophy given to the first boat NOT on the podium. Allows for more sailors, generally not the hotshots, to get trophies as well

Palm Beach Sailing Club

Tagged on to the Buillets Regatta. Great show of support for the club, as well as showcasing the class greatly amongst others such as F18s etc. we were also the largest class.

Prize giving & scoring

As we are doing it for the Nationals. All the old farts can only enter in one fleet. E.g. MB is only in the Grand Masters. This allows for greater competition amongst the mid-fleet sailors.

E.g. Pete & Jules took home the opens, masters & grand masters at RQYS back in May.

Masters GM, GGM trophy given to the best team not in the top-3.

Upcoming States

Wangi Wangi Amateur Sailing Club: 4-5 February 2023

14, Women & Youth, 18s?

Ideally, up to 30 Hobie 14s. Charters can be made available.

Appendix F

Hobie Cat Association of Victoria 2023 Report

Compiled by Madeline Gillard

Committee:

President – Madeline Gillard

Vice President – Campbell Weddell

Secretary – Fletcher Warren-Myers

Treasurer – Martin Venter

General Committee – Naomi Chiu, Nick Price, Zac Poole, Georgia Warren-Myers, Geoff Rowdon, Tim Tutt, Luke Crouch, Kenton Shue, and Youth Representatives Elsa Tutt, Abi Beddoe, Emily Chiu, and Oliver Hordern.

Membership and Finances

HCAV currently has 37 members (29 adults and 8 junior/youth), with numbers generally increasing in the recent future. A good number of 14s and 16s are seen across the state, some 17s and 18s almost exclusively sailed along the Surf Coast, and Dragoons enjoying the dolphinny water of Somers. Our bank balance is currently sitting at \$19,250, with State Titles usually breaking even. The balance is held for running of Nationals.

Class report

2023 State Titles were held at Port Melbourne Yacht Club, the (second) home of F+G, Cam and many others. We saw 37 boats on the water, and for the first time in a... little while, we had a states with considerable wind! 11 races run impeccably by the PMYC team saw F+G take out the 16s, Upu Kila bring home the H14T silverware and the H14 rudder taken away by none other than MB. Huge thank you to the interstaters who join us time and time again in Vic; we can't wait to host you again in March!

The 2024 Vic State Titles will be held at Anglesea, who have recently redeveloped their clubhouse. Offering the best view on the Surf Coast, and true surf-cat sailing, this will be a brilliant event for sailors and spectators alike. Anglesea Motor Yacht Club, on Point Roadknight Beach, is renowned for its glorious conditions inside the protected waters of the bay, stronger winds outside the point in hallowed Bass Strait, and swell rolling through permitting a delightful downwind surf on the prevailing sou'westerly. HCAV is expecting in the vicinity of 30 boats to attend Vic States in 2024. There will be a limited number of 14s available for charter for travelling sailors.

2024/2025 Nationals

Victoria will host the next National Championships at McCrae Yacht Club, on the waters of Port Phillip Bay. With many Vic sailors visiting the club annually for the Vic Catamaran Champs, the Hobies are well-known at the club, and the Hobies know how good a regatta McCrae can run! It will follow the format of both RQYC and Vincentia, with two series, pre and post New Years. Again, there will be a limited number of boats available for charter for travelling sailors.

Appendix G

Hobie Class Association of Western Australia 2023 report

Committee:

HCAWA Committee for 2023/24 - Cameron Owen (President), Claire Bisgood (Treasurer), Vacant (Secretary), Andy and Vicky Preyer, Natalie Whitfield, Susan Ghent, Robin Dinsdale and Jason Spencer (H14 Rep)

Class:

The Hobie Community is strong in Western Australia with fleets in Perth (Nedlands Yacht Club) and Geraldton (Geraldton Yacht Club) as well as a few Hobie 16's involved at other Clubs in regional locations.

There is an emerging H14 fleet and one active Wildcat.

At December 23 there at 24 paid up members but this will grow prior to the H14 and H16 States.

Youth and Training:

At NYC there are 3 Hobie 16's owned by the Club and being used for training courses. These are available to use as an introduction to racing for the sailors that have completed the catamaran training course. Mainsails have been cut down to reef size for use by lighter crews when being introduced to the class. This works well to tame the boat while in the introduction phase.

At the State AGM it was agreed that the HCAWA would change its travel grant policy to provide support but limited to new and youth teams. This allows funding that was allocated to travelling sailors (always the same teams) to be reallocated to provide benefits to the wider membership. These funds have been used for coaching sessions including a gavincolby.com session at the Rockingham States and a two days session in November with AST Coach Arthur Brett, Rules session by John Stanley and on shore and on water by Cam and Suzzi. This event was supported by the Ron Tough Yachting Foundation through their class association coaching clinic grant scheme.

The Hobie 14 class is developing and it is hoped that this will help to facilitate an increase of youth participation.

Events and promotion:

HCAWA believes that it is important to promote the Hobie 16 to sailors in other classes. One way this is being achieved is by encouraging attendance to multi fleet regattas. A few Hobie 16 teams travelled to Busselton in November to compete in the Cape Marathon Regatta (Geographe Bay Yacht Club)

An informal Traveller Series has again re-established for 2023-24 and includes annual events such as the Cat Classic, WA States, the GBYC Australia Day Regatta and the Batavia Regatta in Geraldton. These regattas are generally well supported by the fleet, and the intention is to increase the number of events in the series next year. Encouraging teams to travel is increasing the awareness of the Hobie 16 around the state and will hopefully assist in attracting new sailors to the class.

Other events such as the Regatta in the Trees and GBYC Marathon are promoted and generally well attended.

In the lead up to the nationals NYC host a series of three Friday evening sprint series sessions. While the fleet is small for this event it is well attended as a social occasion too which is very healthy for the local Hobie community.

HCAWA hosts two main events each year, the H16 state championships and Cat Classic Regatta. The WA State Championship was held at The Cruising Yacht Club of WA (TCYC) in Rockingham and contested by 26 boats including interstate entries from QLD and NSW.

This year for the first time in 30 years a H14 State Championship was held at TCYC in conjunction with the WAXIT regatta, with 8 entries.

The 2023-24 H14 and H16 championship events will be held at Geographe Bay Yacht Club, Busselton. With the H14s combined with the Australia Day regatta and the H16s as a stand-alone regatta at Easter.

The 2024-25 State Championships are planned for H16 at Jervoise Bay Sailing Club in March and the H14 in Carnarvon at Easter.

The annual Cat Classic Regatta is open to all beach catamaran classes meeting the size restrictions and was contested by 27 boats in September 2023. This was a great regatta and hopefully will fuel an increase in numbers for next year.

The WA website has been transferred to the ANHCA website. The HCAWA provided its members with a 50th anniversary sticker to help promote the new website address. HCAWA is running a revSPORT website alongside the association site. The revSPORT platform is provided by Australian Sailing to affiliated class associations. The HCAWA is using this site and management system as a membership database and payment platform for membership and event registration. Funds are transferred directly to the HCAWA bank account and the reporting system is efficient. Local events are listed on the calendar here too where registrations can be collected. This is working well for the HCAWA administration. Email sign up is included on this page but a different program is used for campaign emails.

The HCAWA is grateful of local volunteers who promote the class through sharing photos and videos. As well as members of clubs that are hosting events and promoting the sport, the Committee acknowledge the contributions of two individuals who provide a lot of positive promotion using the fleet in Perth. Lindsay Preece shares images and video on his Facebook group (Ironbark Photos), these are popular within the local sailing community as well as being shared around the world. John Chapman from NYC shares images and video of his drone footage on Instagram (SailsOnSwan). Their work is of great benefit to the Hobie Class in WA.

Cam Owen and Susan Ghent.