

JUNE 2004

Lasernews

NSW & ACT LASER ASSOCIATION

Three World Champions @ the Masters

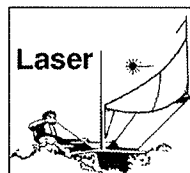


***Dave Early of Georges River S C &
Hong Kong***

***Radial World Apprentice
Masters Champion***

Your Association Committee

Chairman Mark Skelton 02-49753520
Vice Chairman Brett Beyer 0414299317
Webmaster Brian Conolly 0418616247
Secretary Lynne Hayes-Wade 02-49582232
Treasurer Andrew Finney 02-95218690
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Women's Rep. Lynne/Katherine Wade 02 49582232
Measurer Alan Downes 02 9969 1444 Fax 02 99697 1277
Publicity Richard Howard 02-49292993



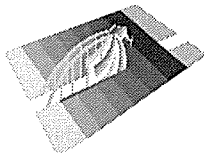
Contributions to this publication are always welcome, sent to the above address, on Microsoft programmes or email to paulhargan@hotmail.com

2004 Calendar

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 30 May | Laser Youth Training Day Belmont 16' Sailing Club | Info |
| June 2004 | | |
| 12-14 June | Brass Monkey | Tuggerah Lak Sailing Club A |
| July 2004 | | |
| 17,18 July | Winter in Paradise | Port Stephens Aquatic Club |
| 17-24 July | 2004 Laser 4.7 World Championships | Riva Del Gard Dinghy Solutic Support |
| August 2004 | | |
| September 2004 | | |
| October 2004 | | |
| 16/17 October | COAST Championships | Belmont 16' S |
| November 2004 | | |
| 13/14 November | STATE MASTERS Championships | Great Lakes S |
| December 2004 | | |
| Dec 27- Jan 5 | AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS Notice of Race | Belmont 16ft S |
| January 2005 | | |
| February 2005 | | |
| 12/13 February | STATE Championships | Port Stephens Club |
| March 2005 | | |
| 5/6/ March | METROPOLITAN Championships | Georges Rive |
| April 2005 | | |
| May 2005 | | |
| 1 May? | STATE Teams Championships | Gosford Sallin |
| June 2005 | | |

Communicate with the committee through the website by emailing:-

Lynne@laser.asn.au
Paul@Laser.asn.au
Brian@laser.asn.au
Mark@laser.asn.au



Membership 2000/1 288 + 9 Life Members
 2001/2 314 + 9 Life Members
 2002/3 301 + 9 Life Members
 2003/4 279 + 9 Life Members

Mailing Address:-

NSW & ACT Laser Association
 PO Box K315 Haymarket Sydney NSW 2000

LASERNEWS is the official publication of the NSW & ACT District Laser Association Inc. The articles and views expressed in this or any issue of LASERNEWS are not necessarily the views and opinions of the committee or the members.

Chairman's Message

Hi to all fellow Laser sailors young and not so young.

Congratulations to all the NSW members who recently competed in the recent World championships - Youths, Radials, Womens, Opens and Masters. One look at these results and we must be one of the strongest districts in the world.

WELL DONE ALL WHO COMPETED.

Three World Champions came from the Turkey regatta. Mark Bethwaite became Standard Rig Grand Masters World Champion, with David Edmiston in third and Rob Lowndes forth. Brett Beyer ran away with the Apprentices World Championship, scoring 5 firsts from 9 races. In the Radial Apprentices, Dave Early discarded a third place to win convincingly. Another who done good was Jack Schlachter getting second to Colin Dibb of WA in the Standard Rig Masters results.

Preparation for the Nationals is well underway and we have been successful in securing Tony Denham as our PRO and welcome his inclusion to the committee. Tony served on the Sydney Olympics sailing courses in the same capacity.

We still need volunteers and sponsors, if any one can help in any way please contact me.

I recently attended the first Youth Development Squad training day held at Belmont 16' sailing club. We had over 20 youths attending, making it a very positive day. Thanks must go to John Murray, Alana Slingsby and Richard Howard for their organisation and input - training was well received with a lot of new faces.

SIRs regatta - after discussion with the YA the present format will stay and no association regatta will be held in conjunction.

The Coast championships will have a changed format this year, with on the water coaching and debriefing after the days racing for those wishing to be involved. We need lots of feedback as we will try to make this a practice run for the Nationals - all feedback positive and negative, - (I won't hold it against you)!!!!!!!

Good Luck and good sailing for the coming 2004/5 season to everybody.

Yours in sailing - get out there and hike hard

Mark Skelton.



Ok!, and now for something really silly— or is that sensible recycling????

The photo on this page was sent in by Hariet

Woodrow of Big River Sailing Club after she enticed me into the ladies changing room at the club to show me her latest Laser offering. (No, it really is the first time I've been into the ladies, ever!)..... (well at that club anyway!)

She must have bleached the old Radial sail before cutting it up to make the shower curtain as the last time I saw it was on an old club boat of considerable vintage, as you can tell by

the number, '39793' or something and it looked as if it should be a boat cover, (even then you would leave the boat uncovered in a blow!!!. She has managed to cut it out with a batten pocket, number, Laser ensignia and even a telltail!

Her email read as follows:-

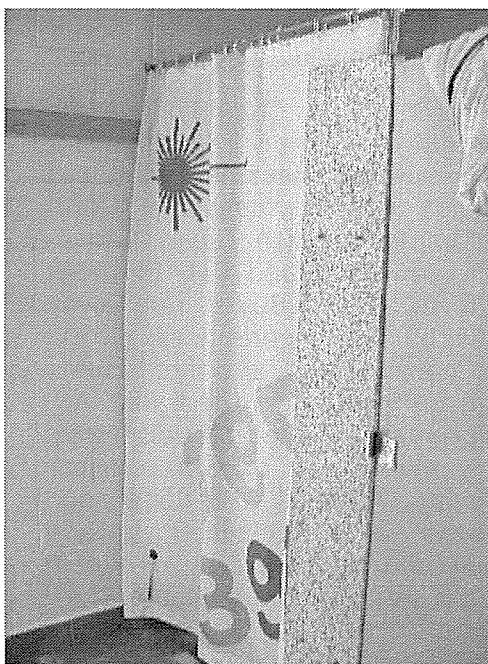
Hi Paul, Laser Class shower! Lifting the tone at Big River SC. Pic attached. Cheers, Hariet

I'll get out of your way,

Hang by your toes, Paul Hargan

Welcome Aboard New Members

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Lothar Wilkens | Oak Flats SC |
| James Luffman | Woolahra SC |
| James Grieve | Unknown SC |
| Peter Kater | R. Prince Edward YC |
| Ian Ponton | Royal Motor YC |
| Campbell Scott | Canberra YC |
| Matthew Scott | Canberra YC |
| Max Hales | Unknown Club |
| Elyce Finney | Yarra Bay SC |
| Hugh Harrington | R. S. Y. S. |
| Graeme Lasky | Wallarawang SC |
| Todd Trevillian | Unknown Club |
| Tim Schuwalow | Unknown Club |
| Philip Hyde | Woollahra SC |
| Tom Braidwood | Belmont SC |
| Andrew Bate | Avalon SC |
| Tom Spithill | R. P. A. Y. C. |
| Frank Costanzo | P. B. S. C. |
| Wulf Wilkens | C. Y. C. |
| David Shannon | Double Bay SC |
| Richard Perini | R. S. Y. S. |
| William Houston | R. S. Y. S. |
| Annabelle Frost | R. S. Y. S. |
| David Chapman | R. S. Y. S. |
| Thomas Scardifield | R. S. Y. S. |
| Andrew Kingham | M. H. A. S. C. |
| David Archer | M. H. A. S. C. |
| Breanna Hoppe | Abbottsford 12' SC |
| Mitchell Buckingham | Gosford SC |
| Nichole Starling | Abbottsford 12' SC |



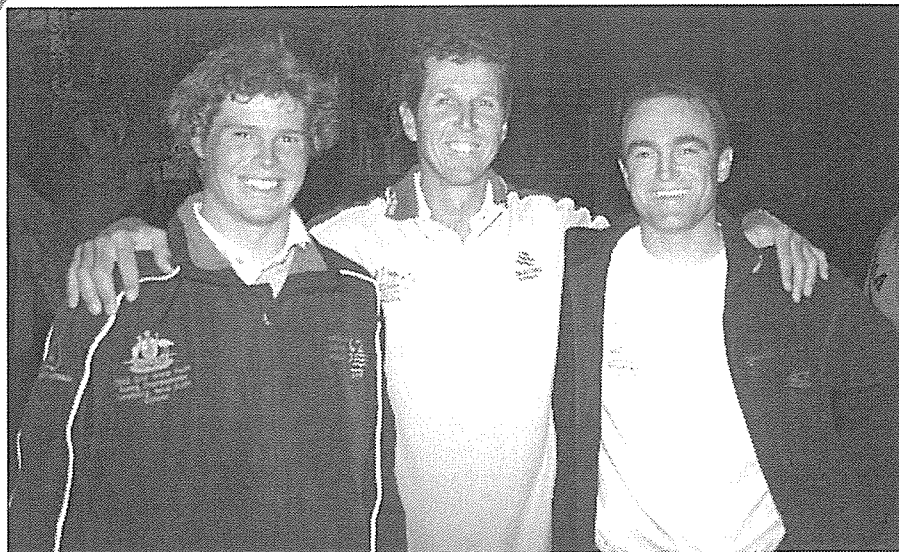
drlaser@roostergraphics.com

Association Members ONLY!

For anyone wishing to access the above web site's restricted pages as a member of NSW & ACT Laser Association, the following user name/password has been set up.

Username.....NSW&ACT

Password.....01asnmem



Tom Slingsby and Michael Blackburn with their coach Arthur Brett at the presentation night in Turkey.

Adam French writes:-

Hi Paul

Hope this photo is useful (and not too late! for the next Lasernews) as you can no doubt guess, it was at the Worlds prize giving. If you need the full 1MB+ version, let me know.

I will be back in Australia next month (July).

Cheers

Adam French

(Adam has been working at the International Laser Class Association's offices in England for almost a year. Ed.)

FOR SALE

Custom built Laser trailer

For 3 boats each on a dolly but can carry a 4th. boat upside down on top.

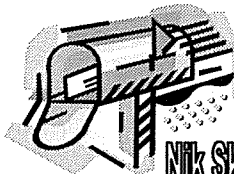
Lockable cages on one side for sailing gear and spars, with racks on the other side.

Strongly built for carrying capacity and long distance travelling.

Registered NSW. Has served the Wade family well on their Laser travels up and down the east coast and further a field - now looking for a new home as we are no longer a 3 boat family.

Cost \$1550.

Contact Lynne on 02 49582232 or Mike Mills at Nelson Bay Laser Sales.



Mail n' e-mail

As some of you might

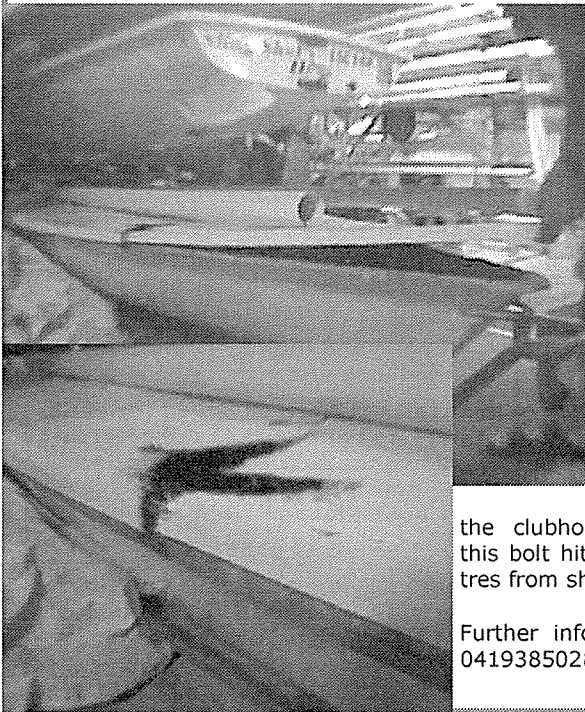
Nik Skulander writes:

know, I sail at Gosford Sailing Club on Saturdays, but last Saturday (January 24th) was a little bit different!

The race committee decided to cancel the race and send us all home about a half an hour too late. The whole fleet was caught in a storm on Brisbane Water during which a lot of us got pretty big shocks (we were an electric fence x 20) that still hurt hours after the event.

Chris Meech, a local sailor was hit the worst and his boat exploded! He was hurled 10 meters into the air to land in the drink but his boat had been demolished by the lightning strike.

See the attached photos of the remains of his Laser.



Boating Oz website writes:

January 26, 2004

Lightning smashes Laser dinghy - sailor in Hospital.

Gosford sailor Chris Meech is recovering in Gosford Hospital after his Laser dinghy was literally blown apart by a bolt of lightning while he was sailing on Brisbane Water on Saturday.

Meech was heading back to Gosford Sailing Club after race officials had abandoned racing for the day because of the severity of the storms in the area when a bolt hit the mast of his 4.23 metre Laser, blowing a hole in the deck which delaminated the hull.

According to race officials, Meech was thrown 30 feet by the force and landed on his back.

The club rescue boat dashed to his assistance, immediately calling for an ambulance to meet them at the clubhouse.

"He is recovering but kept under observation at Gosford Hospital" Gosford Sailing Club Commodore Brad English said today. "He said he felt completely numb when he landed; fortunately he was wearing a buoyancy vest".

"The fleet were sailing back to the clubhouse through the moored yachts assuming that any lightning would hit the taller masts rather than a small dinghy mast" English added.

"We were getting severe thunder storms at the time and the clubhouse literally shuddered when this bolt hit Chris just a few hundred metres from shore"

Further information from Peter Campbell
0419385028



Mail n' e-mail

Sent: Saturday, 14 February

Alan Downes writes:-

2004

12:04 PM

To: Brian Conolly

Cc: Mark Skelton

Subject: Web Site Additions

Brian can you please place as high up on the home page as possible.

SAFETY ISSUES

Failure to have the following safety issues addressed may result in your disqualification from club and association events.

Signing On and Off At Association events, it is now mandatory to sign on and off for each days racing. Failure to do so, **will** result in your disqualification from that days racing.

Mast Retention Lines Mast retention lines are mandatory for club and regatta racing and this line is separate to the cunningham line. ILCA Rule 3 (b) xi. To secure the mast in the event of a capsize, a loose retention line or shockcord (that will allow 180 degree plus mast rotation) shall be tied/attached between the cunningham fairlead or the deck block fitting and the mast tang or gooseneck. Clips, hooks, shackles and balls may be used to attach the retention line.

Hull Identification AYF Requires (Addendum A, Part 2 Off the beach boats, section 9 Hull Identification) that your hull is properly identified, so we can determine if you're not back on shore, because you failed to sign off. Name of Boat (if it has a name) - 50mm x 8mm minimum Sail Number - 50mm x 8mm minimum Club (Abbreviated) - 20mm x 4mm

minimum All lettering should be legible and in a contrasting colour to the hull colour.

In Addition Is it also possible to remove Mosman Amateur Sailing Club from the list of clubs sailing Lasers. Alan Downes Association Measurer

Adam French writes:-

Dear Paul

I've been here a while now, so thought I should bring you up to date with what's going on over here.

Cheers

Adam French Gosford SC

PS Hope the Paul and Yoko show is going well.

Lynne Hayes-Wade writes:-

Hi Paul,

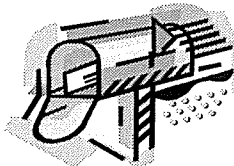
The results for the women at the Nationals held at Geelong are incorrect. The overall Radial fleet has the correct placings but these were not melded correctly once the fleet became gold and silver for the women's division. Despite requests to the scorer at the time that these be corrected and an email to Victorian organising committee nothing has happened. These errors affect the overall placings for the women. It should read 3rd Katherine Wade and 4 th Samantha Boyd.

Regards

Lynne

Hi Paul,

Have just posted memberships which were taken at the Metros - do the new ones have membership for next season as this was the last regatta for the year?



Mail n' e-mail

Position Vacant

Lynne Hayes-Wade writes:

at AGM to be held at Coasts 2004

Regatta Secretary required to take over as scorer for association regattas (4 per season) and associated committee work. Assistance will be given in the use of computer scoring and role. Role involves- input of regatta entries (pre-entries and entries at regatta), input of scores during regatta, supplying PRO and regatta officials with necessary paperwork.

This is not a gender specific job but it is voluntary, and you get to work with a great committee and be involved, does not exclude sailing at the regattas.

First regatta to be responsible for is the Masters in November 2004.

Position vacant as current regatta secretary (Lynne) will be responsible for the scoring system at the National Titles to be held at Belmont Dec 2004-Jan 2005.

Want to know more or volunteer for the position contact Lynne or Mark Skelton through the association website.

Regards,

Lynne Hayes-Wade

Paul

I have **Howard Taylor writes:**

attached details of Woollahra Sailing Club's autumn series commencing April 18. Please would you include in the next newsletter.

I have also spoken to Mark to arrange a meeting with WSC to discuss the possibility of the club running one of the association inter-club events next year (maybe the Metros?) and also to build some bridges between the association and WSC. Given that Mark is a fresh president, I am hopeful that we can iron out the hangovers of some of last seasons bruised egos.

Thanks,

Howard

Woollahra Sailing Club Autumn Series

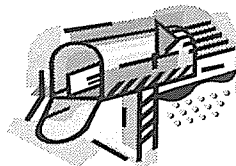
Woollahra Sailing Club is conducting a series of races during autumn and invites all interested Laser sailors to participate. If there are sufficient competitors individual starts will be provided for full rigs and radial/4.7 rigs.

Where: Woollahra Sailing Club – Rose Bay

When: Every Sunday from April 18 to June 6 inclusive, starting at 1230 hrs.

Format: Club courses set as appropriate through the main harbour/Rose Bay in the vicinity of Shark Island. The intent will be to have a minimum of two races per day depending on the prevailing weather conditions. WSC standard racing rules will apply.

Entry Fees: An entry fee of \$5-00 per boat/per day will apply.



Mail n' e-mail

Entries will be accepted "on-the-day" at either WSC (office) or by the starters boat.

Sue Dawson writes-

Dear Paul,
I am not sure if you advertise boats for sale. Our son wants to sail Flying 11's at Woolarah SC but we should sell the Laser before the next purchase! We bought the Laser from Nelson Bay Lasers last year but Mike has to go away for a couple of months but will take it on consignment after that. It is stored in the garage, but we have to renovate in a few months & don't want it to be outside. He thought \$4,800 - \$5,000. I don't know if \$4,700 is too much to ask? Laser 168135, both sets sails (4.7 & standard), trailer (reg.), dolly wheels, cover. Excellent condition. Kind regards, Sue Dawson
Bellevue Hill 9365 5963

Mark Skelton writes-

Hi
Brian,
The following are the regatta dates for the 2004-05 sailing season.

Coasts. 16/17 October
Belmont 16' Sailing Club.

Masters 13/14 November
Great lakes Sailing Club.

States 12/13 February
Port Stephens Sailing Club.

Metros 5/6 March
Georges River Sailing Club.

Would you please post this information on the web site. Thank you.

Mark Skelton

Dear Friends, **Stanley Tan writes-**
Apologies for having to mass mail.

I am happy to tell you that I have qualified for the Athens Olympics this August. I did so at the recent Laser World Championships in Turkey, where I was 5th out of the final 8 countries to book a berth in Athens. It's a big load off my shoulders and I can now just focus on sailing well during the Games.

Thanks very much to all of you for supporting and encouraging me in your own special way all these years. I appreciate it, and I look forward to more of it in the lead-up to, and at the Games.

I hope everyone is well and I look forward to hearing from you again.

Best wishes

Stanley Tan.

Richard Howard writes-

Hello,

Attached is a **press release** about *youth training* that is occurring over winter in the Laser Class. The first of three full day session has just been run by the NSW and ACT Laser Assoc. with two more on the way. Could you please post this on your news part of your website or publish. We are encouraging as many youth sailors to participate as possible. June 27th is the next training day.

Regards, Richard Howard

Publicity Officer NSW & ACT L A



4.7 News from John Murray

NEWS— Laser 4.7 State Championships.

Fourteen boats lined up under starter's orders to contest this years Laser 4.7 State Championships hosted by South Lakes Sailing Club on beautiful Lake Macquarie. Entries were received from as far a field as Hong Kong, helping to make this a special event. The weather was perfect, with Heat One held in a 5-7 knot southerly. Heat Two started in a now fading south-easterly breeze, which mid race kicked around to the north-east at 7-10 knots, creating problems for those competitors caught on the wrong side of the course.

Sunday dawned hot and humid with very little wind. A 20 knot plus north-easter had been forecast for later in the day. So up went the AP flag. Racing was delayed for approximately one hour. Heat three was raced in a light to moderate north-easterly, providing almost perfect sailing conditions.

With a short sharp sea running under a quickly freshening breeze, heat four was shaping up to be an exciting event. By the time the five minute gun sounded, there was 20 knots plus blowing across the decks. When the starter's flag dropped, the boats blasted through the chop. By the time competitors reached the top mark, thigh muscles ached, and stomach muscles screamed for relief. As boats rounded the top mark and lifted onto the plane, all that could be seen was the bows protruding out of plumes of white water as they banged, jumped, bumped and surfed their way downwind.

Judging by the chatter in the rigging area, stories of water gushing up through centreboard cases, incredibly fast reaches, boats humming and near misses, a great time was had by all. [See Results](#)

Organisers were impressed by the level of boat handling displayed by all 4.7 sailors. Congratulations to everyone.

Thanks to South Lakes Sailing Club, and a special thank you to NSW & ACT Laser Association and Nelson Bay Laser Sales for their support, trophies and prizes.

International Visitors to State Championships

Jamie Dalton and Andrew Houston-Floyd from The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club flew in for five days to attend our State Championships. This was a warm-up regatta as part of their campaign for the World Laser 4.7 Championships in Italy in July 2004. The boys were popular additions to the 4.7 social scene and made many new friends. We wish them well in Italy and we will be following their results closely. All the best and good luck. Hope to see you back here soon.

Laser 4.7 ...the exciting new youth class!!

Cheers

John Murray

Combined High schools sailing championship

Even though there were a number of our sailors away sailing at the World Championships in Brisbane, there was still a quality fleet of seven Laser 4.7s assemble to take part in this years Australian and NSW Combined High schools sailing championship held at Belmont. And yes, there was wind! Not a lot, but after the last few years of drifters...it was good to see some breeze. The Invitation race was sailed in 12 knots from the Southeast. Days One and Two started in 5-7 knots for the north/northeast and built to 10-12 knots during the race. Day Three started in 5 knots from the northwest and dropped out, then returned at about 8 knots. Day Four was exciting with 10 to 15 knots gusting to 18 from the west/northwest. Some great sailing was experienced and as is the spirit of the CHS all held in an atmosphere of fun

4.7 News from John Murray

and friendship.

Congratulations to all those who took part. It's wonderful to see new names on the competitor's list and well done to our place getters.

1st Gabrielle King, sailing "Shimmer" from North Coast High 2,1,1,3

2nd Hugh Barrington, sailing "Hugo" from North Coast High 4,2,2,2

3rd Simon Leicester, from Penrith Anglican College. 1,3,3,4

Upcoming Events Winter in Paradise

Winter in Paradise another mid winter regatta that attracts large numbers of Lasers. Hosted by Port Stephens situated on the north facing shore of Salamander Bay with its white sandy beaches, uncrowded waterways. This is a "must do" regatta for the 2004 winter season.

Event: Winter in Paradise

Venue: Salamander Bay

Date: 17/18 July

Organiser: Port Stephens Sailing & Aquatic Club

Cheers, John Murray

NSW & ACT LASER ASSOCIATION

ENTRY FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS

(This is a generic form - For details of events check the website www.laser.asn.au)

EVENT _____

SAIL NO: _____

BOATNAME _____

NAME: _____ **AGE:** _____

CLUB: _____

CATEGORIES - PLEASE CIRCLE DIVISION/S

FULL RIG **RADIAL** **4.7 RIG**

OPEN **OPEN** **OPEN**

Youth (-19) **SUB junior (-16)**

App. M (35+) **Youth (-19)**

Master(45 +) **Apprentice**

G Master(55 +) **Master**

G G Master(65 +) **G Master**

G G Master

Women

CONTACT PHONE: _____

I agree to be bound by the RACING RULES of SAILING and all other rules which govern this event. I have valid third party liability boat insurance with cover of \$AUS10000000 for participation in this regatta.

Signed: _____ **DATE:** _____

*****Please send to Regatta Secretary with appropriate fee at least 10 days prior to the event.**

Lynne Hayes-Wade Regatta Secretary

**PO Box 43
BOOLAROO NSW 2284**

Sail Auckland Report From Zac Skulander

A light covering of smoke filled the air, the heat of the venue giving an attractive and healthy shine of perspiration to the skin. Then, like a ship through the mist on a bay in the early hours of the morning, she appeared. "Welcome to Auckland" she whispered in a sultry voice. And that was just the customs lady! Sail Auckland for me started in a strip club, unfortunately, myself and Matt Blakey, in some cruel joke had been given the wrong address for the welcome function. Taking us a good two and half hours to work out that the old men that sounded us were not competitors, we left looking a little embarrassed and feeling used.

While everyone was enjoying the great racing and good times of the NSW state titles, myself and a couple of other Aussies were experiencing the cultures of New Zealand. So for those who didn't make it across and wondered what happened, here is my diary of events.

With the radial worlds just around the corner this was always going to be a tough regatta. In recent years kiwi radial sailors have been a force at world championships, so I thought I'd go over and see if I could match it with the worlds best. After the first day it apparent that I couldn't.

Day 1.

This pretty much set the tone for the regatta with a postponement flag up early. This enabled me to catch up on some classic 12th man CD's whilst waiting for the breeze. A light northerly trickled down Auckland's Waitamirua Harbour and we were finally sent out at around 3pm. As the 120 or so boats hit the water, the breeze thought it was better needed else where so decided to depart. At 5pm a light breeze was starting to build from the south and we were away. Unfortunately due to the time we only got

one race in, but even more depressing was the fact that we had missed 'happy hour' at the local strip club. Although judging by the looks on some of the faces in that place, every hour seemed to be a happy one!

Day 2.

On the second day we managed to get in four races, with everyone having mixed results. I think every single boat must have held the lead at some stage with the wind shifting from the west then to the south then back again. The Aussies were up and down with Kyrstal Weir and Josh Chant just out of the top 10 overall, but with plenty of races to go, the series was still in its infancy.

Day 3.

I started the day in 2nd overall, with a chance to make some big gains. But, as I headed up wind for the first time I noticed something was missing. I was slow, really slow. What was it? I was trying to think but I couldn't. Then it hit me... I left my brain at home! How could I have forgotten to pack it?

I'm sure the great kiwi songwriter 'Neil Funn' penned the song 'four seasons in one day' during Sail Auckland one year, because that is exactly what we got. In an instant 30 degrees and nice breeze gave way to 18 degrees, 20 knot winds and lots of rain. The breeze again fought between the west and the south and I successfully, and quite skilfully managed to miss every shift on that day. I had a big final day ahead of me if I was to make up the 20 or so points between myself and the leaders, but with four races left anything was possible out here on Waitamirua Harbour.

Day 4.

Day four started the same as day 1. Light winds, an un-erect postponement flag and more of the 12th man. Heading out at around 12pm, the committee decided to wait for the breeze to build. Finally we got away in around 8 knots, which quickly turned to 4 knots, which even more quickly turned 180 degrees. In a cruel twist, every time we went to go downwind the wind

would shift and we would have to go up wind again. In the end we only had the one race and I think I gained enough grey hairs on that day to qualify for the masters worlds next year. Kyrstal and Josh had finished the regatta with some strong results, with Kyrstal taking out the women's division. For me close, but no cigar, I gained 18 points in that one race, but finished 2 points away from second. All in all it was good practice for the radial worlds and I'm sure I'll be better for the experience.

Zac Skulander Gosford S C

Brian Conolly writes:-

Dear Laser Association Member,
Well, the 2003/04 summer season is nearly over. You wouldn't know it, with the hive of activity going on!

Winter In Paradise Port Stephens 17-18 July. Always a beautiful sail in July. With the mild winters we have in this district there is really no need to let the boat dry up in the boatshed. Keep the body moving, keep the boat wet. Sail with the dolphins. Sail off the beach at Port Stephens. Always a good fleet of Lasers. Notice of Race is up, check out the PSSAC web site. <http://www.pssac.com/>

2005 Laser Australian Championships Belmont 16ft Sailing Club. December 27-January 5. Set to be the biggest Australian Laser Championship ever! What better place to hold a HUGE regatta than Belmont 16 footers eh? Our president is calling for sponsors and volunteers.

Please contact Mark Skelton if you want to participate in this spectacular event. email mark@laser.asn.au or call him on 4975 3520 Notice of race and entry form is up on the Australian Laser Association web site. <http://www.laser.asn.au/NationalsMain.htm>

2004/05 NSW & ACT District Laser Association Calendar

We are way ahead this year, with the calendar almost cast in stone already. You guys will have tons of time to schedule ahead. Stay tuned, it will be posted soon. Rumour is that lovely glossy posters will be sent to your club, so make some space on your notice board.

Message from Measurer Reminder of important safety requirements. Be warned. You will get a DSQ if you don't comply! Measurer Information <http://www.laser.asn.au/Measurer.htm>

World Laser Competitors

Good luck to the NSW & ACT District members heading off to Turkey for the Senior and Master World Championships. It looks like the usual clan of masters are up to all sorts of mischief again, with Australia yet again dominating the entries list.

Michael Blackburn

Congratulations to Michael Blackburn, yet again representing AUS at the Olympics. You may have noticed he is also now ranked #1 in the ISAF world Laser ranking. We await another medal Michael! Good luck!

Sincerely Brian Conolly
NSW & ACT District Laser Association

The Coasts Regatta—this year will be a coaching regatta and there will be 2 or 3 on-water coaches. They will also be available before and after each days racing. See me for more details. Mark Skelton

Michael Blackburn's Olympic Report

While most of my mates in the Aussie Olympic Sailing Team have already headed NW to Europe I'm staying home to do the Laser Radial Worlds in Brisbane. It will be a big event - more than 170 boats in the Open and Women's worlds plus there are over 110 entries in a separate Youth Radial Worlds the following week. Racing for the entrants from 22 countries will be run by the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron. In case you didn't know, the Radial only differs from its bigger sister by way of a smaller sail (5.7m² vs. 7.06m²) and different bottom section of the mast.

I've been looking forward to this event for a while. Moreton Bay was the place I learnt to sail in wind and waves due to the regular SE gradient breeze as well as decent moderate to fresh sea breezes. I've had some great days sailing miles out from the club in one metre waves and a steady 20 knots. Occasionally, small fish would find their way into my cockpit when a wave crashed over the bow. Usually, I'd send them on their way again with my foot. However, one day a tiddler tried to swim out of my cockpit via the venturi. However, it was too big and got stuck head-first and stopped the cockpit draining, slowing me down. I tried to pull it out but it was too slippery and jammed firmly. So I thought 'Ok, I'll just make you a little bit smaller and you can go out the way you want'. I squished it through the hole and my boat smelled of fish for a week. Come April, and barring any cyclones, the wind generally gets softer than in summer. So at my full-rig weight of about 80kg (versus an ideal Radial weight nearer 70kg) I'm bound to cop a flogging in at least a few races of the Worlds. I've

had a couple of outings in the Radial recently (since my last spell in 1993) and was a little slow in the lighter winds but things looked up in any sort of hiking conditions, as expected.

At least it will be a challenge - and a good warm-up for the first two regattas I'll do in Europe, the Hyeres regatta at the end of April and the Laser Worlds in Turkey starting 13 May.

Racing in the Open Radial worlds - 3-8 April; Youth worlds - 12-17 April. Results at www.laserinternational.org
Good sailing,
Michael

Hello again,

I've just returned home after finishing the Laser Radial Worlds in Brisbane. I thought it would be a light to moderate wind regatta but it blew 5 days out of 6. So with the help of a significant body weight advantage over most of the fleet plus some familiarity with the venue, I won the regatta easily. Second was last year's champion Aron Lolic from Croatia with Tom Slingsby third.

Tom and I were even for the first 4 days of the regatta. On the first day we were in the same fleet (the 130 boats were split into 2 fleets for round robin races before the top half qualified for Gold fleet for the finals) and we both scored a 1st and 2nd each in the two races. For the next 3 days we were in different fleets and each won 5 races in a row in moderate to fresh winds.

Then came the finals and the only real light wind day of the regatta. It proved to be the day which would make the difference. In the first race Tom sailed well, coolly moving through the fleet to cross the line first with me following in 6th. Shortly after finishing, however, Tom saw that his number was up on the blackboard on the committee boat as being over the start line early and so scored maximum points. To be sure not to do another 'Thorpie', Tom had to take the next start conservatively. But in light winds this is a risky strategy as well because it's

Michael Blackburn's Olympic Report

much harder to make up ground from behind. Meanwhile, a hole opened up for me in the last few seconds before the start of the same race and I slipped through it, sailing quickly into clear air and rounded each mark in front for the win.

The wind returned for the final day and I rounded it off nicely with another two 1sts.

I've never been a World Champion in anything, so marvel in the fact that I am now. Of course, bigger tasks await me in the next few weeks.

In the lead up to the full-rig Laser Worlds will be the Hyeres Grade 1 regatta and since it is only two weeks before the worlds it should attract a worlds-quality fleet. But for the moment that is a world away as I enjoy a couple of days off!

I fly out on the 19th April to France.

Michael.

Hello from Hyeres,

I'll get to the regatta stuff soon, but this trip has been a little out of the ordinary from the start. I was waiting out the front of my house for a Taxi to the airport and heard a car skidding and a loud bang up the end of the street. I thought 'I hope that's not my taxi'. It was and after a short delay a replacement came. We drove past the first cab and saw that its driver (who was ok) had turned into the path of another car instead of into my street. I got to the airport safely with a better driver.

At the stopover in Singapore my mobile beeped, and I found out the container my boat and gear is in would be late – maybe not to arrive until the day before the regatta. Upon touchdown in France the container's arrival date was pushed back further. We had news that it might come this day

or that but nothing solid, and as I write we still haven't been able to unpack the box but apparently it has been unloaded from the ship (3 weeks late) and may be available the coming Monday.

Luckily with a Laser it is easy to charter a boat for a regatta and I did so. I also bought a new sail because I put three in the container to avoid excess baggage on the plane and flew with none. The only trouble with the charter boat was the mast, specifically the top section, which was UK-made and these are softer than the Aussie top masts which are preferred by most. So I struggled a little (couldn't point high enough) in the light winds which prevailed for 4 of 5 days racing of the Hyeres Regatta. However, when it blew I was super fast, scoring 2,1,1 on the first day of the finals, lifting me up to 2nd overall. The second day of the finals (today) was a whole lot lighter wind and I scored 34 and 11 to finish 4th overall. As an American friend said "Hey man, it's not the Olympics!"

I fly to Bitez, Turkey tomorrow for the Laser Worlds. Arthur, my coach is driving there so he left straight away. So we won't be able to unpack the container on Monday but that's not too much trouble since the boats are supplied at the Worlds. But it also means I won't see my boats and more importantly, my boxes of Aussie cereal, until I return to Europe in June! Sacre bleu!

Regards,
Michael.

The Coasts Regatta—this year will be a coaching regatta and there will be 2 or 3 on-water coaches. They will also be available before and after each days racing. See me for more details. Mark Skelton

The fleet had two more exciting races today in the Harken Lasers Masters championship in Bitez, Turkey. The offshore winds at times gusted 30 knots at the end of the first race before settling back to an average of 20 knots for the second race. Colin Dibb from W. Australia was the only sailor to achieve two firsts places in any fleet. Sailing in the Masters fleet, he did not have it all his own way. In the first race Jack Schlachter was first to show but was overtaken by Dibb at the first downwind mark. Schlachter took Dibb on the upwind but blew his chances on the next downwind after 3 further swims. The first lap in the second race was closer. Tracy Usher (USA) benefited from a right hand shift on the first beat to lead the fleet around the first mark with Dibb and Schlachter in close pursuit. Dibb again showed good speed to take the lead at the end of the second beat followed closely by Usher and Schlachter. Dibb extended on the second downwind for a comfortable first from Schlachter. In the Grand Masters first race Rob Lowndes and series leader Mark Bethwaite led from the start. On the first run Bethwaite capsized to miss a Master sailor on the beat and then headed for the wrong gate! Lowndes gybed and could not see the second boat as he rounded the bottom mark after carnage on the run. For the third race in a row it was AUS 1,2,3 with Lowndes leading home David Edmiston and then Frank Walsh.

In race 2 Bethwaite made amends by leading after mixing it with Bob Blakey NZL. Bethwaite won comfortably from Clausen followed by former Finn Gold Cup winner Magnus Olsen.

and in both races were recalled. In the first race lady master, Lyndall Patterson of Qld. again showed the men the way, rounding the first mark inside fellow Radial Master Goran Bonacic CRO and Apprentice Aydin Yurdu TUR. Squeezing the inside berth cost Patterson her lead when she hit the mark, had to do a 360 turn and then capsized. Yurdu took over the lead which he held to the finish ahead of Bonacic. In the lighter winds of the second race Bonacic got his revenge to take the winning gun after passing David Early AUS/HKG in the second half of the race.

In race 1 of the Apprentice fleet Brett Beyer AUS led around the first mark but unfortunately for him located Mark 3 instead of Mark 4 and lost around ten places. He eventually finished in seventh place. This left a tight group of 5 boats dicing for the lead on the second upwind beat and runs to the finish. Nik Walsh IRL eventually won the race from Lehner with Hugh Leicester AUS taking third in a close finish with the top 5 boats crossing the line within 25 seconds.

In the second race Beyer and Leicester held on to the starboard tack coming out of the start longer than the rest of the fleet and found a shift to the left to be equal leaders at the top mark, with Lehner rounding third. Positions remained the same on the run however Lehner rounded the opposite gate to the leaders and picked up a shift from the right to take over second place. From there positions remained the same with Beyer beating Lehner then Leicester.

Two days racing remain and if completed a second discard will be allowed. International Laser Class Association email: office@laserinternational.org website: <http://www.laserinternational.org>

The Radial Fleet were third to start

Metros Results

Metropolitan Championships

February 28-29 2004

BYRA

| 4.7 | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|--------|-------|----|----|----|
| Sail No | Boat | Owner | Division | Club | Points | Place | R1 | R2 | R3 |
| 168151 | Storm | Jye Murray | O | B16ftSC | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 167077 | Slippery Little Sucker | Simon Wubben | O | RSYS | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 119933 | Dubiety | Samantha Chalmers | OW | HHSC | 10 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| 165862 | Hazmat | Matt Perini | O | RSYS | 14 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 143372 | Jessabel | Jessica Pollard | OW | RSYS | 15 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 174358 | Ill | Elyce Finney | OW | GRSC | 17 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| 166790 | Flying Venison | Xander Wheen | O | RSYS | 24 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Women | | | | | | | | | |
| Sail No | Boat | Owner | Division | Club | Points | Place | R2 | R1 | R3 |
| 176926 | Slick Oz | Krsytal Weir | OW | SYC | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 173455 | Bird Bum Inc | Samantha Boyd | OWY | B16ftSC | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 150845 | Meg-a-Mania | Megan Andrews | OWY | HHSC | 10 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| 178645 | Petite Blouse | Diane Sissingh | OAW | B16ftSC | 11 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| 154291 | Learn To Fly | Janenne Boyd | OWSJY | B16ftSC | 16 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 |
| 172259 | Simply Red | Eryn Nattress | OWY | HHSC | 19 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 172252 | Dominator | Annabelle Frost | OWY | RSYS | 22 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| RADIAL | | | | | | | | | |
| Sail No | Boat | Owner | Division | Club | Points | Place | R1 | R2 | R3 |
| 174341 | Itchy Richy | Richard Howard | O | B16ftSC | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| 177781 | Frosty | Richard Bott | O | MHASC | 11 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 176926 | Slick Oz | Krystal Weir | OW | SYC | 11 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 175987 | | Zac Skulander | O | GSC | 13 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| 154309 | Run Baby Run | Simon McGoldrick | O | RPAYC | 16 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 172264 | Marksman | Mark Langford | OY | B16ftSC | 18 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 2 |
| 167078 | | Will Howard | O | B16ftSC | 21 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 4 |
| 137580 | Sailing Scene | Josh Chant | O | RPAYC | 25 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 17 |
| 173455 | Bird Bum Inc | Samantha Boyd | OWY | B16ftSC | 29 | 9 | 7 | 11 | 11 |
| 168167 | Fast as... | Edward Quartly | OSJ | RSYS | 33 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 9 |
| 171133 | Crazy One | James Grieve | O | GRSC | 39 | 11 | 15 | 9 | 15 |
| 175292 | Kathleen | Brian Conolly | OA | HHSC | 41 | 12 | 12 | 16 | 13 |
| 170549 | Geronimo | Ben Barzach | OY | RSYS | 46 | 13 | 16 | 20 | 10 |
| 178645 | Petite Blouse | Diane Sissingh | OAW | B16ftSC | 47 | 14 | 17 | 18 | 12 |
| 16969 | | Martin Cox | OY | CYC | 48 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 25 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|--------|-------|----|----|----|
| 172255 | Pitchka | Andrew Williams | O | B16ftSC | 50 | 16 | 8 | 34 | 8 |
| 150845 | Meg-a Mania | Megan Andrews | OYW | HHSC | 53 | 17 | 14 | 15 | 24 |
| 176164 | 4 Letter Word | Warwick Nichols | OM | B16ftSC | 55 | 18 | 22 | 17 | 16 |
| 178621 | Passing wind | Geoff Lucas | OGM | HHSC | 58 | 19 | 28 | 12 | 18 |
| 168145 | Maximum Effort | Tom Reece | OY | RSYS | 60 | 20 | 19 | 19 | 22 |
| 176903 | Tank | David Parsons | OA | RMYC | 61 | 21 | 21 | 14 | 26 |
| 168144 | Tug | Ian Dorling | OY | RSYS | 62 | 22 | 26 | 22 | 14 |
| 177727 | Nameless | Wulf Wilkens | O | CYCA | 62 | 23 | 20 | 21 | 21 |
| 154291 | Learn to Fly | Janerine Boyd | OWSJ | B16ftSC | 68 | 24 | 25 | 24 | 19 |
| 174343 | Caleche | David Flakelar | OGCM | MHASC | 72 | 25 | 18 | 34 | 20 |
| 140177 | Spinz | Tom Scardiffeld | OSJ | RSYS | 75 | 26 | 23 | 25 | 27 |
| 172259 | Simply Red | Eryn Natrass | OWY | HHSC | 84 | 27 | 24 | 26 | 34 |
| 168675 | Red Dog | Will Houston | OSJ | RSYS | 85 | 28 | 30 | 27 | 28 |
| 168666 | Grunt n Groan | Hugh Harrington | OY | RSYS | 86 | 29 | 29 | 23 | 34 |
| 172252 | Dominator | Annabelle Frost | OWY | RSYS | 90 | 30 | 27 | 29 | 34 |
| 176931 | Sailing Scene | Tom Spithill | OSJY | RPAYC | 91 | 31 | 34 | 34 | 23 |
| 168143 | Willhelm | Georgie Reddy | OWY | RSYS | 93 | 32 | 31 | 28 | 34 |
| 161207 | Copernicus | Mitch Taylor | OY | RSYS | 102 | 33 | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Standard Rig | | | | | | | | | |
| Sail No | Boat | Owner | Division | Club | Points | Place | R1 | R2 | R3 |
| 176910 | Sailing Scene | Michael Blackburn | O | MHASC | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 178808 | Musto | Pieter Jan-Postma | O | GSC | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 171104 | if | Brett Beyer | OA | WSC | 13 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 1 |
| 171174 | Trimmer | Stanley Tan | O | SAFYC | 17 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 7 |
| 175979 | Mas | Kevin Lim | O | WSC | 18 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 4 |
| 177729 | Magnum | Nick Skulander | O | GSC | 19 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 3 |
| 176901 | Buy Sell | Jon Holroyd | O | WSC | 26 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 20 |
| 177791 | Fine Wine | Mark Bethwaite | OGM | RSYS | 26 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 6 |
| 158871 | Merlin | Mark Phillips | O | BYRA | 28 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9 |
| 178785 | NB Laser Sales | Tom Slingsby | O | GSC | 36 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 33 |
| 172242 | NB Laser Sales | Mark Skelton | OA | B16ftSC | 41 | 11 | 16 | 17 | 8 |
| 175983 | Mitmar | Stuart Holdsworth | OA | MHASC | 41 | 12 | 10 | 15 | 16 |
| 135251 | Youthless | Andrew Bate | OA | ASC | 44 | 13 | 15 | 14 | 15 |
| 170559 | Vroomfondel | Alan Downes | OAC | MHASC | 49 | 14 | 22 | 13 | 14 |
| 161181 | Shopping Trolley | Angus Gordon | OGM | RPAYC | 53 | 15 | 23 | 18 | 12 |
| 165818 | Park Bench | Frank Walsh | OGM | MHASC | 55 | 16 | 25 | 20 | 10 |
| 174356 | Vivacious | Lee Dowane | O | A12FS | 55 | 17 | 20 | 16 | 19 |
| 168689 | Elegantly Wasted | Tom Braidwood | O | B16ftSC | 58 | 18 | 18 | 29 | 11 |
| 178622 | Wiggle | Rob Lowndes | OGM | MHASC | 62 | 19 | 17 | 12 | 33 |
| 173436 | Footloose | Philip Hetherington | OM | DBSC | 62 | 20 | 24 | 25 | 13 |
| 175984 | Imagine | Brett Kimmorley | OA | RPAYC | 63 | 21 | 12 | 33 | 18 |
| 177079 | Plan Right | Robert Partridge | OM | HHSC | 65 | 22 | 13 | 19 | 33 |
| 177734 | Unfinished Business | David Edmiston | OGM | HHSC/GSC | 67 | 23 | 28 | 22 | 17 |
| 167110 | Sailing Scene | Jason Marks | O | HHSC | 73 | 24 | 19 | 21 | 33 |
| 178 | | Sean Feeney | OA | MHASC | 78 | 25 | 34 | 11 | 33 |
| 178641 | Rex Fox | Colin Cain | OGM | MHASC | 78 | 26 | 21 | 24 | 33 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| 175991 | Mirth | Ashley Brunning | OY | WSC | 80 | 27 | 14 | 33 | 33 |
| 166822 | Intrepid | Matthew Duryea | OAC | ASC | 82 | 28 | 26 | 23 | 33 |
| 179392 | Finesse | Andrew Finney | OM | GRSC | 86 | 29 | 27 | 26 | 33 |
| 175992 | Zoom Zoom | Warwick Crossman | OM | RMYC | 89 | 30 | 29 | 27 | 33 |
| 155700 | Banana | Frank Costanzo | OM | PBSC | 91 | 31 | 30 | 28 | 33 |
| 172262 | Anticon | James Luffman | O | HHSC | 100 | 32 | 34 | 33 | 33 |

The Metros Report

NSW Metropolitan Championships

Pittwater Produces all Conditions at Laser Metros.

The NSW & ACT Metropolitan Championships were raced from BYRA Sailing Club on the 1st and 2nd of March. Saturday began with a light and very shifty sea breeze filtering in and finally steadying towards the end of race one. In the 4.7 class Jye Murray grabbed a bullet with what was to become a convincing regatta win while in the Radial fleet Josh Chant sailed a fine race covering the competition well after a solid first windward leg. Michael Blackburn snatched top place in the Full rigs from Tom Slingsby and Jon Holroyd.

The second race was 'champagne sailing' not that Laser sailors have the resources to drink champagne while hiking to the top mark or surfing waves down wind!! The sea breeze filled in to a constant 15 knots and became less shifty. All fleets started cleanly with Tom Slingsby in the Full rigs displaying his continual speed improvement eventually winning the race. In the Radials, Richard Howard had a good first work allowing him to sail conservatively thereafter to win. Positions 2 to 5 were hotly contested with Richard Bott managing to sail well up the left hand side of the final work and finishing ahead of Simon McGoldrick.

Only one race was sailed on the Sunday due to a lack of consistent wind prior to a Southerly expected through mid afternoon. The Radials and 4.7 fleets were started in a fickle North West wind which allowed Radial sailors Zac Skulander, Mark Landford and Will and Richard Howard to get a sizeable jump on the fleet at the first mark. This did not last long with the wind veering left allowing the rest of fleet to 'mow down' the leaders later in the

race. The Southerly pushed through it almost allowed the race to begin again with only a work, reach and run left as the fleet bunched. Richard Howard, Mark Langford and Zac Skulander maintained a slight advantage on the right hand side of the fleet allowing them to finish in that order followed by Will Howard and Krystal Weir.

Simon Wubben won the 4.7 race from Jye Murray with Matt Perini sailing Slippery Little Sucker sliding into 3rd spot.

The Full rigs race was started some 10 minutes after the Radials however was abandoned due to the wind shift. It was resailed directly after the Radials finished in testing conditions as the Southerly rapidly built. Breakages were plenty with Tom Slingsby breaking his tiller which ultimately may have cost him the series. Former Laser Apprentice Master World Champ Brett Beyer revelled in the strong conditions to post a win with Dutch sailor 'Postman Pete' coming second and Nick Skulander third. Blackburn finished 5th in the final race which was enough to secure 1st overall in the regatta.

Other good performances in the strong conditions came from Mark Skelton who finished 8th in that race and 11th overall and Frank Walsh who finished 10th in race 3 and 16th overall.

The regatta was well run and BYRA did a great job in providing the facilities and people to run the regatta. Please look at www.laser.asn for more results and class information.

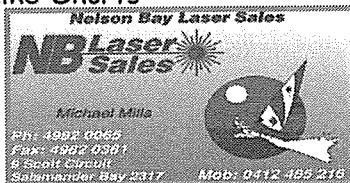
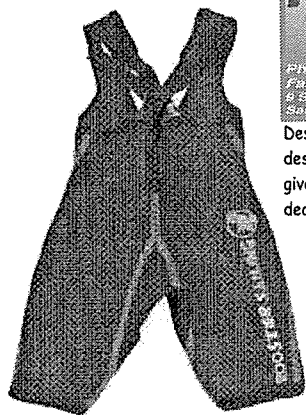
Results:

| Radial | Full Rig | 4.7 |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|
| R. Howard | Michael Blackburn | Jye Murray |
| R. Bott | P. Jan-Postman | Simon Wubben |
| K. Weir | Brett Beyer | Matt Perini |

Prepared by Richard Howard
NSW Laser Association Publicity Officer

Rooster Sailing gear now available from Nelson Bay Laser Sales

Rooster Half Length Hike Shorts



Michael Mills

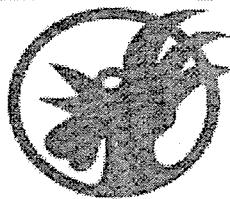
Ph: 4982 0065

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8 Scott Circuit

Salamanca Bay 2317

Mob: 0412 485 216

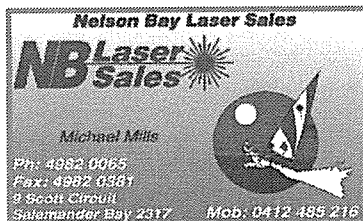


Designed to Southern Hemisphere standards - these neoprene hike shorts designed to help you perform. 10.5" pattern pads on the back of the shorts give protection from the gunwale and help extend the support from the deck.



New Rooster Boot - "Combines the lightness and feel of a surfing slipper with the comfort and support of a stiff rubber hiking boot. "The techie bit - the 1 back straps lock the heel into the boot, the front strap is well above the strap area, and the back strap is locked into the cup of the heel, avoiding tissue damage. The pull from the forward arch position reduces twist and secondary support to the over worked ankle joint. Heel stability and ankle together make this boot a must for those who are pushing the envelope where they are straight toe hiking or trapezing.

Contact Mike Mills at Nelson Bay Laser Sales for prices and delivery on the whole range of Rooster products, before the new season starts!!!



Michael Mills

Ph: 4982 0065

Fax: 4982 0381

8 Scott Circuit

Salamanca Bay 2317

Mob: 0412 485 216

4.7 Report of Metros from John Murray

GREETINGS

News

Metropolitan Championships

After a week of strong winds, heavy rain and huge seas, competitors arrived at Bayview to contest the NSW & ACT Laser Association Metropolitan Championships, and found an inviting Pittwater and clear blue skies.

This year's metros were hosted by the Bayview Yacht Racing Association (BYRA), located on the southern shores of Pittwater. Racing was conducted in an area between the northern side of Scotland Island and Long Nose Point.

With the wind blowing out of the north-east at 7-8 knots, seven 4.7's racked up waiting for the flag to drop. The fleet arrived at the top mark as one. While the leader broke free on the next leg, the racing back in the fleet was tight with positions constantly changing.

Heat Two saw our sailors start in a freshening north-easterly which was a constant 12 knots with gusts to 15, enough to have the boats on the plane creating fast reaches.

Sunday's weather proved to be very difficult. A strong wind warning had been issued. A thirty knot southerly change was expected around lunch time. The pressure was on. Heat three was required to constitute a series. Midday came and went, and despite an attempted start and resetting of the course several times, the AP flag still flew.

Around 1pm racing finally got under way in a 5-6 knot north-easter. Mid race it swung to the north-west carrying the fleet right up to the lead boats. The 4.7's rounded the bottom mark as a tightly bunched group. The front runners once again tried to breakaway from the pack. The wind then changed direction turning 180 degrees allowing the fleet to bunch again. With the wind

now coming out of the south-east around ten knots, the course was reversed creating a downwind finish. The sailors now had a series.

Thanks to BYRA and their hardworking race committee and volunteers for a great weekend under difficult conditions.

Congratulations to two new faces on the podium. Simon Wubber in second place sailing "Slippery Little Sucker" from RSYS and Samantha Chalmers in third place sailing "Dubiety" from HHSC. Both Clubs have put a big effort into their 4.7 program and are seeing the benefits. Well done.

A special thank you for prizes and support from the NSW & ACT Laser Association, Ronstan and Nelson Bay Laser Sales.

The 4.7 sailors appreciate the encouragement and support.

A Report from the Boys in Hong Kong

Jamie Dalton and Andrew Houston-Floyd from The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club who flew in to attend our State Championships are now back home. The boys have written a report about the trip which is available for viewing on The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club website.

To read their report just follow the link below: <http://www.rhkyc.org.hk/sailing/vsa/nswstates.htm>

News

Queenlands State Titles

NSW 4.7 sailors continue their domination of the national 4.7 scene with 1st and 2nd places at the Qld State Titles.

Big River Sailing Clubs Tom Scully sailing "Mr Torque" took out 1st place with a 4,1,1,1,3 while Gabrielle King also from BRSC sailed "Shimmer into 2nd place with a 1,3,2,3,1..

Congratulations Tom & Gabe well done!
NSW Rules !!!!!

Upcoming Events -The Brass Monkeys

The annual Brass Monkeys regatta is held in June at Long Jetty on NSW Central Coast. Traditionally this regatta attracts a large top quality Laser fleet, keen to keep those racing skills sharp through winter.

4.7 Report of Metros from John Murray

An enjoyable and friendly regatta with great winter sailing.

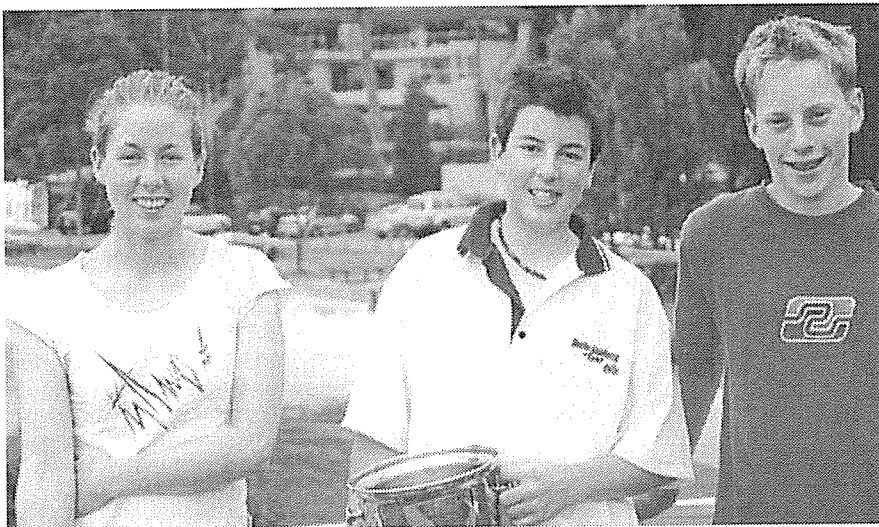
Event: The Brass Monkeys

Venue: Long Jetty on NSW Central Coast.

Date: June (date to be announced)

To be added to or removed from our mailing list send request to johnmurray@netspace.net.au

Laser 4.7 ...the exciting new youth class!!



Organiser: Tuggerah Lakes Memorial Sailing Club

Phone: 4344 5663

Winter in Paradise

Winter in Paradise another mid winter regatta that attracts large numbers of lasers. Hosted by Port Stephens Sailing & Aquatic Club situated on the north facing shore of Salamander Bay with its white sandy beaches, uncrowded waterways and the largest start boat around. This is a "must do" regatta for the 2004 winter season.

Event: Winter in Paradise

Venue: Salamander Bay

Date: July (date to be announced)

Organiser: Port Stephens Sailing & Aquatic Club (PSSAC)

Please feel free to forward this email to other interested 4.7 sailors.

4.7 Metros Place Getters

1st. Jye Murray

2nd. Simon Wubben

3rd. Samantha Charmers

Cheers

John Murray

The art of racing is not in winning, but in winning so that the rest of the fleet are pleased you have won and the only way they can be pleased, is for you to have shown not only better sailing than they, but also perfect sportsmanship.

Uffa Fox

Open Worlds Results & last days racing from M.B.

Open Worlds

Results Laser - Gold

Scores take into account 2 discards

| No | Sailno | Name | Scores | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|----|------------|-------------------|--------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|----|-------|------|-------|-------|
| 1 | BRA 179787 | SCHEIDT Robert | 16,0 | (6) | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | (dnf) | 2 |
| 2 | USA 179914 | MENDELBLATT Mark | 24,0 | 4 | (25) | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | (8) | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| 3 | AUS 179773 | BLACKBURN Michael | 25,0 | 3 | (6) | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | (dnf) |
| 4 | NZL 179883 | PEPPER Hamish | 49,0 | 1 | 8 | (29) | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 11 | (14) | 12 |
| 5 | SWE 179905 | SUNESON Karl | 49,0 | 6 | (16) | 1 | 2 | 9 | 2 | (17) | 16 | 8 | 5 |
| 6 | AUT 179777 | GERITZER Andreas | 50,0 | (13) | 3 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 16 | 1 | 9 | (32) |
| 7 | AUS 179776 | SLINGSBY Tom | 63,0 | 11 | 18 | 8 | (dsq) | 7 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 1 | (30) |
| 8 | GBR 179835 | GOODISON Paul | 67,0 | (bfd) | 14 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 3 | 6 | (32) | 22 | 6 |
| 9 | NOR 179878 | MOBERG Peer | 74,0 | 12 | (26) | 14 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 20 | (bfd) | 8 |
| 10 | CRO 179809 | VUJASINOVIC Milan | 99,0 | 18 | 3 | 11 | 7 | (32) | 18 | 14 | 15 | 13 | (41) |
| 11 | DEN 179816 | NYHOLM Anders | 102,0 | (32) | 31 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 7 | 30 | (53) | 3 | 13 |
| 12 | ITA 179860 | NEGRI Diego | 115,0 | (46) | 8 | (ocs) | 11 | 12 | 16 | 23 | 25 | 16 | 4 |
| 13 | NED 179877 | POSTMA Pieter-Jan | 121,0 | (25) | 20 | 4 | 4 | 21 | 8 | (33) | 8 | 31 | 25 |
| 14 | FRA 179829 | STEYAERT Jeremie | 126,0 | 23 | (42) | 10 | 14 | 3 | 22 | (25) | 13 | 21 | 20 |
| 15 | GBR 179840 | STYLES Hugh | 129,0 | 20 | 36 | 19 | 14 | (38) | 8 | (dnf) | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| 16 | SLO 179897 | ZBOGAR Vasilj | 129,0 | 5 | (24) | 6 | 18 | 24 | 10 | (57) | 7 | 15 | 44 |
| 17 | FIN 179826 | WESTMAN Fredrik | 130,0 | 14 | 14 | 11 | (30) | 5 | 12 | (60) | 27 | 29 | 18 |
| 18 | FRA 179827 | LE BRETON Thomas | 132,0 | 9 | 6 | (18) | 15 | 7 | 14 | (58) | 14 | 28 | 39 |
| 19 | CRO 179807 | RADELIC Luka | 134,0 | 13 | 12 | (ocs) | 21 | 31 | 9 | 37 | (69) | 2 | 9 |
| 20 | AUS 179774 | CASEY Brendan | 134,0 | 15 | (25) | 3 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 44 | 52 | 5 | (bfd) |

Hello,

As I return to Australia after a month in Europe, here is a run-down on the final day of the Laser Worlds in Bitez, Turkey, the most exciting of my trip. Going into the last two races, Robert Scheidt (BRA), the 6-time winner was on 14 points, I was on 18 and American Mark Mendalblat was on 27, rounding out the top three.

The race committee sent us an hour earlier, to try to get two races in and hence make a 10 race series which would only then include a second discard. As we could only drop one race from the final series but potentially two from the qualifying races, the later fact would advantage Mendalblat by letting him discard an earlier bad race - if finished well..

We were delayed an hour waiting for the breeze to steady and build to about 15 knots. Robert kept a close eye on me during a few false starts and managed to get a little break on me when we finally got away. At the top mark he was about 10th and me about 15th. Meanwhile the American was in 3rd.

Robert is known for working his boat hard. On the reach he worked it too hard and was given the yellow flag

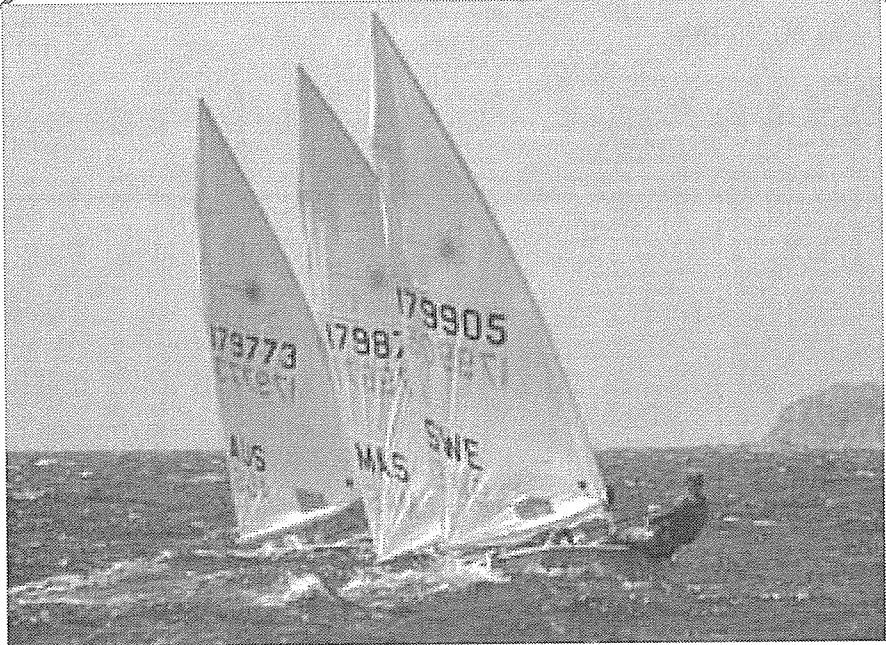
penalty for excessive body movement. As he turned his boat through 720 degrees I slipped past him. On the next run he steered straight up behind me, blanketing me. We came even, and then he slipped ahead on some good waves half way down the run. Toward the end of the leg I had the better run of the waves and rounded the bottom mark just head. We were now in 7th and 8th positions.

We traded tacks a few times on the next beat and he slipped past again when the breeze went lighter and shiftier. I gained again on the next run and we were level again on the last reach. All throughout, a Jury boat (with two members aboard) followed us closely, keeping us honest. I watched as Robert did three big pumps of his sail to try surf down a wave. I thought that surely that would be enough for the Jury to give him his second yellow flag and hence a disqualification from the race. I saw them look at each other, talk about it and pick up the yellow flag but then nothing.

After the bottom mark, there is a short upwind sprint to the finish. Robert led round the bottom mark by a boat length. I tacked off immediately and we split, virtually leaving the outcome at the mercy of any wind shifts.

Continued on page 26

Pics from the Open Worlds in Bitez—Turkey



Pics from the Open Worlds in Bitez—Turkey



Top left.
Michael Blackburn
being chased by
Sweden's Karl
Suneson & Malay-
sia's Kevin Lim.
Day 4.

Bottom left.
Michael Black-
burn, focused.

Top right.
Close quarters.
Day 4.

Bottom right.
Queensland's
Brendan Cassey.
Day 4.



Open Worlds last days racing from Michael Blackburn.

I thought I was looking good half way up but then it shifted the other way and Scheidt was ahead again. He dumped on top of me 50 metres from the finish line and looked sure to gain more points on me, but then he did something odd. He made his wiry body do three more large bounces. This time the Jury responded immediately. Scheidt had his second yellow flag and was disqualified from the race. I was 7th, the American 2nd.

Before the start of the final race my coach Arthur did the calculations and I could have won the regatta by keeping Robert Scheidt back to 5th or worse. The American had a harder task, having to finish 1st in the race to beat me. Before this regatta I've finished 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th in Laser Worlds so I decided trying to slow Robert down (and ignore the American's small chance) was the thing to do - it is my last Laser Worlds.

From the 5-min pre-start signal I sought out the Brazilian and matched raced him. We dodged and weaved among the 70-boat Gold fleet preparing to start the race plus a number of coach and jury boats. It's always exciting to see a match race within a fleet race and the waiting silver fleet, coaches and jury boats saw what was going on and started to follow the action closely. There were four general recalls and on a couple of the false-starts I ended up in a favoured position while in the other attempted starts he slipped away. All the recalls were black flag starts and the race committee disqualified those who were over, reducing the fleet by nine.

I've done many hours of match racing in Lasers during my regular training. And from that I know it is hard to trap or tag a nimble boat like a Laser. This was made more difficult by the

number of escape routes open to Robert by way of other Lasers, the committee vessel and other power boats. Also, the wind had now built to 20-25 knots, and conditions were ripe for the lanky Brazilian to use his remarkable upwind boat speed to escape any cover I could slap on him.

In the final 20 seconds before the actual start Scheidt found a gap on the line next to a fellow Brazilian and nestled close to him, eliminating my chances of luffing him over the line. I came in below the other Brazilian, losing some advantage, and tried to luff both. However, Scheidt had space to windward of him and did two quick tacks to give himself more space and I was stuck where I was. Once the start gun went I seemed to hit a lot of bad waves and Scheidt turned on the speed, forging ahead quickly. The other Brazilian seemed to 'disappear'.

I struggled in the next few minutes, being forced into a bad position by other boats and fell back. Meanwhile, Mendalblat cracked a great start from one end of the line and led to the top mark with Scheidt 3rd. Up the second beat I was still too far back to make a difference and retired from the race. At the finish it was USA 1, BRA 2. That meant Robert would win his seventh Laser Worlds, with Mendalblat 2nd and me 3rd.

Last year I was happy with 3rd at the worlds but this year is completely different.

However, I am happy that I sailed well, having visibly improved in some key areas and I eagerly look forward to future events.

Good sailing,
Michael.

After the race Robert said he was 'very adrenalinised' and gave me a hug.

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World Masters Results

Results GMaster

Scores take into account 1 discard

| No | Sailno | Name | Scores | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----|------------|----------------------|--------|------|---|---|----|------|---|---|---|-------|
| 1 | AUS 177791 | BETHWAITE Mark, Male | 18,0 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | (6) | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | SWE 174361 | OLIN Magnus, Male | 36,0 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 12 | (17) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | AUS 177734 | EDMISTON David, Male | 37,0 | (13) | 7 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 4 | USA 178622 | LOWNDES Robert, Male | 41,0 | 14 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | (ocs) |

Results Master

Scores take into account 1 discard

| No | Sailno | Name | Scores | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----|------------|-----------------------|--------|------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | AUS 172220 | DIBB Colin, Male | 21,0 | (20) | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | AUS 176895 | SCHLACHTER Jack, Male | 27,0 | 5 | (9) | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 3 | USA 171007 | USHER Tracy, Male | 47,0 | (24) | 19 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 |

Results Apprentice

Scores take into account 1 discard

| No | Sailno | Name | Scores | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----|------------|-------------------------|--------|------|----|---|----|-------|-----|---|------|----|
| 1 | AUS 171104 | BEYER Brett, Male | 20,0 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | (raf) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| 2 | GBR 179660 | COCKERILL Stephen, Male | 20,0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | (5) | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | AUT 171358 | LEHNER Martin, Male | 20,0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | (14) | 3 |
| 4 | IRL 177797 | WALSH Nick, Male | 34,0 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | (8) | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | EST 177937 | SEPP Mati, Male | 35,0 | (16) | 4 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 2 |
| 6 | ISR 167498 | KLARFELD Gal, Male | 54,0 | (17) | 6 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 9 |
| 7 | AUS 180201 | LEICESTER Hugh, Male | 66,0 | (20) | 18 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 17 |

Results RadialGGM

Scores take into account 1 discard

| No | Sailno | Name | Scores | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----|------------|------------------------|--------|---|------|-----|---|-------|---|---|---|------|
| 1 | USA 170375 | SEIDENBERG Peter, Male | 14,0 | 3 | 2 | (4) | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | NZL 170535 | HANSEN Jock, Male | 20,0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | (bfd) | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | RSA 160088 | HOLLIDAY Kenneth, Male | 22,0 | 5 | (10) | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | IRL 178148 | O'SULLIVAN Denis, Male | 22,0 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | (7) |
| 5 | AUS 174343 | FLAKELAR David, Male | 46,0 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 7 | (11) |

Results RadialGM

Scores take into account 1 discard

| No | Sailno | Name | Scores | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----|------------|----------------------|--------|------|----|------|------|-----|---|---|---|----|
| 1 | FRA 179950 | MARCON Poopy, Male | 15,0 | (9) | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | USA 168272 | SHATTUCK Aiden, Male | 17,0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | (5) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | GBR 176743 | WHIPP Peter, Male | 22,0 | (7) | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 4 | SUI 171487 | WELLMANN Heini, Male | 43,0 | 5 | 3 | 8 | (12) | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| 5 | NZL 167101 | MILLER Mark, Male | 51,0 | (10) | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 8 |
| 6 | BER 152234 | WILLIAMS Roger, Male | 57,0 | (14) | 12 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | AUS 178621 | LUCAS Geoff, Male | 63,0 | 8 | 8 | (13) | 4 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 13 |

Results RadialMW

Scores take into account 1 discard

| No | Sailno | Name | Scores | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----|------------|---------------------------|--------|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | AUS 178787 | PATTERSON Lyndall, Female | 8,0 | (2) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | AUS 178656 | BONNITCHA Jenni, Female | 18,0 | 1 | (3) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| 3 | NZL 163923 | WILSON Amanda, Female | 20,0 | (3) | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |

Results RadialApp

Scores take into account 1 discard

| No | Sailno | Name | Scores | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----|------------|-----------------------------|--------|-----|---|---|-----|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1 | HKG 170550 | EARLY David, Male | 13,0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | (3) | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 2 | TUR 176336 | YURDUM Aydin, Male | 17,0 | (4) | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 3 | FIN 176566 | BALTSCHIEFFSKY Martin, Male | 17,0 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | (7) |

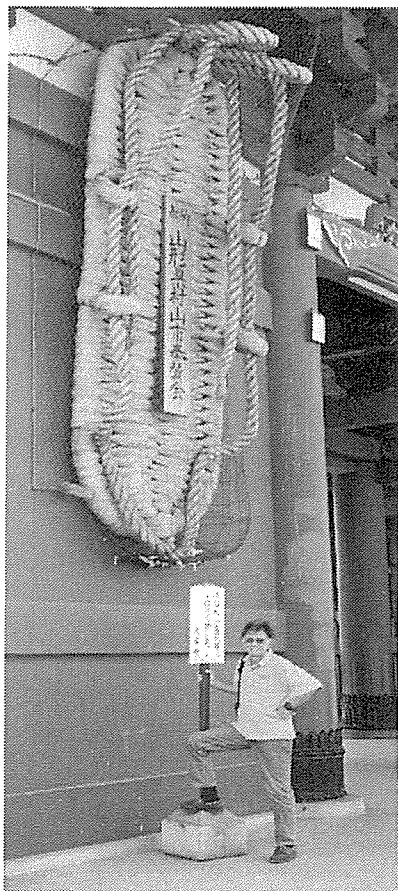


Dept. of Mirth

Why Men Are Just Happier People

What do you expect from such simple creatures? Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You can be president. You can never be pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. You can wear NO T-shirt to a water park. Car mechanics tell you the truth. The world is your urinal. You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too 'icky'. You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Same work, more pay. Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress \$5000. Tux rental -- \$100. People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them. The occasional well-rendered belch is practically expected. New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet. One mood -- all the time. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. You know stuff about tanks. A five-day vacation requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend. Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack. Three pairs of shoes are more than enough. You almost never have strap problems in public. You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes. Everything on your face stays its original colour. The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades. You only have to shave your face and neck. You can play with toys all your life. Your belly usually hides your big hips. One wallet and one pair of shoes one colour for all seasons. You can wear shorts no matter how

your legs look. You can "do" your nails with a pocket knife. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a moustache. You can do Christmas shopping for 25 relatives on December 24 in 25 minutes. No wonder men are happier! From Roger A-J Sydney



The Biggest Thong in the World

Placed on the outside wall of Sensoji Buddhist temple in Tokyo, Japan to commemorate all the pilgrims who made the journey there from the north of Japan in straw sandals. It's covered in netting to prevent the pigeons from nesting in it. Ed.



Dept. of Mirth

A woman goes into Rebel sports to buy a rod and reel for her grandson's twenty first birthday. She doesn't know which one to get so she just grabs one and goes over to the counter. A Rebel check-out Clerk is standing there wearing dark shades. She says, "Excuse me, sir. Can you tell me anything about this rod and reel?"

He says, "Ma'am, I'm completely blind, but if you'll drop it on the counter, I can tell you everything you need to know about it from the sound it makes." She doesn't believe him but drops it on the counter anyway. He says, "That's a eight-foot surf caster Shakespeare graphite 667 Model rod fitted with a Shimano Calcutta 400 reel, spooled with 20lb Berkley Fireline. It's a good all around combination and it's on sale this week for only \$199.00."

She says, "It's amazing that you can tell all that just by the sound of it dropping on the counter. I'll take it!" As she opens her purse, her credit card drops on the floor. She bends down to pick it up and accidentally breaks wind. At first she is really embarrassed, but then realizes it's not likely that the blind clerk could tell it was she who farted. He may not know that she was the only person around.

The man rings up the sale and says, "That'll be \$254.50 please." The woman is totally confused by this and asks, "Didn't you tell me it was on sale for \$199.00? How did you get \$254.50?"

He replies, "Yes, Ma'am, the rod and reel is \$199.00, but the duck caller is \$36.00 and the fishing bait is \$19.50."

HOW TO TELL THE SEX OF A FLY

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" She asked.

"Hunting flies" He responded.

"Oh. Killing any?" She asked.

"Yep, 3 males and 2 females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell?"

He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

From Roger A-J of Sydney

An Irishman, an Englishman, and a Scot were sitting in a pub. The view was fantastic, the beer excellent, and the food exceptional.

"Y'know" said the Scot, "I still prefer the pubs back home. Why in Glasgow there's a little pub called McTavish's where the owner will buy your 5th drink after you buy four."

"Well" said the Englishman, "at my local, the Red Lion, the publican there will buy your 3rd drink after you buy the first two."

"Ahhh that's nothing" said the Irishman. "Back home in Dublin there's Ryan's pub. Now the moment you set foot in the place they'll buy you a drink, then another, all the drinks you like.

Then when you've had enough they'll take you upstairs and see that you get laid. All on the house."

The Englishman and the Scot immediately pour scorn on the Irishman's claims. He swears every word is true.

"Well" said the Englishman, "Did this actually happen to you?"

"No, not me personally," said the Irishman.

"But it did happen to me sister."



Dept. of Mirth

David Flakelar sends

We are one

We are the people of a free nation of blokes, sheilas and the occasional wanker. We come from many lands (although a few too many come from New Zealand), and although we live in the best country in the world, we reserve the right to bitch and moan about it whenever we bloody well like.

We are one nation but divided into many states. First there is Victoria, named after a Queen who didn't believe in Lesbians. Victoria is the realm of Mossimo turtlenecks, café latte, Grand final day, and big horse races. Its capital is Melbourne whose chief marketing pitch is that "its liveable". At least, that's what they think. The rest of us think its too bloody cold and too bloody wet.

Next, there is NSW the realm of pastel shorts, macchiato with sugar, thin books read quickly and millions of dancing queens. It's capital Sydney has more queens than any other city in the world and is proud of it. The mascots are the Bondi lifesavers who pull their speedos up their cracks to separate the left and right sides of their brains.

Down south we have Tasmania, a state based on the notion that the family that bonks together, stays together. Everyone gets an extra chromosome at conception. Maps of the state bring smiles to the sternest faces. It holds the record for a single mass shooting, which the yanks continually try to better.

South Australia is the province of half decent reds, a festival of foreigners and bizarre axe murderers. SA is the state of innovation. Where else can you effectively reuse country bank vaults and barrels as a Snowtown, just out of Adelaide (also named after a queen). They used to hold the Grand Prix there but the views of Adelaide sent the Formula One drivers to sleep at the wheel.

Western Australia is too far away from anywhere to be relevant. It's main claim to fame is that it doesn't have daylight saving because, if it did, all the men would get erections on the bus on the

way to work. WA was the last state to stop importing convicts and many of them still work in government and business.

The Northern Territory is the red heart of our land. Outback plains, sheep stations the size of Europe, Kangaroos, Jackeroos, Emus and Uluru, and dusty kids with big smiles. It also has the biggest beer consumption of anywhere on the planet and its creek beds have the highest aluminium content of anywhere too. Although the Territory is the centre-piece of our national culture, few of us live there and the rest prefer to fly over it on the way to Bali.

Then there's Queensland. While any mention of God seems silly in a document defining a nation of half arsed sceptics, it is worth noting that God probably made Queensland as it's beautiful one day and perfect the next. Why it's full of dickheads remains a mystery.

Oh yes, and theirs Canberra. The less said the better.

We are citizens of Oz, are united by highways, whose treacherous twists and turns kill more of us each year than murderers. We are united in our lust for international recognition, so desperate for praise we leap for joy when the rag-tag gaggle of I O C officials tells us that Sydney is better than Beijing. We are united by a democracy so flawed that a political party, even a red neck gun toting one, can get a million votes and not get one seat in federal parliament, not that we are whinging, we leave that to our Pommie immigrants.

We want to make "no worries mate" our national phrase, "she'll be right mate" our national attitude, and "Waltzing Matilda" our national anthem. (who cares that its about a sheep-stealing crim who commits suicide).

We love sport so much that our news casters can read the death toll from a sSail boat race and still tell us whose winning. We are the best in the world at all the sports that count, like, cricket, netball, rugby league and union, AFL, roo shooting, two up and horse racing. We also have the tallest rock, tastiest pies, worst dressed Olympians on the planet. Only in Oz can a pizza get to your house faster than an Ambulance. Only here are the bank doors left open with no security guards while the pens are chained to the desks.

Stand proud Aussies—we root, we shoot, we vote. We are girthed by sea and pissed by lunchtime. Even though we might seem racist, closed minded, sport obsessed little people at least we feel better for it.

I am, you are, we are Australians.

PS. We also shoot and eat the two animals on our National Crest!!!!

No other country in the world has this distinction.

NSW & ACT LASER ASSOCIATION

Regatta entries to:- P O Box 43 Boolaroo 2284



Brett Beyer
Twice World Apprentice
Masters Champion