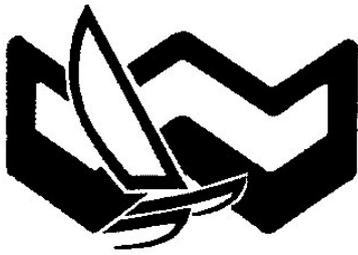


February 2005



# Windrush Wavelengths

Newsletter of the Windrush Catamaran Assn of Western Australia

## Thompson wins 2005 Windrush Nationals National Cat and Supersloop Champion

Report by NormThompson Pt Kembla SC

Port Kembla Sailing Club hosted the 30th Nationals over the new years holiday break first and foremost I would like to acknowledge a few of our members for their efforts in making this regatta the success it was. Nothing anywhere can happen on an empty tank so to our ladies in the canteen Sylvia Ledger, Frances Schneider, Gillian Blakey and a special thank you to Pauline Hamer who was on deck for all but one day over the entire regatta, catering for twenty boats, support crews family and friends from the welcome BBQ through the final day these girls never missed a beat they made a most difficult task look ever so easy, your combined efforts are most appreciated we on the committee say thank you very much.

Also we must mention Ray Jones our club vice captain who operated the start/committee boat setting courses, recording and radioing results back to PKSC as well as being permanent officer of the day for the entire regatta Ray dealt with a multitude of jobs on a daily basis. He was ably assisted by Tony Jennings, Laurie Hinchcliffe, Ralf Steyer and Bill Ledger from

PKSC large cats 4.3>, Phil Mayo from Wangi Amateur Sailing Club for donating his expertise in digital photography and computer skills by Supplying the photographs throughout our nationals. The experience and professionalism of this team through-

Place scoring 7 points to take the National crown. This was an incredible result as Rob came over with his wife Viki and his mum Mavis only to have their car stolen just a day or so before series one began. Nobody needs the problems or hassles create by losing

your car 6000 kilometers from home, and living in a tent this only adds more credit to this result. Fortunately Rob's car was located in Sydney and returned with only minor damage before the start of series two. Second in the cat series was Warren Pfeffer on his brand new boat Hot Pepper Warren Speer's Point Sailing Club scored one first, three seconds and one third for 13 points. Taking third



Race start for the super sloops in the national titles Port Kembla SC

place was local sailor Jack Kroek PKSC on Jackpot scoring one first, one second, three thirds and one fifth place 17 points.

Following and not to far away from fourth through to seventh was Ross Thompson Westwind PKSC fourth place 24 points. Robin Holmes Push our other West Australian visitor from Whitfords Sea Sport's in fifth place 28 points. Taking sixth place was Andy Blakey Seachange PKSC scoring 29 points and in seventh was another local John Van Meegen Rush PKSC 33 points.

out this regatta was first class we are both fortunate and grateful for your efforts thank you gentlemen.

Series one Cat and Sloop rigged was held in mainly light to moderate breezes, we had nine boats starting in the cat series and only five starters in the sloop division. Rob Thompson Strawberry Wave from Whitfords Sea Sports one of our Western Australian sailors displayed masterful skills to totally dominate the cat-rigged series scoring five firsts and one second place ,

There was some close racing in the Sloop Rigged Series, with local sailors Gary & Jack Schneider Fluidriven PKSC finally winning out with five 5 firsts and 1 second, scoring 7 points overall to snare the prize. Alan Miller Ali Cat from Bellinggen River Sailing Club secured the services of Lawrence Holmes from Western Australia who is over on holidays with his father. Lawrence a bright young teenager was more than capable this pairing sailed really well telling up 2 firsts and 4 seconds scoring 10 points overall. Taking third position was Ryan Mayo Fade to Gray from Wangi Amateur Sailing Club who teamed up with his father Phil this pair were very consistent having 1 second and 5 thirds scoring 17 points overall. Rounding up the rest were the Davis brothers Michael & Steven sailing on Poseidon also from Wangi with 26 points with another local pairing Norm Thomson and Blake Schneider PKSC on Dominator in position number five on 32 points.

Below the top guns in Cat Rig Series One Rob Thompson & Warren Pfeffer. Series Two the Super Sloops very hot field lined up for this series seventeen boats in all down a little in what we had first estimated, but what we lacked in numbers was overshadowed with quality available on the day. This series was also held light to moderate breezes 8-12 knots for the first three races and once again Rob Thompson on Strawberry Wave from Whitfords Sea Sports WA

Mastered the light conditions for three straight wins from as many starts. Gary Schneider Fluiddriven PKSC and Alan Miller Ali Cat from Bellinggen River Sailing Club were never to far away.

Race four after scoring a couple of top five finishes Grant Roe Updraft from Chelsea Sailing Club won this heat with Ryan Mayo in second position we will be keeping a keen eye on this young man he is being guided by Warren Pfeffer and will most certainly be a champion of the future.



Third place in this heat was Jack Kroek on Jackpot PKSC closing the field up a little

Races five and six along with the stronger breezes arrive, with local sailor Gary Schneider Fluidriven PKSC showing his skill in the heavier conditions coring two wins back to back with Alan Miller Ali Cat Bellinggen River Sailing Club and young Ryan Mayo Fade to Gray showing his liking for the heavier winds, Rob Thompson Strawberry Wave and Warren Pfeffer Hot Pepper Speer's Point Sailing Club all filling the minor placing for these two heats.

Heat seven the final race the bulk of the fleet crossing the line on starboard tack as the race went on the winds grew stronger three points separate first and second and a cluster of three sailors are closing in for third overall.

Gary Schneider Fluidrive mastered the prevailing conditions to win the final heat and Warren Pfeffer Hot Pepper Speer's Point Sailing Club in second place followed by Rob Thompson Strawberry Wave taking third in this heat and also claiming the National Title by a single point. Final results were Rob Thompson Strawberry Wave



Port Kembla sailing Club

Whitfords Sea Sports Club WA 12 points being our new Super Sloop Champion 2nd Gary Schneider Fluidriven Port Kembla Sailing Club NSW 13 points 3rd Alan Miller Bellinggen River Sailing Club NSW 20 points. 4th Warren Pfeffer Hot Pepper Speer's Point Sailing Club NSW 24 points 5th Grant Roe Updraft Chelsea Sailing Club Victoria 28 points.

Youth in the windrush ranks is looking most promising with some great talent emerging from this regatta, Ryan Mayo from Wangi Amateur Sailing Club NSW, who was sixstth overall in the super sloop class. Also from the same club are Michael and Steven Davis both these young men rapidly improved as the regatta progressed. Lawrence Holmes from Western Australia crewed on the second placed sloop boat showing he has ample skills. Blake Schneider being paired with a heavier skipper dis-

played skills beyond his years, the word is Blake may well be sailing cat rig next season all looking good for the future in sailing.

Congratulations to all our winners and place getters, also than you to all who traveled especially our interstate sailors from WA & Vic without your support and efforts our national regatta would not be the spectacle they are. Friendships and camaraderie really are truly alive and well, competitiveness remains high on the bar, as old friends get reacquainted and new ones are forged. Once again thanks goes out to Port Kembla Sailing Club for hosting our nationals.

NSW Windrush Assoc. Secretary Norm Thomson

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Because of an oversight after the state titles at Carnarvon the change to the constitution regarding the timing of the AGM was not lodged with the appropriate government department within 30 days. This now has to be voted on again prior to holding the AGM which will be held at Busselton and if passed the AGM will follow. Time and details in the Notice of Race. Please be there we need new faces on the committee.

Meeting are only held about every 3 months.

**HMAS Perth Memorial Regatta**

The HMAS Perth Memorial Regatta was held on Sunday the 20th February, this was also a heat of the interclub challenge

All boats sailing were supersloop with the exception of Kevin Milligan sailing cat rig. The wind came in quite fiercely as we headed to the first mark with wind gusts lifting the boats up and giving them a good old shake. At the end of the first triangle the supersloops retired to prevent their jibs from being pulverised leaving Kevin to soldier on unable to jibe at the appropriate marks he was able to do a granny and sail at a leisurely pace to the finish line winning the regatta for the 14 foot cat class and the round of the interclub challenge. Congratulations Kevin.

## Windrush State Championships at Busselton Easter

**NOTICE OF RACE FOR THE STATE TITLES AT BUSSLETON EASTER**

THE NOTICE OF RACE FOR THE STATE TITLES TO BE HELD AT GEOGRAPHE BAY YACHT CLUB, BUSSELTON HAS BEEN MAILED. IF YOU ARE UNFINANCIAL PLEASE FORWARD YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES PRIOR TO THE STATES to **WCA of WA, c/- G.Norwood, 1 Teano Place, Marangaroo WA 6064.**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL SUBMISSION at 2005 TITLES****ATTENTION ALL SLOOP SKIPPER AND CREWS.**

The submission put forward at the National Council meeting was passed and comes into force at the state titles.

Addition of Rule 9 (Classes) now reads.

**Rule 9.1**

Minimum combined weight of skipper and crew is to be 120kg. Persons being weighed must be wearing only swimsuits.

**Rule 9.2**

Weights must be added to the boat at a suitable location if skipper/crew weight is below the specified limit.

Please make sure you have some appropriate weights with you at the state titles if you think you are under weight.

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**ASSN COMMITTEE**

Vice President Paul Todd 94474884  
Committee Noel Hardie 93102716  
Treasurer Glennis Norwood  
Newsletter Brian Norwood  
93432546

**INTERCLUB CHALLENGE HEAT at WSSC Pinnaroo Point Whitfords**

The final heat of the interclub challenge will be at the Whitfords Sea Sports Club at Pinnaroo Point on Saturday the 12 of March briefing at 1.30 on the beach with a 2 pm start

**NATIONALS CHELSEA VIC 2006**

I know the nationals have just been run, but it is time to start planning for Chelsea. It is an ideal place to take the family, its now just about blokes going sailing.

Chelsea is a sea side suburb on Port Phillip Bay with the city in easy reach by electric train (great market according to Viki). Or travel down to Mornington, Rosebud or Portsea where you can visit the National Park and underground defense system, which protected the Bay during the war, or even visit the beach where Harold Holt vanished. And if you are really game you can always go for a ride on Arthur's Seat Cable Car.

The Blue Gum Caravan Park is a 10 minute drive and caters for all types of accommodation. Once at the park all types of take away foods are within walking distance (no cooking ladies) with the best being a huge hotel and inexpensive restaurant including a most unusual children's play area.

My 84 year old mother "Mavis" is ready to go back to Chelsea, she enjoyed it so much in 2003. SO COME ON GIVE IT SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT.

Depending on numbers we might be able to use the 6 boat trailer or double up on single trailers, for anybody who hasn't driven the Nullabor, the road is excellent with accommodation at each service station, either motel or camping and all places have fresh water Hot showers.

So come on sailors and back up crew and wives lets make 2006 a well attended regatta.

**Strawberry Wave**

## WINDRUSH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2005 REVIEW

### Ramblings by Rob Thompson

Headed east on Boxing Day, two boats and all the camping gear, cruising into Norseman when an oncoming police car threw the flashing lights and indicator on, did a quick "U" turn and was back wanting us to pull over, meanwhile I was wondering what I had done to deserve all this attention in the middle of no where. Three officers piled out to have me blow in the bag and check the license.

Drove on into the night, but had to take it easy as the kangaroos were thick, both dead and alive, we were also battling a strong head wind for the next three days. Stayed in Mildura for 1 day, loaded Mum and her gear into the back seat and headed off for Port Kembla.

If you've ever wondered where corn is grown, it's in the middle of nowhere between Hay and Narrandera all flood irrigated from the Murrumbidgee River, corn as far as the eye could see.

Called in to say "good day" to the Dog on the Tucker Box, had a coffee and pushed on up the Hume Highway to Moss Vale, had Pizza for tea, looked at real estate prices in the shop next door and decided it was far to dear to live here. Phoned Norm Thomson to ask if anybody was at the Yacht club. He said "No, but I'll meet you at Albion Park and lead you to the club."

It was only a short drive to our meeting place, but all down hill through MacQuarie Pass, the old Falcon was really smoking up the brakes. Met Norm at the bottom and followed him to the Y.C. where Ross Fife was also waiting, they stuck around to help put up the tent and settle in, at the same time turning on the hot water system and showing us all the facilities. They left about an hour and a half later after giving us a key to the club-rooms.

The next day was New Year's Eve, we had been warned not to leave valuable around, so Viki put a number of items in the car and off we went to the local shopping centre, which was multi-storied with huge under cover parking. We elected to park outside near a Kmart tyre store and went in search of bread, milk and reading matter for Viki, half an hour later with bags of shopping returned to find the car and vanished

Had vanished. Luckily Viki had her mobile and so rang 000, who were very helpful. Found a taxi and made our way back to the Y.C

The mind was running wild with scenarios of how to get the boats back home, how to get mum to Mildura; you don't realize how important the car is when you are on the other side of the country.

We had a phone call late that same night from the Mount Druitt police to say our car had been involved in a road rage incident and that the car was now in a storage holding unit. Rang the towing company and he confirmed what the police had said, that the car looked undamaged. Being a long weekend the police wanted the Falcon for four days so that the finger print unit could go over it.

Back at the Y.C families and boats were arriving, it was now tent city in front of the club, million dollar views across the lake or inland towards the mountains, the lake was very big as the cycle track was 37 km circumference. The jelly fish were also large, looked like basketballs with sausages for tentacles floating along. On the light days when you could see them, it paid to avoid them, otherwise the boat could just shudder to a stop.

New Year's day was scrutinering and invitation race in the afternoon, the forecast for the next few days was 10-15 knots. Nothing went to plan as the wind was up and down and very rarely stayed in the same direction which was good, it tested everybody, some more than others, even the start boat crew got frustrated.

The invitation race was a runaway win to the guys on the Super Slops. R Mayo (Fade To Grey) and A Miller (Ail Cat).

That night the welcome BBQ was at the club, most people retired early as it was going to be full on for the next two days.

Allan Miller took Robin Holmes lad Lawrence as crew and did very well with 2 wins early and 4 second places to finish overall 2nd only three

Three points behind Gary and Jack Schneider.

In the cats my good fortune continued, to come out and win the first five races with Warren Pfeffer and Jack Krock never far away. Robin Holmes sailed a consistent series to finish 5th overall.

Tuesday morning was Heat 7, which I didn't sail, as we wanted to be in Sydney by lunchtime to pick up our beloved Falcon. Norm Thomson kindly drove up, then waited around until the fingerprint lady was finished, then guided us back to Port Kembla.

Wednesday was lay day, so with wheels again we set off to look around. First stop was the Buddhist temple which is the largest in the Southern Hemisphere built on 29 hectares donated by the Wollongong Council. Had trouble getting mum out of the car, she wasn't going to let it out of her sight. Spent a couple of hours wandering through the buildings and gardens, then drove across to Hill 60 which is a look-out with one heck of a view. It was so high that the hill was used as a launch pad for the local hang gliders and also has a tower for sea rescue. Continued on and lunched where the lake meets the Pacific Ocean, then finished the drive around the lake finishing back at our campsite.

During the afternoon, Grant Roe and family, along with Bruce Weider and his mother had arrived from Chelsea as they were just sailing the Super Sloop series, as were a couple of locals Ross Fiffe and G.Laws.

So 17 Super Slops ready to do battle in light shifty conditions, similar to the early Cat races. Long before the one minute gun boats were moving into position, which set the

Tone for most of the starts, had some individual recalls and one general recall, which has been rare in recent times.

Day 2 was welcomed with more breeze, so the course was lengthened, only trouble was I couldn't spot the marks as they faded into the dark background, even through the wind had filled in, it continued to shift.

Day 3 was Heat 7 and a 20-25 knot south easterly had blown in, local sailor Gary Schneider lead from start to finish with Warren Pfeffer second followed by myself. A number of boats didn't start. Heat 7 and there was one capsized

In the regatta all 15 races were sailed with only 2 shortened courses.

Presentation night was moved to the Lake Illawarra Yacht Club, which had just hosted the Flying Ant Nationals with boats from Mounts Bay filling the first 6 places.

This was a huge club with a number of function rooms, a large room full of poker machines, much to Viki's delight and the main bar area had full length glass windows over looking the lake. We had a private room downstairs. The food was cheap, excellent and more than you could eat in most cases.

The evening got under way with thanks to all the people who volunteered their time. The three young boys from Wangi Sailing Club, Ryan Mayo and brothers Michael and Steven Davies were presented with Youth Championship awards.

Lawrence Holmes crewed for Allan Miller to take out 2nd place in the Sloop Series. Robin Holmes sailing "Push" was awarded first on handicap in the Super Sloops.

Digger Hamer sails "Silver Fox", he is over 70 years of age and sailed every race, now he sails Super Sloop with all the trapeze equipment, but hasn't quite got around to using any of it yet. So he sailed all the heavy races hanging off the foot straps, quite remarkable. He was spotted once on the wire returning to the beach. He was presented with some trapeze equipment to hang in the bedroom and practice, much to Pauline

His wife's disgust. "Not in my bedroom" she was heard to say. Digger was also ready for Chelsea next year, but hadn't mentioned that to Pauline either.

Even with our bad luck at the beginning of this regatta, I can say that once again every one enjoyed the sailing and for those of you who could not make it this year, Chelsea in 2006 isn't that far away, so start planning your holidays now.

Strawberry Wave.

## Thanks for the piets NSW

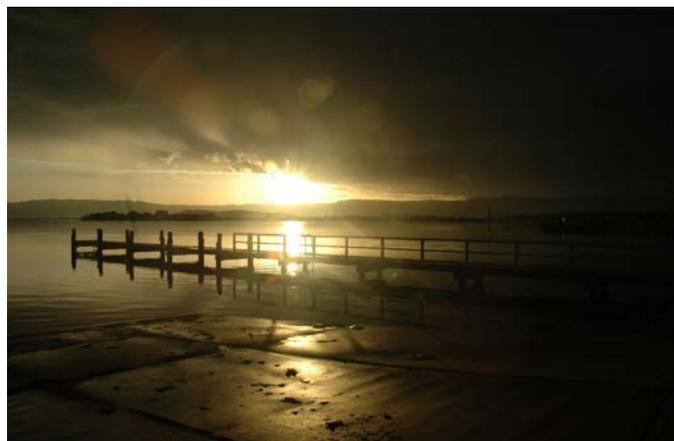
Thanks to Robin Holmes for getting the great photo's from photographers at the NSW Nationals. There were a number of people taking digital photos and they didn't just confine themselves to taking sailing piets but also some beautiful shots of the sunset over the bay. No doubt Robin will be showing of the photos on the Windrush web site .



Racing underway at 2005 nationals



Some wild jibing at the 2005 nationals



Sunset over the sailing venue