

## **Jindabyne Sailors go to Nacra Nationals**

With Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club taking a break from racing over the Christmas New Year Period, three Nacra Catamarans made the trip to Speers Point Amateur on Lake Macquarie to compete in the 43<sup>rd</sup> Nacra Catamaran's National Championships. This regatta was held from the 30<sup>th</sup> December 23 to 5<sup>th</sup> January 24. All Australian states were represented and were joined by several teenage sailors from New Caledonia.

Alistair and Lucy cross sailed their Nacra 5.8 Baru in the largest fleet of 25 similar boats. Nacra 16 square sailors Alan Davis on Alotta and Tim Symons on Bean Counter sailed in the smallest fleet. The Jindabyne sailors enjoyed rubbing shoulders with the country's elite Nacra catamaran sailors and made many new friends.

Twelve races were run over five sailing days during the week. 56 boats competed in six different classes of Nacras split over five divisions. Most of the races were held in very strong winds of over 20 knots with the fourth and fifth days including large waves from a strong Southerly Buster. Many capsize resulted in an overall tally of over 70. The large waves also caused havoc with sailors being washed from their boats including Alan.

At the completion of the Regatta, Alan won the Nacra 16 square class with Tim second. The local sailors enjoyed the regatta though the conditions were extremely tough. The next Nacra Catamarans National Championships will be held in 2025 in South Australia.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club recommenced racing on the afternoon of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January with the running of race seven of the 2023-24 Point-score series. Freya and Hayden Slater manned the start boat while Elizabeth Slater, Thor Slater, Mark Norling and Dudley manned the rescue boat. The North westerly breeze varied dramatically during the race with 12 to 15 knots at the start and only 5 knots at the finish, half an hour later.

Eleven boats rigged up to compete in the two divisions. Andrew & Rebecca Rae and Ross Lawley didn't start in their races. Three catamarans competed in the Division 2 race. Adam Robinson led the fleet away and was chased by Damian & Zarley Goninan and Tim Symons. They sailed three laps of a Windward / Return course between a start mark near the quarry mark and the peninsular mark.

The lead swapped several times throughout the race between Adam and Damian. Adam slipped past on the final downwind leg to the finish line at the start mark to finish first. He was closely followed by Damian & Zarley with Tim bring up the rear. The yardstick corrected times gave Adam the win from Tim and Damian.

Six Division 1 monohulls completed the race. Three Lasers were joined by Craig & Joshua Rowe on their MG 14 and Jason & Byron Abbott on their NS 14 sailing in a Point-score race for the first time this season. Rod Baillie led the fleet around the two-lap course, though Craig & Josh chased hard with good use of their blue spinnaker. Rod finished first followed by Craig & Josh, Stephen French, Kerry McGaw, Jason & Byron and John & Kim Kleven on their Flying Fifteen. Rod took the yardstick corrected times win from Stephen, Kerry, Craig & Josh, Jason & Byron and John & Kim.

## Back to normal at LJSC

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club recommenced the 2023-24 Twilight series with the running of heat nine on the evening of Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January. A good turn out of 14 boats rigged up to enjoy the warm and sunny conditions along with the South Easterly breeze of around 5 knots. Ross Lawley and Lynne Burgess manned the start boat while Wayne Ryan and Rebecca Rae manned the rescue boat. They set a triangle course with the start mark near Curiosity Bay. The plans for a starboard rounding course changed with a shift in the wind minutes before the start to a Port rounding course.

Six catamarans sailed the Division 2 race and started first. Damian and Zarli Goninan on their Nacra 5.8 and Andrew & Emma Rae on their Hobie 16 had great starts and led the fleet away in the light breeze. Damian & Zali made great use of the available breeze and moved to a commanding lead. Alan Davis followed while battling with Alistair Cross & Gavin Fuller, Tim Symons, Adam Robinson and Team Rae.

After sailing two triangle laps around the club, Quarry and start marks separated by a windward / return lap between club and start marks, Damian led the fleet to the finish line at the Club mark. He was followed by Alan, Alistair, Tim, Adam and team Rae. Damian & Zarli took the win on handicap corrected times followed by Team Rae, Alan, Alistair, Tim and Adam.

The eight monohulls competing in the Division 1 race included five Lasers who fought for position throughout the race. They were joined by Jason & Byron Abbott on their NS 14, Peter Baker on his Sabre and three generations of the Slater family on a club Corsair. The fleet sailed a triangle lap the same as the cats plus a windward work to the finish line at the club mark. Dave Rubin finished first followed by Rod Baillie, Kerry McGaw, Steve Osborne, Stephen French, Jason & Byron, Elizabeth, Freya, Hayden & Alan Slater and Peter. Kerry McGaw took the handicap corrected times win from Dave, Steve O, Stephen F, Rod, Jason, Peter and the Slater family.

Lake Jindabyne sailing Club ran races five and six of the 2023-24 Foundation Cup series for Division 2 catamarans on the cloudy afternoon of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January. No monohulls rigged up to compete in the scheduled Sir William Hudson Trophy races. Michael Fearnside and Ross Lawley manned the start boat while Duncan Higgs, Peter Baker and Narissa Hamilton manned the rescue boat.

Nine catamarans slowly made their way from the beach to the start line on the main lake near the peninsular mark. They struggled to move in the extremely light Northerly breeze of maybe 2 knots. The start was delayed while the cats made their way to the start and to wait for a bit more breeze. The cats ended up with a slow start on a port tack which eventually took them to the mountain mark. Andrew & Rebecca Rae on their Hobie 16 led the fleet for most of the way. Damian & Zarli Goninan slipped around the mountain mark first, followed by Doug Paterson and John Scott-Hamilton. Tim Symons hit the mark while trying to sneak past the Raes. He had to complete a penalty turn on the next leg.

The downwind leg back to the start mark changed to a windward leg when the wind shifted to the South West. After about half an hour of painfully slow progress, Damian finished first followed by John, Doug, Andrew Kennedy sailing his newly purchased Nacra 16 square for the first time Tim, Alan Davis, Thor, Freya & Hayden Slater and Team Rae. Adam Robinson retired from the race and accepted a tow from the rescue boat. Damian & Zarli took the yardstick corrected times win from Doug, Andrew K, Tim, John, Alan, Team Rae and Team Slater.

A second race was setup as a brisk Easterly breeze of around 10 knots had arrived. As the Slater family returned to the beach, eight boats lined up for race two. A windward / return course between the start and town marks was set. The cats took off in the stronger breeze with all using their trapezes to good effect.

The fleet completed three laps of this course while the breeze dropped again back to around 5 knots. Tim capsized on the second lap after having a trapeze failure. The rescue boat crew helped him right the boat and he returned to the beach. After a tight battle between Alan, John and Damian & Zarli on the bigger Nacra 5.8, Alan crossed the finish line first followed by John and Damian. After a close battle of their own, Adam and Doug finished next followed by Andrew K and Team Rae. Alan took the yardstick corrected times win from Adam, Doug, Damian, John, Andrew K and Team Rae.

## **New Members Learn to Sail at LJSC**

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club is running its biggest adult learn to sail course yet with nine students over two Saturdays. The course is a mix of complete beginners and those who have sailed before and want to learn again. All of the students are new members of the club.

Day one on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January could not have been better conditions. Low winds in the morning gave the opportunity to do some theory, including tacking practice, capsizing and boat rigging. The two water sessions delivered a mix of winds, from consistent 8km/h to some gusts and lulls, giving the chance for the learners to practice in a range of conditions, including paddling back to the club at the end of the day.

For the first time the club had all three of our Corsairs on the water for the training, with an instructor on each boat. Thanks to the instructors for planning a comprehensive course and the volunteers for the safety boat cover.

Sarah a course participant said, "Such an awesome experience! Having had zero sailing experience before, I had no idea what to expect. The instructors were great - they relayed information in a way that was easy to understand and carry out. It was such a great feeling to come away with a new set of skills after just one day out of the lake. We all had a lot of fun and look forward to the next one!"

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's regular Twilight race planned for Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January was cancelled due to heavy rain and zero wind.

The club ran heat eight of the 2023-24 Point-score series on the sunny afternoon of Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Steve Osborne and Narissa Hamilton manned the start boat while Karen Green and Nic Luntungan maned the rescue boat. Steve set a windward / return course from a start near the Clay Pits swimming area in strong westerly breeze of 10 to 18 knots with gusts over 20 to 25 knots.

Nine boats rigged up to sail in very blustery conditions with the cat sailors having to sit on their boats on the beach to keep them under control. The cats set off for the start and sheltered on the Eastern shore of Lion Island while waiting for the start. Four Nacra 16 squares were joined by a Nacra 5.8 and a Maricat 4.3. The cats zoomed off from the start on a fast windward work to the club mark. They then returned to the start mark on a fast downwind leg.

The cats completed four laps of the course plus a windward work to the finish at the club mark. Thor Slater and Damian & Zarli Goninan didn't complete the course. Alan Davis led the four remaining nacras around the course. He was chased by Adam Robinson, Tim Symons and Doug Paterson. These three had a race within the race with the lead changing hands several times. Alan finished first followed by Doug, Adam and Tim only 35 seconds apart.

Three Lasers battled against the windy conditions around three laps of the same course as the cats. Stephen French led the small fleet on his Laser full rig and was chased by Kerry McGaw and Iain Wood on Laser radial rigs. They finished in that order.

## **Sailors Brave Wild Winds**

A wild gusty Westerly wind greeted the sailors at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club on the afternoon of Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January. The wind was recorded at over 20 knots with gusts over 30 knots. This made rigging the catamarans on the beach a difficult and dangerous task. So, the cat sailors decided not to sail.

Five brave Laser sailors rigged their boats to compete in heat eleven of the 2023-24 Twilight series. John Baird maned the start boat while Tery Lee and Kerry McGaw manned the rescue boat. John set a Windward / Return course between the start mark near the Clay Pits and the Cub mark.

The sailors zoomed around three laps of this course plus a windward leg to the finish line at the club mark. All of the sailors had to recover from capsizes around the course in the gusty conditions. Steve Osborne and Stephen French sailed their Laser full rigs and battled for the lead. They were chased by Iain Wood on a Laser radial and Freya and Hayden Slater sailing Laser 4.7s.

After around 40 minutes of crazy sailing, Steve O led the fleet to the finish line followed by Stephen F, Iain, Hayden and Freya. The handicap corrected times gave Steve O the win from Stephen F, Hayden, Iain and Freya.

The club's second adult learn to sail day was held on the 27th January. The nine participants were split between three Corsairs, with an instructor in each boat. The morning breeze was light with the students practising leaving and returning to the shore, rules of the water and tacking and gybing around two buoys.

After lunch the wind had increased with conditions challenging the new sailors as they set out on an adventure sail to Hatchery Bay. The wind was strong and gusty, allowing them to practise reading the wind and responding to gusts. On the return from their adventure the students continued sailing around the club waters, learning tacking in high winds and hiking to balance the boat. All boats then returned to shore perfectly with high fives all around.

Once the boats were put away, the instructors held a short presentation and celebration party for the new sailors, with their families and friends and LJSC members invited. The training Optimist was put on the lawn for the children to play on, with our Green Fleet children teaching the visiting children the basics of sailing.

Thank you to the course instructors and the club volunteers who drove the rescue boat during the course. This adult learn to sail course has been our club's biggest yet with all three Corsairs used. Welcome to our new sailors and we hope to see you at the club on Wednesdays or Sunday mornings for Green Fleet.

On 26<sup>th</sup> January Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club completed a detailed review of its facilities and training activities to continue its operation as an Australian Sailing Discover Sailing Centre. This accreditation allows the club to provide Australian Sailing approved training courses to its members. Thanks go to Thor Slater and various members who put in the behind the scenes work to ensure that Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club continues as a Discover Sailing Centre.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club ran the 2023-24 Sprint Series on the sunny and hot afternoon of Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January. Six races were planned for the regatta style series. Unfortunately, the wind didn't show up and only three races were completed. There wasn't much sprinting during the races as the sailors struggled to sail the course in the very light North Westerly breeze of maybe 2 knots.

John Baird and John Russell manned the start boat and along with assistance from Kerry McGaw set a Windward return course from a start near Curiosity Bay to marks set near the Clay Pits. Two Windward marks were set to give the Division 2 catamarans a longer course than the Division 1 monohulls. Mark Norling and Sebastian French manned the rescue boat.

The planned start of race one was delayed while waiting for the wind to arrive and boats to get to the start line. The 3 races were held back-to-back with a bit of a delay between each race, waiting for more wind. All three races were shortened from 3 laps to one lap. Five catamarans competed in Division 2 and eleven monohulls competed in Division 1.

After the completion of 3 races, Alan Davis took the Division 2 win followed by Doug Paterson, John Scott-Hamilton, Thor & Freya Slater and Tim Symons. In Division 1, Dave Rubin took the win from Kerry McGaw, Stephen French, Steve Osborne, Iain Wood, John & Kim Kleven, Hayden Slater, Terry Lee. Jo Wright & the She Sails Ladies, Jason & Byron