

## Tricky wind and Close Racing on Lake Jindabyne

Story by Tim Symons, photos by Louise

After an Extremely windy day on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, the Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club members apprehensively rigged their boats to compete in heat 11 of the 2017/18 Twilight series. The wind dropped as race time came around and the five catamarans and nine mono-hulls took to the water. John Byrne and Ross Lawley started the catamarans first, as usual and sent them off from the Club mark into an extremely variable and shifting Westerly breeze. Michael Fearnside and Louise manned the rescue boat and watched on as the cats battled each other and the tricky breeze to the Bay mark for the first time.

Barney Davis led the cat fleet around the Bay mark and off on a long reaching leg to the Mountain mark. He created a great lead on the rest of the cats only to sail into a hole in the wind on his return to the Quarry mark and watched helplessly as the others zoomed up to reach him by the mark. The cats then set off on the windward / leeward sausage lap.

The mono-hull fleet started 5 minutes after the cats to battle each other and the tricky breeze. John Baird slipped to the front of the fleet and built up a handy lead on the first triangle lap around the Peninsular mark. The variable breeze allowed the fleet to catch up to John just as it did with Barney in the cat's race. Phil Daly and Nick Kirshner chased John and slipped to the front to lead the mono-hull fleet.

After two triangle laps separated by a sausage lap, the cats came to the finish line at the Bay mark with Barney and Tim Symons battling for the lead in a softening breeze. Both boats approached the finish line on ort tack. Barney tacked suddenly onto starboard tack to cross the line and the two boats bumped each other. Tim then made a 360 degree penalty turn while Barney crossed the line. In the meantime, the other cats had caught up to the two leaders on the final windward work. Adam Robinson & James finished 6 seconds after Tim, followed by Ian Foster and Andrew & Jake Kennedy. Adam and James took the win on handicap corrected times followed by Andrew & Jake, Ian, Tim and Barney.

Phil & Nick led the mono-hull fleet to the finish line followed by John with Jason Abbott 14 seconds later. Then came the Laser radial sailors, Martin Van Weel, Kerry McGaw, Rod Baillie, Gote Vikstrom, Sam Bylett and Hamish Greenwood. Phil & Nick took their third win in a row on corrected times. Next to finish were Kerry, Martin, Gote, Hamish, Rod, Jason, John and Sam.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's annual Marathon race was held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February. The early start time tricked some regular competitors who failed to check the sailing calendar with five sailors arriving too late to start the race. John Byrne set a large triangle lap course starting at the Club mark. The short leg to the Bay mark was followed by a long leg to a mark set near Tyrolean village, another mark off East Jindabyne, then back to the finish at the Club mark.

The variable breeze changed in strength and direction all over the course making the sailors work hard to sail fast around the course. The three catamarans moved to the front of the fleet and lead the smaller Lasers around the course. Alistair Cross and Ross Tattersall on their Nacra 5.8 led the fleet to the finish line. Two Hobie 17s followed with Adam Robinson sailing one for the first time. The tricky breeze allowed Ian Foster to catch and pass Adam on the way to the finish and they finished in that order. John Baird led the mono-hulls to the finish line followed by Laser radial sailors Kerry McGaw, Martin Van Weel, Sam Bylett, Hamish Greenwood and Ross Lawley on his Impulse.