

Summer Returns to Lake Jindabyne.

Story by Tim Symons, photos by Lucas Blackmore-Lee and John Byrne

The rainy weather cleared up on Wednesday 6th December allowing twelve monohulls and four catamarans to rig up to race in heat six of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2017/18 Twilight series. Terry Lee and Lucas Blackmore-Lee manned the rescue boat. John Byrne set a starboard rounding course from the start boat at the Quarry mark. The sailors had to hurry to reach then start line in the light to medium strength south westerly breeze. Barney Davis made his usual great start, followed closely by Barry Denis while Tim Symons arrived just in time to cross the line. Andrew and Jake Kennedy missed the start and joined the three Hobie 17s partway down the first leg.

Barney led the cats around the first two laps of the course while they enjoyed some fast rides in the medium strength breeze. Tim slipped past Barry and caught up to Barney on the second windward work. He then slipped past Barney on the second triangle lap to the Mountain mark. John shortened the course after three laps. Tim led the small cat fleet across the finish line at the Bay mark. He was followed by Barney and Barry. The handicap corrected times gave Barry his first win of the season from Tim and Barney.

Meanwhile in the mono-hulls race, the Laser Full rig sailors John Baird, Jason Abbott, Sam Bishop and Rod Bailie sailed a close race while in the company of the Flying Fifteen of Phil Daly & Nick Kirshner. The Laser radial sailors Martin Van Weel, Kerry McGaw, Gote Vikstrom, Steve Osborne, Rob Mathews, Sam Bylett and Hamish Greenwood all battled with each other around the three lap course while Nathan Gorringer sailed his Tasar solo. After lots of close racing, John led the mono-hull fleet to the finish line. He was followed by Phil, Jason, Sam, Martin, Rod, Kerry, Gote, Steve, Rob, Nathan, Sam Bylett and Hamish. John took his third handicap win followed by Jason and Martin.

At the usual BBQ after the race, the club's oldest sailor, Gote Vikstrom was presented with an award for winning the Legend's division at the 2017 Victorian Laser Masters' regatta which was recently held at Albury-Wodonga Yacht Club.

Summer returned to Lake Jindabyne in earnest with a hot sunny afternoon on Saturday 9th December for the second heat of the 2017/18 Club Championship series. John Byrne set a start line in the 20 knot South Easterly wind at the Peninsular mark. The mixed fleet of seven boats set off towards the Quarry mark for the first time. Barney Davis and Tim Symons' Hobie 17 cats took off in the strong breeze. Martin Van Weel watched on from the rescue boat as Laser sailors John Baird, Kerry McGaw, Suzie Green and new member Dave Callaghan along with 470 sailors Terry and Lucas Lee gave chase. Ian McCluggage and Jacquie Van Weel sailed around on Martin's NS 14 for the first time while not competing in the race.

Barney zoomed away from the following fleet on the long five lap starboard rounding course creating a commanding lead from all including Tim on the other cat. Dave and Suzie returned to the beach early in the tough and tiring conditions. A strong gust hit Tim on his second to last reaching leg which caused his cat to nosedive spectacularly and capsize. Martin and Dave assisted Tim to right the boat and he limped back to the beach without finishing the race. John capsized in the same gust while on his last square run. It took him a few goes to right his Laser full rig which allowed Kerry on his Laser radial to catch up. They then enjoyed a close race to the finish line at the Peninsular mark.

After five long and gruelling laps, Barney finished first. The Lasers finished about half an hour later with John only a few seconds ahead of Kerry. Terry and Lucas completed the fleet. Barney took a well-earned win on yardstick corrected times with Kerry second, John third and Terry & Lucas fourth.