

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's Regatta Breaks the Drought

Story by Tim Symons, photos by John Byrne and Nic Luntungan

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club hosted the 2020 NSW & ACT Laser Masters regatta from 7th to 9th February 2020. The competitors' enthusiasm was only slightly dampened by the steady rain over the weekend. Despite the rain which helped the drought stricken region, the regatta enjoyed strong breezes and completed three races on Saturday 8th February and one race was sailed on Sunday 9th February 20.

The regatta kicked off with an invitation race on the evening of Friday 7th February. This race was open to competitors from all classes of boats as well as the Lasers. Five local boats competed in a separate division from the Lasers and completed two laps of the course which took them from in front of the club house to a buoy off Banjo Patterson Park, then around Cub and Lion Islands and back to the club. After a strong breeze at the start of the first lap, the sailors had to deal with a shifting and decreasing Easterly breeze on the second lap. Barney Davis on his Hobe 17 won this race on yardstick corrected times.

The Laser fleet consisting of local sailors and visitors started second and completed one lap of the course in the dying breeze. They made quite a sight as they sailed past Jindabyne town. Local sailor, John Baird won this race with clever use of his local knowledge from sailing in tricky conditions on Lake Jindabyne.

61 sailors competed over the weekend with 20 sailing Full rigs, 36 sailing Radial rigs and one 4.7 rig sailor. The highly competitive fleets included several international and past Olympic level sailors. The strong Easterly breeze on the Saturday tested the sailors as they zoomed around the course. Several rescue boats including the Lake Jindabyne Marine Rescue unit were on hand to assist the sailors if required. A competitor was towed back to the club by one of the RIBs manned by Nic Kennedy & Nic Luntungan. After over 3 hours on the water, the cold and wet sailors were glad to return to the beach. The Regatta dinner was held on Saturday evening with over 100 attendees enjoying a great meal supplied by Rokits Edibles.

The fourth race was held on the morning of Sunday 9th February in a light to moderate North Easterly breeze. The fleets started in a moderate breeze which slowly dropped during the race. The Radial fleet managed to finish the whole race around the trapezoid shaped course. The Standard rigged boats' course was shortened to the outside course gate to ensure that all competitors could finish within the time limit. After a short wait, the Race Committee decided to abandon racing for the day and the fleet made their slow way back to the beach. Many sailors paddled and rocked their boats in the almost non-existent breeze and steady rain.

The presentations were held at the clubhouse on Sunday afternoon. Everyone expressed their thanks to the club and appreciation of a well-run event with all of the club's members volunteering to assist while a few also got to compete. The sailor's best 3 results counted towards their final score. The Standard rig division overall winner was Brett Beyer from Woollahra Sailing Club. The Radial rig overall winner was Robert Lowndes from Middle Harbour Amateur Sailing Club. Mary-Anne Scully from Albury Wodonga Yacht Club was the only competitor in the 4.7 rig class.

Eight local sailors from Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club took part in the regatta and enjoyed the tough competition and the large fleet sizes. The sailors competed in several aged group divisions as well as rig size classes. In the Standard rig class, Jason Abbott came second in the Apprentice Masters division and Ben d'Helin third. In the Masters division, Adam Robinson came 7th. In the Grand Master division, John Baird came 5th. In the Radial rig class, Masters division, Rod Baillie came 6th and Kerry McGaw came 9th. While in the Grand-Grand Masters division, Steve Osborne came 13th and Gote Vikstrom came 17th.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club also ran heat ten of its 2019/20 Twilight series on the evening of Wednesday 5th February 20. The 12 to 16 knot East South Easterly Breeze kept the boats zooming around the course for a full five laps. John Byrne manned the start boat and Rod Baillie the rescue boat. The seven cats started first with the bigger two man cats moving to the front of the fleet on the long reaching leg to the Mountain mark. Alex Machin & Barry Dennis sailed the Hobie 20 for the first

time this season and kept up with Michael Fearnside & Ross Tattersall on the Hobie Wildcat F18. Alex & Barry took over the lead when Michael & Ross had a spectacular capsize on the return leg to the Bay mark.

Eight mono-hulls competed in the Division 1 race with a tussle for the lead between John Baird, Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner and Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee. Some of the mono-hulls had to recover from capsizes during the race. Suzie Green and Ross Lawley returned to the beach early. John eventually led the fleet to the finish line at the Bay mark. He was followed across the line by Phil & Nick, Terry & Lucas, Mal McLean, Steve Osborne and Kerry McGaw. Mal took the handicap corrected times win for the first time this season. Kerry took second, followed by Steve, Terry & Lucas, Phil & Nick and John.

Michael & Ross retired from the cats' race after their capsize and Ian Foster returned to the beach with rudder problems. Alex & Barry finished the race first followed by Jason Abbott & Sam Bishop, Adam Robinson & Hughie, Alan Davis and Tim Symons. Alex & Barry took the handicap corrected time in from Tim, Jason & Sam, and Adam & Hughie.