

## **Windy Wednesday and Windless Saturday**

Story by Tim Symons, photos by Gavin Fuller

Fifteen boats rigged on the windy afternoon of Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February to compete in heat thirteen of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2019/20 Twilight series. They expected to sail in a forecast 10 to 11 knot medium strength breeze but instead sailed in strong 15 to 20 knot South Easterly with gusts up to 25 knots. John Byrne and Alan "Barney" Davis manned the start boat while Alistair Cross and Gavin Fuller manned the rescue boat.

The six catamarans started first after a short delay while the start boat re-positioned itself and the Bay mark start line due to a slipping anchor. Tim Symons started late after his boat was blown onto the rocky Snowline shore. Ian Foster clipped the start boat with his tiller extension while crossing the line, completed a penalty turn and had to catch up to the others too. Alex Machin & Barry Dennis on the Hobie 20 led the cats to the Quarry mark, then out to the far off Mountain mark.

The nine mono-hulls started after the cats and had a delayed start too. All of the boats zoomed around the lake in the strong and gusty breeze. All of the Laser sailors capsized at various points around the course. The cold, wet and tired sailors battled the wind and waves around the course. Thomas Davis capsized on his Dad's Hobie 17 and was assisted by Alistair and Gavin after he washed up on the Western shore of the lake. He then returned to the sailing club beach. Adam Robinson sailing a borrowed Laser also returned to the beach early too.

John and Barney shortened the course to four laps for the cats and three for the Mono-hulls and set a finish line at the Bay mark. Alex & Barry built up a large lead over the rest of the rest of the cats and finished first. They were followed by Tim Symons, Ian Foster, Thor & Freya Slater and Andrew Kennedy. Alex & Barry took a well-earned handicap win from Tim, Thor & Freya, Ian and Andrew.

Nic Kennedy on his Finn led the mono-hull fleet to the finish line followed by John Baird, Phil Daley & Nick Kirshner, Steve Osborne, Terry Lee & Lucas Blackmore-Lee, Kerry McGaw, Hamish Greenwood and Mal McLean. The handicap corrected time gave Steve his long awaited first win of the season by 2 seconds from Kerry. Phil & Nick came third followed by Terry & Lucas, John, Nic, Hamish and Mal.

Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's annual Marathon race up the length of the lake was held on the sunny and hot afternoon of Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February, John Baird planned a course to take the sailors up the lake and back again. Ross Lawley assisted on the rescue boat.

Ten boats competed in the combined division marathon race. Ian Foster & Tim Symons were late for the start and had to try to catch the fleet in the extremely light South Easterly breeze of up to only 4 knots. Andrew Kennedy on his Hobie 17 led the fleet from the start and all the way around the course. He was chased by Nic Kennedy, Steve Osborne, Kerry McGaw, Mal McLean, Hamish Greenwood, Sam Bylett, Peter Baker, Ian and Tim. The course took the fleet around Lion & Cub Islands, around the Mountain mark and across the lake to a special mark in Willow Bay at East Jindabyne. They then sailed up the lake, past McEvoy Island and Clifford Point and around the shallow sandbar near Rylie Island and back to the Sailing Club.

Peter Baker returned to the Sailing Club while the others headed off to Willows Bay. The very light breeze reduced even further to zero to 2 knots as the boats made their way with Andrew way out in front. The boat spread out going up the lake then re-grouped on the return journey when a Northerly breeze pushed the tail-enders up to the rest.

All of the boats slowed down to an excruciatingly slow speed on the return to the Sailing Club. After 4 hours and 45 minutes Andrew finally crossed the finish line in front of the club house. The breeze disappeared altogether and no other boats were able to complete the course within the time limit of 1 hour after Andrew. They then paddled or received tows to get back to the Sailing club beach. All of the sailors enjoyed the course to further places of Lake Jindabyne, but all wished for a bit more breeze.