

## **The 2019-20 Sailing Season Commences at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club**

Story and photos by Trim Symons

The first heat of Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club's 2019/20 Twilight series heralded the start of sailing season on the evening of Wednesday 30th October. Six mono-hulls and seven catamarans competed in this first race. John Baird and John Russell manned the start boat while Ross Lawley and Peter Baker manned the rescue boat.

While they rigged their boats, the sailors all watched the lake for any signs of enough wind to start a race. Eventually John B started the cats from the Club mark about 15 minutes later than planned. The new Westerly breeze gave the Buoy end of the line an advantage for those starting on Port tack which many did. A short dash to the Bay mark saw Alistair Cross and Gavin Fuller on their Nacra 5.8 round the mark first followed by Thor and Freya Slater on their Maricat and Tim Symons on his new this season Nacra 16 square. The cat fleet headed out on a reach to the Mountain mark with the two F18s zooming along under their spinnakers.

The mono-hull fleet started five minutes after the cats. Rod Baillie crossed the start line early and had to re-start and chase the fleet. Nic Kennedy on his Finn with a Spanish Olympic team sail led fleet to the Bay mark then out to the Peninsular mark for the first time. The Lasers all jostled for position on their way around the three lap course.

Alistair & Gavin led the cat fleet around the shortened course and to the finish line at the Bay mark. The other cats changed positions behind him with Jason Abbott and Sam Bishop finishing next followed by Barry Dennis, Adam Robinson & Mars, Andrew Kennedy, Tim Symons, and Thor and Freya Slater. The handicap adjusted times mixed up the results with Andrew taking the win from Alistair, Barry, Thor, Tim, Jason and Adam.

Nic led the mono-hull fleet to the finish line with the next boat, Hamish Greenwood on his Laser full rig about 7 minutes behind. Next to finish were the Laser radial sailors, Kerry McGaw, Damian Goninan, Rod Baillie and Steve Osborne. The Handicap adjusted times left the finishing order unchanged.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November was the start a busy weekend of training by Australian Sailing at Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club. A Laser coaching class was held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup>. The Dinghy Instructors and assistant instructors courses were conducted by Dante Olivieri over Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and included participants from Alpine Sailing and other clubs as well as Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club. The Race officers / buoy laying and rescue boat courses were run by Carl Webster on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November with great participation from Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club. Barney Davis barbequed sausages for lunches over the training weekend which was all organised by the Club's head instructor Alistair Cross. The club thanks Australian Sailing for its support in assisting its members increasing their training and accreditation.

The first race of the 2019/20 Point-score series was held on the cold and wet afternoon of Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Tim Symons manned the start boat with Peter Baker and was assisted by Rod Baillie and Andrew Kennedy on the rescue boat. Tim set a delayed start from the Club mark which allowed the cats and some of the course participants to get to the start line on time.

The two fleets, mono-hulls and catamarans, had 4 boats each and started together into the light to moderate North Westerly breeze and headed off the start line to the Bay mark. The cats soon passed all of the mono-hulls as they headed out to the Mountain mark and the mono-hulls to the Peninsular mark. Despite the stormy weather forecast, the boats all sailed the three lap course in fairly light breezes. The last triangle lap included a massive shift in the wind direction to the South East.

Nic Kennedy led both fleets to the finish line at the Bay mark. He was followed by John Baird, Hamish Greenwood and Sam Bylett. Sam and Hamish kept up their usual race long battle with Hamish finishing in front of Sam. Nic & John kept their places on yardstick corrected times while Hamish & Sam shared third place with equal corrected times.

Alistair & Lucy Cross led the cat fleet around the course after passing Adam Robinson and Jason Abbott on the first return leg from the Mountain mark. They crossed the finish line first followed by

Adam & Jason and Barry Dennis after Ian Foster had earlier retired from the race. Alistair took the yardstick corrected time win from Barry and Adam.

Three Lake Jindabyne Sailing Club members travelled to Albury over the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> November to compete in the Victorian Country Championships on Lake Hume. Steve Osborne, Kerry McGaw and Gote Vikstrom were joined by ex-commodore Martin Van Weel. All enjoyed the tight big fleet racing in the windy conditions.