

TCAA Newsletter June 2008



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Editor's Intro

Since our faithful President Dennis Baker is currently in the middle of a career change and relocation he has been excused from giving his usual contribution to the Newsletter for this edition. Dennis usually writes a great President's Report and unfortunately this means your President's Report has been replaced by a waffling intro written by Kings. Don't stress though as Dennis will be back on board soon.

The 2007/08 season has been mixed for Taipan and Capricorn sailors, as a few significant events in the history of Taipan and Capricorn sailing have unfolded.

First, the new larger square-top main has been introduced and all reports are positive. The boat looks modern and performs well in both the cat and sloop rigged configuration. There are several sail makers now producing the square-top main, but as an association we recommend supporting the two sail makers who consistently support our class through sponsorship, being Ashby Sails and Goodall Sails (AHPC).

Second, the production of Taipans has now moved offshore to South East Asia, with production now coordinated by Australian High Performance Catamarans (AHPC) since the closure of Boyer Fibrecraft. There are three major positives for Taipan sailors that have resulted from this change.

1. The price has REDUCED. This is quite amazing in any industry, and the result is that existing Taipan owners are upgrading to new boats and selling their used boats, giving class newcomers Taipans to buy at affordable prices, allowing Taipan fleets to grow again.
2. The finished product of the boats built in Asia is second to none; the boats are on minimum weight, watertight, and beautifully finished. You can't ask for anything more from a production boat.
3. This change in production gives the class security and confidence that the hulls will continue to be available for purchase at an affordable price as the class progresses into the future.

Third, 2008 was the first year that a Nationals Series failed to produce a result. A freakish weather pattern ensured that over seven days there was not one "sailable" day. The surprising thing about this (non)result was that it only made the competitors who were registered to compete even more enthusiastic about future events. MASSIVE congratulations must go to Paul Freeman (and Pip), Matt Homan, and Col Johnson, who persevered in the lead-up and during the event.

Once again Pete Freeman has volunteered countless hours to maintaining the website, so thanks to Pete for continuing to do such a great job for the Association.

Overall, the 2007/08 sailing season has been positive, and we now look towards the 2008/09 season to be bigger and better, with more consistent winds and bigger fleets in the Taipan and Capricorn classes. A committee planning session is being organised this winter to ensure we get a united strategic direction for our classes. If you have an opinion or input for consideration regarding future direction of the Taipan and Capricorn classes please e-mail the secretary: kingspursch@yahoo.com.au

Kings
TCAA Secretary
Taipan AUS 334



Victorian State Report

With the 07/08 season coming to a close it's good to see the current level of interest in our class. The year to date has had its ups and downs, not the least being the large effort that was put in by our Queensland counterparts for the Nationals that ended up a blow out. It was the first time I have ever attended a series that didn't get one race in. But the resilience of the people that traveled to RQ. Was great to see, with all the Victorian boats that made the effort to travel to QLD also turning up at Mount Martha Y.C. for the state titles, with the exception of Lisa, Kings and Col who had a wedding to attend. The States was a great success with a total of 38 boats in all. The weather was not the best with mainly light winds over the three days but the racing was first class. The Cats had a very impressive fleet of 25 Boats which was hotly contested. The sloop fleet was much smaller in numbers and is an issue the committee is looking into. But the racing at the front end was also very close. There also seems to be a resurgence of the 5.7's which is great for the heavier crews, We have two racing at our club consistently. A BIG thanks must go out to the Members of Mount Martha Yacht Club for their efforts in organizing and running a great event.

Looking forward, Some dates have been put in place for the travelers series next season which will also incorporate an inter club challenge. For the interclub challenge the three top finishing boats from each club on handicap will be awarded points for Club. The more boats your clubs can field the better your chances of increasing your points score. There will be a prize for the club team with the most points at the end of the series. This should produce some good racing as it will be a large benefit for the clubs to get all their boats up to speed. Keep an eye on the web page for details.

We are now looking for the first time in a while at new boats entering the fleet on a consistent basis this is largely due in part to Greg and AHPC's efforts in reducing the price of the new boats to make them great value. This also has the added flow on effect of freeing up second hand boats for people entering the class. This has been one of the big problems with raising fleet numbers over the past couple of years. The older boats are just not being sold as the owners were not willing to part with them.

With most of the Victorian clubs that have Taipans increasing boat numbers,

Next season we can look forward to even bigger fleets with the new big head mains now being used the boat are looking great and going fast. So all in all the future is looking great for the class and with the nationals to be held at Belmont next year the fleet numbers should swell.

The next event for us all is the Sauna Sail at Hazelwood. I Look forward to seeing you all there.

James McDonald - Macatak



QUEENSLAND State Report

This season there is not much good news to be told about the QLD Taipan fleet. Unfortunately numbers have dropped off dramatically with boats being sold or just not being sailed. The QLD State Titles were held over the long weekend in April with a total of seven cat rigged boats and two 5.7s. There were not enough boats to have a series for the sloops so Peter York and Warrick Williams from Harvey Bay decided to sail cat rigged. It was a great weekend otherwise with Max Fimmell winning ahead of Peter York and Paul Freeman in 3rd. We had all types of conditions ranging from 5 knots to 20 knots over the three days.

I believe the problem with the Taipan fleet in Queensland is that we don't have a home club that everyone can come down to. Last season everyone joined RQYS but this year I'm going to try and get the fleet to join Humpybong Yacht Club, where there are many more classes to race against such as A class, Nacra 16sq, F18s and Hobies. I'm hoping with this change it will get many of the boats out of the garages or under tarps and back out on the water again where these magnificent boats belong.

Humpybong is holding their annual Winter Series in the off season. It would be good to see a few of the Taipan sailors attending this series to train and prepare for both the upcoming season and Nationals in the New Year. I am also thinking of holding a Taipan Open Day so that anyone who may be interested in finding out more about Taipans or just going for a sail will have the opportunity to do so. Hopefully this day will attract more interest and bring newcomers into the class. I am looking forward to having better news about the QLD fleet by the Nationals.

Matt Homan



NSW State Report

The 2007/08 season has been the most successful for many years. Thirty different boats competed in at least one of the traveller's series events. It's just a pity that we can't get them all to turn up at the same place and time! Jungle Juice, Barking Mad and Midnight Inspiration need to be recognised for their efforts of making it to all rounds of the traveller's series. At the time of writing this report the major prize for the travellers series had not been drawn, but rest assured that if you were a financial member and competed in one of the races you have been included in the draw. Thanks from all competitors to Greg for providing the major prize of a mainsail.

The traveller's series this year in NSW only incorporated four regattas with the aim to maximise numbers at events and to reduce travelling. The series started at Forster in September, then the states at Kurnell in October, Port Kembla in November and concluded with the Tanilba Bay regatta in February. See the results and reports for each event below.

Thankyou to the committees and helpers at each club, without your hard work we wouldn't have such a good series. Special thanks must also go to Tanilba Bay sailing club for hosting the regatta, as I understand it the regatta has been in hibernation for a number of years and was resurrected this year especially for the Taipans.

It looks like next year we will have to make the trip to Canberra and include an interstate (ACT) regatta in the travellers series, this may be the only way we can get the sailors from down there to travel – come on Cooky and Andy we miss you.

Congratulations to Steve and Lesley Kiely (sloop) and Dennis Baker (Cat) the 2007/2008 NSW 4.9 Taipan Champions.

Enthusiasm and expectations are high for next season with an anticipated increase in boat numbers for NSW. Ralf Steyer, Laurie Hinchcliffe and Bob Porter have all purchased new boats for 2008. In addition rumours continue around the idea that we may see some of the more experienced Taipan sailors who have dropped off the radar in recent years returning to class. Come on Dan and Richie the nationals are practically in your back yard this year. Good numbers are now sailing at Kurnell, PKSC, and Forster on a regular basis and I have been reliably informed that a very enthusiastic group of up to 8 taipans are sailing on the central coast. Numbers are building in the hobie heartland of Vincentia and Steve and Lesley now have several taipans to race on home turf.

BeLMONT NATIONALS – Jan 10-16

Organisation for the Belmont nationals is well under way with a small and enthusiastic band of sailors planning what should be the best regatta for a number of seasons. The committee expects to have the NOR and entry forms available soon, they are just waiting for a number of quotes to come in. It is expected that there will be no increase in race fees this year. If you haven't booked accommodation you had better get in soon. So talk to the boss make sure you can have leave from Saturday 10th January until Friday 16th January. It should a great week. There's plenty more info on the website.

Les (AUS 333)

07/08 TRAVELLERS' SERIES

Here are the top 15 results from the Victorian Travellers' Series. Full results can be viewed on the website www.taipan.asn.au

Place	Sail No	Boat Name	Class	Skipper	Crew	From	Sers Score
1	326	Bewitched	Taipan4.9Cat	D Baker		PYC	86.00
2	183	FELIX	Taipan4.9Cat	K Marsh		Altona Y.C	81.00
3	93	Lemon	Taipan4.9Cat	W Lyon		McCrae	62.00
4	116	Flyweight	Taipan4.9Cat	B Hein		PYC	51.00
5	171	Uforia	Taipan4.9Cat	S Floyd	S Floyd	McYC	47.00
6	3	Venom	Taipan4.9Cat	N Grellet		Lake Fynes	46.00
7	336	no name	Taipan4.9Cat	L Goodall		PMYC	44.00
8	305	Twice Bitten	Taipan4.9Cat	P Campbell		Altona Y.C	43.00
9	234	No Namer	Taipan4.9Cat	A Vize		McYC	42.00
10	152	The Wrong Trousers	Taipan4.9Cat	C Dodds		Frankston Y.C.	39.00
11	113	Aquaholic	Taipan4.9Cat	C Gow		Sugarloaf	37.00
12	90	Class Act	Taipan4.9Cat	M Brindley		Sugarloaf	36.00
13	322	Tasi Oki	Taipan4.9Sloop	G Barrett	J Duthie	FYC	34.00
14	161	Preparation	Taipan4.9Sloop	T Kirkham	T Croft	Port Melb	32.00
14	62	anon	Taipan4.9Cat	C Swayn		Mt Martha Y.C	32.00

Below are the Results from the NSW Travellers' Series.

Sail Number	Boat Name	Skipper	Regatta Results				
			PTS	Forster	KCC	PKSC	TBSC
4.9 SLOOP RIGGED RESULTS							
263	JUNGLE JUICE	S.KIELY	6	3	1	1	1
114	BARKING MAD	P.WALKER	16	4	4	2	6
89	MIDNIGHT INSPIRATION	N.VANKERKOF	16	6	5	3	2
312	WET WILLY	A.WILLIAMS	19	1	2		4
283	DYWYP	M.BRAITHWAITE	21		3	C1	5
96		P.LANE	39	7	8		
257	JUST PLAY	S.BREADON	32	5			3
283		K.PURSCH	38	2			
60	VENOMOUS	R.CICOGNANI	42		6		
82	FULL HAMMER	B.WYERS	43		7		
007	BROKEN WIND	K.MARKOVITCH	43				7
99	KIWI	S.KING	44	8			
4.9 CAT RIGGED RESULTS							
335/35	DARK HORSE/BULLET	R.STEYER	27	C3	C5	C3	
127	KOOKA	L.HINCHCLIFFE	38		C4	C2	
333	THE FR33Z3	L.PORTER	39		C6		C1
25		Z.BREADON	41	C7			C2
92	FREE SPIRIT	T.KROSCHEL	43		C9		C4
277	1644	E.DOOPER	44	C8	C4		
232		R.CAMPBELL	45	C10			C3
139	ELUSIVE	G.TUCK	47	C2	C11		
175		P.FREMAN	49	C1			
326	BEWITCHED	D.BAKER	49		C1		
257	JUST PLAY	S.BREADON	50	C2			
146	TITAN	B.CHAPMAN	51		C3		
13	BOB	R.APLIN	60	C12			
165	EXCITABLE	W.KUIT	61	C13			

08/09 TRAVELLERS' SERIES

Recent talk amongst Taipan and Capricorn sailors proved that the traveller's series is a popular concept that should be continued for the 2008/09 sailing season. AHPC (the manufacturer of both the Taipan and Capricorn) are also more than happy to continue supporting the traveller's Series. A positive addition to the Victorian Traveller's Series this year is the concept of an interclub competition, which James MacDonald has explained in his State report. NSW might like to do the same?

Massive thanks to Les Porter (NSW) and Ken Marsh (VIC) who persevered in coordinating this season's Traveller's Series without any assistance. The committee recognises that coordination and publicity can (and will) be improved.

The Victorian 2008/09 Traveller's Series will include the following events:

1. **Hazelwood Sauna Sail** - June 7-9, 2008 (Queens Birthday weekend)
2. **Sugarloaf Reservoir** - late September, 2008
3. **McCrae cat classic** – November, 2008
4. **Portland** - February, 2009
5. **Frankston-** March Labor day weekend **Victorian State Titles**
6. **Bullen Merri** - Easter Regatta
7. **Yarrawonga** - April 2009. If there's no water at Yarrawonga, Port Melbourne (drought buster regatta) will be the back-up venue.

4 events to count no double points this year for the state titles, last results very biased towards the state titles. This calendar offers an even mix of inland regattas and coastal regattas, and geographically covers the state well.

The NSW 2008/09 Traveller's Series will include the following events:

Draft NSW Taipans Travellers Series			
Month	Location	Event	Date (dates to be confirmed)
October	Forster (Great Lakes)	Wildcat Regatta	October Long Weekend
October	Kurnell (Botany Bay)	Top-gun Regatta	Last Weekend October
November	PKSC (Lake Illawarra)	Kembla Klassic	3 rd Week November
TBA	YMCA Sailing Club	Canberra	TBA
February	Tanilba Bay(Nelson's Bay)	Regatta/Marathon	Late February

And the winner is...

The 2007/08 Travellers Series draw for a mainsail donated by AHPC was conducted on June 9 at Sauna Sail regatta. Greg Goodall from AHPC plucked the winner from a field of 126 tickets in front of about half a dozen witnesses. The lucky winner was Colin Johnson from Frankston YC. While Colin was not present at the draw, upon hearing the news Col replied "you F#*ken pearler".

Thanks to AHPC for their continued support towards the Travellers Series.

Sailor PROFILE

Name: Scott Machon

Age: 43



Scott Machon is a regular Taipan sailor at Great Lakes Sailing Club, NSW.

Scott was also responsible for several Taipan and Forster Wildcat Regatta DVD's that have been produced recently.

This pic shows Scotty sailing with his crew Bryce Haffner on a typical Sunday at GLSC.

Occupation: Education

Sail Number: AUS163

Nickname: Gadget

Number of years Taipan Sailing: 4

Number of years Sailing: 38

(I was five when dad got a Heron, then he bought a Hobie in '73- changed my life)

First Boat: Manly Junior

Marital Status: Understanding wife

Number of Children: AUS001 on the way

Favourite Movie: The Wizard of Oz – as a kid it scared me, as a wayward Teenager it really freaked me out, then I tried to listen to it with Pink Floyd and I was over it.

Greatest Hero: Muhammad Ali, fought racism, oppression and spoke his mind.

Favourite Sporting Team: Wallabies



Favourite Drink: ANY Fluid poured into Megan Fox's hands for me to consume. After that, probably a Cold Beer would come next.

Favourite Music: Loud and coming from a wall of speakers, Most recent concert was John Bulter. But I'm so old I've seen Adam Ant, Sherbert, Cold Chisel, Midnight Oil, Pearl Jam...

First Car Owned: "The Sponge" a bright Blue 76 Ford Escort.

Hobbies (besides sailing): Cycling, surfing.

Best Sailing Location: Even though my home club is Forster- which is paradise- there is something about the ocean- South West Rocks.

Greatest Achievement: NSW Junior rep team to sail in Melbourne.

Best Sailing Memory: There are two distinct memories. Both on Sydney Harbour. As a kid Dad took me out on the Hobie 14 on Boxing day to watch (participate) in the start of the Sydney to Hobart. I was probably nine or ten years old and I can remember the huge swell and mass of boats. As we went into the trough of the swells it would be silent and as we rose to the crest it was like a festival was all around us. That was a great day. The second was in a Manly Junior. We would train/race on Saturday mornings at Manly YC. I decided that it would be a great thing to touch the bow of a Manly Ferry at the waterline. So as the Narrabeen pulled into the Wharf we sailed up, intending to touch the bow. The ferry had used too much reverse thrust to stop and began moving back out and towards us, increasing the rate of closeness to us, as we reached to touch the bow the ferry applied forward thrust and immediately the water erupted and we flung ourselves back into the boat. The tiny MJ capsized in all the commotion. I don't know whether we were more afraid of the legendary sharks in the water under the wharf or the trouble we were going to get into off our parents.

Most stupid thing you have done on a Taipan: Sailed amongst a fleet of Hobies.

Worst injury: Physically-seven stitches in the shin after a bump with the hulls. Emotionally- the tongue lashing I got from my wife when we owned two boats on trailers in front yard- but I didn't have a car to drive the 42km to work. Ah priorities.

In the future I want to... Go sailing, win Lotto.



QLD Nationals

LIKE NO OTHER...

The Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron (RQYS): a perfect venue, an exceptional racing committee, fantastic facilities and in sunny Queensland... what more could a sailor ask for?

Taipan and Capricorn sailors were excited for their upcoming 2007/08 Nationals at beautiful RQYS, but knew nothing about the history they were about to create. The titles were simply a series like no other. A series where all competitors were truly equal as points remained at zero for the first time in history. An unfortunate weather pattern producing cyclonic winds and monsoonal rain meant that boats didn't even reach the water and that the bar received its fair share of patronage. As the bad weather continued the racing committee did everything they could to try and get the sailors out on the water, even putting forward a vote to sail at 6:00am, which fortunate or unfortunate was not passed. Despite the lack of sailing the Queensland members did an excellent job of organising off the water events including sessions on tactics, racing rules, boat tuning and a state of origin lawn bowls day. The only trophy to be awarded this series was the lawn bowls challenge won by Chris Boag as he took his skills to the greens. It will take a lot to break these sailors, as they are now even keener for next season's National Titles at beautiful Belmont in NSW from January 10-16, 2009.

Picture Gallery



Above: Chris Caines from Sugarloaf Reservoir with a Square top main from AHPC.
Below: Davo from Portland YC made the drive for the 2008 Sauna Sail at Hazelwood Pondage.





*Above and Left:
Ken Marsh enjoying
some good results
with his new sail.*



Taipan &
CAPRICORN
Association



Above: James and Lauren on Macatak drift back to shore after (another) day of painfully light wind at Sauna Sail, hosted by Latrobe Valley Yacht Club. Despite the light winds, the strong fleet of 150 boats got 6 races over the 3 days.