

Taipan Catamaran Association of Australia

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Taipan Newsletter May 2006



RUSS AND LUKE McDONALD on Capricorn 18.

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The new President **Daniel Van Kerchoff**, of Newcastle, tries out the big comfy chair, and shows us the way ahead.

Eleven Months travelling foreign countries on the other side of the world can change your perceptions on a few things. One thing that was reiterated to me to the whole time away was how lucky we are in Australia. Media and politicians relay this sentiment to us all too often, creating some type of indifference to the statement. We blow it off with nod or a whinge about taxes or too much work.

Next time you hear “ gee, you Australians are lucky “ please stop. Think for a second. Remember the last time you went for a reach in 25kts and belted across the bay, lake, river, dam or ocean, the boat on a knife-edge, the crew (and quite possibly the skipper) shitting themselves as the bow dips under that next wave.

Remember the last good regatta you went to. The car loaded with family or friends (or both), the boat stowed on the back, the esky full and the anticipation of fun in the sun.

Now when I go for a surf in the morning watching the sun peek over the horizon, or I'm sailing with friends laughing as they flounder around in a trap jacket looking more like they belong in a spa than on a boat, I can't help but think how lucky we are.

Australia is a lifestyle. Laidback, outdoors, oceans, lakes, mates, thongs, sunshine, sports, cold beer and good times are just some of the things that create this lifestyle. Long hours, working weekends, the latest cars, watching TV, designer clothes, poor sporting teams and warm beer are just some of the things that undermine this lifestyle and probably belong in England.

So do me a favour. When next “Friday arvo rocks around and you are knockin off halfa early, get on the blower ring ya mates, con the fam, grab the boat, skip the box and go for that reach which will make that cold Friday arvo beer taste all the sweeter”. Remind yourself of the fun and show another just how good it is!

Even better. Grab the entry form for Port Stephens 2006. Fill it out, book the accommodation, and get ready to go on a true Aussie holiday that contains, laidback locals, thongs, outdoors, oceans, sunshine, sport, cold beer, mates and a BLOODY great time!!

I'm happy to take on this position as the new president of the TCAA and I would like to thank the outgoing committee for their hard work. Hopefully this position will give me the chance to spread some of the fun and good times to those that can't remember. If anyone ever has any queries about anything to do with anything please don't ever hesitate to ask and I will endeavour to help, answer or solve.

Happy Sailing Daniel Van Kerckhof Aus 035 BULLET
P.S If any English read this I'm sorry but I had to beat up somewhere!!!!

Secretary's Report, from Kingsly Pursch

Relaxing mornings, competitive sailing at a beautiful venue, and a few brews on shore overlooking the water after the race with great people are the components that make me so passionate about sailing. My name is Kingsley Pursch and I am the proud owner of AUS 109. I accepted the position of secretary for the Taipan Catamaran Association of Australia (TCAA) at the AGM not only because Slimey offered free beer as incentive, but also because I feel the sport of sailing is a fantastic way to spend our leisure time, and I wish to be actively involved in promoting our class and our sport so we can continue to create memorable moments both on and off the water. As a relative newcomer to the Taipan fleet I feel privileged to be a part of the TCAA committee, and encourage all members of the TCAA to contribute with their views and opinions regarding sailing so that our fleet can grow and we can continue to enjoy the good times both on and off the water.

As this article is being written I am still on a high after participating in a memorable week at Lake Cootharaba, where roughly 100 Taipans, Capricorns, Cobras and Stingrays all united for their 2005 National titles. Anyone who was there will tell you how good the event was. A massive thanks is owed to David (Slimey) Elliot for his efforts in organising the event, and also the race committee who accommodated us so well. Congratulations to all of the class winners. Further congratulations to the strong fleet that travelled such long distances to participate in the event.

Highlights of the regatta

- Seeing Chris (Slater) Munro reaching back and forth between races. The nineteen year old has an enthusiasm and passion for his sailing that we can all feed off. I couldn't help but join in on the action, only to be left behind as Slater smoked across the water with two on the wire.
- Playing cricket on the lay day. The on-field performance was atrocious, with sundries being the top scorer for both teams. Most importantly, the event reminded us all why we sail our lives away rather than grazing in the paddock like cows.
- Simply being on the water. Lake Cootharaba was a great venue, with warm water and the full range of wind and sailing conditions.
- Winning a race. "It was so good to see an unexpected heat winner" was the comment from long time Taipan sailor Antony Edwards. Well don't worry Ant, there's plenty more where that came from. Let that also be a warning for those few leaders that are currently dominating in the 4.9 sloop division. Next year is the year of the new blood. We are less technical and less experienced, but the passion and desire is strong. People like Nathan VK, Chris (Kelly Slater) Munro and Steve and Lesley (supercrew) Keily are quickly learning how to sail the Taipan 4.9 fast.
- Being a part of such a competitive fleet. The first four places in the 4.9 sloop class entered the final race separated by only three points. This means no single boat dominated. Through the whole fleet there were similar battles between boats on similar point scores.
- Seeing such a large fleet of cat-rigged boats. Now you guys just need to fork out another \$600 for a jib and put someone on the front of their boat so you can share our amazing sport with other people. You get the \$600 back really

quickly because the crew also throws in for petrol money and other expenses if you treat them well. This raises my final, and biggest highlight from the regatta...

- Watching my crew become addicted to the sport of sailing, and in particular the Taipan. Simon was attending his first sailing national titles. When Paul Van Kerkhoff asked me at the presentation night what my highlight for the regatta was I promptly replied "winning that race Paul", with a grin on my face that could not have been wiped off by anything in the world. However the drive home changed that feeling when I realised how much the week had influenced Simon in such a positive way. As well as enjoying the sailing, Simon made new friends, learned a years worth of sailing knowledge in one week, and gained an improved self confidence and belief in himself. We both learned from each other and walked away from the regatta with a massive sense of accomplishment.

Room for improvement?

It is expected that in 2005 the committee will introduce categories such as the old-timers (over 35's), freshmen (first time competing in a titles) young and dumb (under 21's) and womens winners at Taipan events. I feel it is important to have '*races within the race*', because the winners of the regatta are predominantly male skippers in their mid 20's to early 30's. Recognition should also be given to people in the fleet who are achieving massive accomplishments but are not necessarily the first boat over the line. For example, a father/son crew who weighed in at a combined weight of 92kg's battled hard through every race at this year's event. I was scared at moments during the regatta so I can't even imagine how Daniel, at ten years of age and 20 something kgs was feeling when 35 knot bullets were hammering in on AUS 085 and throwing them high into the sky. We claim to be a family class, however the boat is a high performance racing machine and the average family sailor will not be competitive without a crew that has the right mix of physical fitness, sailing experience and time to put into maintaining the fastest possible boat. If we are going to be a family class, I feel we can give more attention and recognition to the family sailors amongst us.

Training and development days

Ant Edwards forwarded a request for more coaching clinics and on water training days. The gurus of the class such as Cooky, Dan VK and Willy are more than happy to share their knowledge with the rest of us punters. If anyone is interested in getting on the water with a couple of rescue boats and our beloved Taipans, for a day where we discuss and assess aspects of sailing such as boat speed and handling, boat tuning and tactics please let me know and we will organise a to hold such an event. I would also like to discuss the area of crew development so that we can successfully provide opportunities to train and introduce more people to enjoy the quality sailing that we all experience.

Get people on your boat!!!

It took five years of waiting and dreaming from the day I first crewed on a Taipan until I could actually purchase my own boat. We all know how great the boat is to sail, but until you get a ride on one you can't truly appreciate the beauty of the Taipan. A club sailor at Great Lakes

Sailing Club sailed a Taipan for the first time last Sunday, and within three days he sold his boat and is now purchasing a Taipan. Most people will not react this quickly, but in the right conditions they certainly will not forget their experience in a hurry, if ever. Put up your oldest jib, make the effort and have the patience to teach someone else how to sail the Taipan and enjoy the good times with you.

Finally, I hope everyone has a fantastic year in 2005 with plenty of time on the water and less time in the office. Bring on the sunshine, good winds and carefree sailing.

Be positive, stay healthy, keep hope and enjoy life – Kings (AUS 109).

PORT STEPHENS 2006



Have you ever seen a dolphin play between the hulls as you race through turquoise water? Sat back, and watched the sun set over one of Australia's most beautiful bays? Been able to enjoy that holiday that contains everything from surfing, sailing, swimming, beaches, to fine dining, great shopping, vineyards and rainforests?

NO????!!!!!!

Well welcome to Port Stephens 2006. The holiday that contains a nationals!! Commencing the 2nd of January and running to the 9th.

GOAL!!

This years nationals has landed once again on the beautiful shores of Port Stephens Yacht Squadron. Four years ago an event like no other was conducted on these shores. As a committee our goal is to surpass this benchmark creating a regatta to remember as a holiday.

WELCOME!!

As President of the Taipan Catamaran Association of Australia I would officially like to welcome you all to Port Stephens. This year we are once again extending our invitation to another AHPC stable mate the Capricorn F18, to join the fun and share the racing.

THE AREA!!

Two and a half hours drive north of Sydney, three quarters of an hour north of Newcastle city, half an hour east of Raymond Terrace, Port Stephens is home to some of the east coasts most beautiful bays and beaches. The bays known as "the blue water paradise", cover 126sq kms of water and support a town built around tourism and the enjoyment of the natural habitat and waterways.

There is something for every family here, from beaches and bays to swim and lounge in, to local vineyards, dolphin and whale watching, scuba diving, amazing bush walks, game fishing, golf, 4wd trekking, surfing and the list just goes on.....

THE RACING!!

As with four years ago, Taipan central will be located around Soldiers Point Yacht Squadron. This yacht club is situated on the very tip of Soldiers Point, looking back towards Lemon Tree Passage and Mallabula. The main racing area is situated on the eastern side of this point, sailing in Salamander Bay.

With ample rigging room and easy ramp/beach access, launching from the protected bay of the club is a breeze.

The club is fully licensed and has easy meals available, making it a great place to socialise and discuss the days racing, whilst maybe glimpsing a great sunset.

Conditions expected for early January are typical Mid North Coast days of 30 degrees with a building sea breeze from the north east, providing some great fair racing. I can't make any promises on this one though!!!!!!!!!!

THE SOCIAL!!

Sailing is all about this aspect of life and lets face it, the reason why most of us got involved in the first place. As with every year we have some great things planned. Just to wet the appetite here are a few teasers that could be on offer!!!

*New Years Eve party at the Salt Ash Tavern.

*Welcoming feast

*Phills karaoke

*Lawn Bowls

*Live bands

*Games nights

- *Auction Fundraiser (with a spicy twist)
- *Local wine and food tasting
- *Traditional Black tie presentation dinner

ACCOMADATION!!!!

The information supplied in this pack is aimed at getting everyone to start thinking about booking accommodation as early as possible. As the area is a prime tourist destination places fill very quickly throughout the year. So we urge everyone to take a look through the pages and make a booking. Our suggestion as a committee to ensure you are as close to the action as you can possibly get would be to book at the Soldiers Point Holiday Park (page 44 in Port Stephens visitors guide). This is situated next door to the Yacht Club and offers great facilities for camping and luxury villas, but fills quickly, so get in NOW!!!

DATES!!!!

The dates of the nationals are from Monday the 2nd of January 2006 to Sunday the 8th of January 2006. Racing will commence on the 3rd after a day of measuring. A lay day is scheduled for the 5th and the regatta will conclude on the 8th.

INFORMATION!!!!

There are not enough information packs to go around so it is vital that if you know of any one that has missed out to pass it on or alternatively get them to contact us and we can send out some information to them.

We hope that everyone takes a good look at this information and starts to get their acts together as early as possible. This will save some heart ache later when you realise everyone else is going and already booked and you haven't thought about it yet.

CONTACTS!!!!

If you have any further questions don't hesitate to drop me a line at dan_kerky@hotmail.com or alternatively give me a ring on 0409684238 and I will be happy to help. Happy sailing hope to see you all at a regatta soon!!!

Daniel Van Kerckhof Aus 035 BULLET



Just a reminder of what Perfection really is. L. 'Thraba 05 Nats
Pic by Petra Eggl

CLASS TIDBITS.

First. A big apology for not getting this out sooner.

I'd like to thank all those who have helped with contributions for the Website and Newsletter, please keep it coming, nothing too small or too large .

F18 Worlds are again coming up, this year in Holland over a week in July. This year AHPC are attending with 2 factory boats, the second being raced by Michael Cook and Daniel Van Kerckhof. Also, Glenn Ashby will again be racing with Darren Bundock on a Factory Hobie Tiger, in an effort to Defend their World Title.

Other Capricorn crews attending are Brad Collett, sailing with Luke McDonald. Slimy, evidently crazy, (or soon to be) will be racing with Kelly Slater running the front of the Boat.

Goodluck to all Australian Crews making the trip, I believe there are quite a few Tigers also making the trip. Hopefully, a repeat performance of last year where Australian crews dominated the Top Ten.

Other news that may have reached some ears. Andrew Williams, class stalwart and National Champion over consecutive years will be mounting a Tornado campaign with Glenn Ashby. The obvious goal is the Beijing Olympics in 2008. Just the little matter of knocking off the Bundock/Worrall team to get there.

The Australian Populace will be well served by either Team getting through. I'm sure with the high standard of both crews the competition will bring out the best in both. Not since Mitch Booth was regularly sailing here has there been genuine competition for the single Double Handed Multihull position at the Olympics.

Our quest to take over the world is slowly developing. Those of you on egroups will be aware of 4 second hand boats, making there way to Shanghai, China. I will endeavour to find out more.

Finally a Big Thanks to James Cole, and Farewell. James who used to race 099, was the class Treasurer for the previous two years and Newsletter Editor as well, has sold his boat and will be Backpacking around the globe for the next few years. James will be spreading the Gospel according to JB, the other JC's cousin.

Goodluck James.

Antony Edwards.



BOAT TYPE: Taipan 4.9 SAIL NO: AUS091 OWNER: GRAIG TAMLIN
PRICE: \$9,800

PH1: (03) 9817-5551 PH2: (03) 9817-7736 [EMAIL](#) LOCATION:
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

HULLS: FIBREGLASS. CAT/SLOOP: BOTH

COMMENTS: Well maintained boat idea for both cat and sloop rig. Recent maintenance by AHPC just before Xmas. Two sets of sails, Fibreglass hulls, just above minimum weight. Bow covers for transportation, trailer included (also maintained just before Xmas). Beach wheels. Boat located at Port Melbourne Yacht Club. A great fun boat, reluctant seller. Full rigging instructions suitable for first-time Taipan owner.

BOAT TYPE: Taipan 4.9 SAIL NO: AUS234 OWNER: GRAHAM
CLARKE PRICE: \$11,000

PH1: (03) 9225 7477 PH2: (03) 9809 5337 [EMAIL](#) LOCATION:
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

HULLS: FIBREGLASS. CAT/SLOOP: BOTH

COMMENTS: Previously Jim Boyer's own boat. As new trailer. Beachrollers. Very good condition. Not sailed this season or last (garaged).

BOAT TYPE: Taipan 4.9 SAIL NO: AUS259 OWNER: MARK
GRIFFITH PRICE: \$14,300

PH1: 0418 647 512 LOCATION: SYDNEY, NSW HULLS: KEVLAR
CAT/SLOOP: BOTH

COMMENTS: Excellent condition with very little use over last couple of years. (only sailed erratically prior to this, some would say very erratically). Goodall and Ashby main both in as new condition with very little use. Two jibs one in excellent condition the other used twice only. Full spinnaker kit. Freidrickson fitout. Mackay trailer with no tie system one sail box. Bow covers. Beach wheels + chocks. Carbon rudder stocks, x beam and extension. Dieform rigging.

BOAT TYPE: Taipan 4.9 SAIL NO: AUS229 OWNER: DENNIS
BAKER PRICE: \$14,500

PH1: 0400158772 PH2: 03 55721131 [EMAIL](#) LOCATION: VICTORIA
HULLS: KEVLAR, 2001 CAT/SLOOP: CAT

COMMENTS: Current National Champion 2005, Victorian Champion 2002 / 2004. Fast boat ready to sail nothing to do.

BOAT TYPE: Taipan 4.9 SAIL NO: AUS025 OWNER: GRAHAM LEE
PRICE: \$8,500

PH1: 0417 115 611 PH2: (03)9330 1823 [EMAIL](#) LOCATION:
MELBOURNE, VIC

HULLS: DBL KEVLAR CAT/SLOOP: BOTH

COMMENTS: Two masts (light & heavy rig), 3 mains, one new Irwin push up kevlar main, 3 jibs, one new Irwin jib never used, bow covers, all in very good condition,

BOAT TYPE: Taipan 4.9 SAIL NO: AUS257 OWNER: STEVE
BREADEN PRICE: \$12,000
PH1: 0418 495 293 [EMAIL](#) LOCATION: PORT STEPHENS, NSW
HULLS: KEVLAR CAT/SLOOP: BOTH
COMMENTS: New stays, two jibs very good looking boat. All beach gear.

BOAT TYPE: Taipan 4.9 SAIL NO: AUS097 OWNER: PAUL QUINN
PRICE: \$8,000
PH1:(07) 3890 2225 PH2: [EMAIL](#) LOCATION: BRISBANE,
QUEENSLAND
HULLS: KEVLAR CAT/SLOOP: BOTH
COMMENTS: Good Boat, 2 sets of sails, excellent road trailer. Mast can be set up for kite. Owner has relocated, and urgent sale req'd - therefore price is flexible. Possible assistance if purchaser is not in Brisbane.

BOAT TYPE: Taipan 4.9 SAIL NO: AUS096 OWNER: GRAHAM
WADE PRICE: \$10,000
PH1:07 4057 6567 PH2: 07 4057 6567 [EMAIL](#) LOCATION: CAIRNS,
QUEENSLAND
HULLS: FIBREGLASS CAT/SLOOP: BOTH
COMMENTS: 3 Sets of sails, new rigging, beach rollers, hull covers, trailer, all in very good condition.

I, hereby apply for membership of the Taipan Catamaran Association of Australia.
I agree to be bound by the rules of the association

Signature:.....

Membership Fee: \$40.00

Cheques Payable To: Taipan Catamaran Association of Australia.

Mail To: Treasurer TCAA, 149 Lemon Tree Passage Road, SALT ASH, NSW, 2318