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HART SET FOR BLUE WATER CHALLENGE



Whitsunday Sailing Club skipper Shannon Hart has welcomed the opportunity to contest the 2008 Meriden Marinas Airlie Beach Race Week IRC class championship in a warm and dryer environment.

Hart, who is normally drenched in speed sailing spray when he skippers his super fast Thompson 8 Sports Boat Mustard Cutter in local club events on Pioneer Bay has accepted an important crew role with the Graham Jones skippered Port Douglas yacht Blue Water.

The impressively comfortable new Beneteau First 45.5 cruiser-racer which will compete under the Multiplex Living Blue Water Marina 'Battle Flag' was officially launched at the Southport Yacht Club on July 16.

This was another exciting chapter in the yachting career of experienced off shore sailor Shannon Hart who promises to be very familiar with the speed sailing potential of Blue Water when she contests her maiden event against the international standard fleet in the Double Cone-Armit Island race on Thursday August 14.

He gained some important pre-regatta 'sail fast' knowledge as the delivery skipper on the coastal voyage from Southport to Airlie Beach.

His notes will help to formulate a base strategy when the unraced Graham Jones skippered Blue Water tests her handicap rated speed in what promises to be a super competitive series.

Jones has already compiled an impressive career winning the 1983 Brisbane to Gladstone Race with Public Nuisance in 1983.

This experience combined with the local tactical racing knowledge of Shannon Hart promises to provide Blue Water with a better than even money chance to claim a major result in her maiden regatta.

Ian Grant.



Australian Youth Championships 2008

A small but very keen group of Queenslanders have made the trip South to Frankston, Victoria for the 2008 Yachting Australia Youth



Craig Cobbin

Queensland athletes

The winner Male and Female will earn the right to represent Australia at the ISAF world championships to be held in Denmark in 2008. Many of the sailors have already taken part in the chosen class National Championships throughout Australia.

The classes taking part are the 420, Laser Radial Woman, Laser Standard Men, and Laser 4.7. The 29ers are being held at Sorrento.

Craig Cobbin the Caretaker Yachting Australia Coach looking after Queensland while Adrian Finglas is coaching the Yngling Girls in their Olympic preparation for China.

Craig is bonding well with the Sailors with pre race and post race briefings, weather and the local knowledge he has gathered after many Regatta's he has taken part on Port Philip Bay.

Black Jack Launched

Suellen Hurling



Sir Jack Brabham and Yacht "Black Jack"

Rivergate Marina on the Brisbane River was where the Reichel Pugh 66 Black Jack was launched today. The glorious Queensland weather and construction of the new Gateway Bridge was a spectacular backdrop for the blessing and launch.

The nickname of three time Formula One world champion Sir Jack Brabham, Black Jack was officially named after the Australian hero in honour of his sporting achievements.

"My first sailing experience was onboard a catamaran. It's wasn't the best day on the water, so I can't wait to get onboard this one, just once," said Sir Jack in his speech to the media at the launch this morning. "I think this boat might go a little faster than that catamaran though," he laughed.

Reverend David Johnstone blessed Back Jack to safe sailing and good strength just prior to Sir Jack cracking the champagne on the bow sprit whilst wrapped in a checked flag representing Sir Jacks Formula One racing history.

"I don't think I will get on board much and I'm happy to watch her progress from shore," said Sir Jack just prior to being presented with a scaled half model of the yacht. "Receiving this model is a wonderful gesture, and now I can imagine her at sea taking on the elements from the safety of my home!"

Purchased by Brisbane businessman Peter Harburg two months ago from USA, Black Jack will compete in her first race in just 14 days when she hits the start line for the Audi Sydney Gold Coast Race hosted by the Cruising Yacht

Club of Australia. Racking up against sister ship Wild Oats X is sure to create some interest amongst the yachting fraternity. From there Black Jack will race for her home club Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron in the 2nd Brisbane to Keppel Tropical Yacht Race.

"We are looking forward to many fine moments aboard Black Jack as we race along the east coast of Australia," said Harburg.

Most of the Black Jack crew were on hand this morning at the launch including skipper Mark Bradford who is honoured to take the helm of the new canting keeled racing yacht. "The launch of Black Jack is an important moment in Queensland yacht racing history and I know



Sir Jack Brabham and Yachting Queensland EO Norman Fry at the launch of "Black Jack"

the crew are eager to hit the water and just go racing," said Bradford. "We head to Sydney next Friday and the delivery from Brisbane will be a good chance to prepare the crew before racing. We have a lot to learn about this new machine so are keen to just get amongst it," continued Bradford.

With the spotlight now focused on the actual racing the crew are prepared for anything.

"We are going up against some of the best sailors in world, so it's important that we focus on the job at hand and get Black Jack over the line," said skipper Bradford. "We made a promise to Sir Jack to perform in honour of his nickname. Now it's time to give it a shot."





Photograph: John Sweep

Members from Brisbane Boys College, Moreton Bay College and Anglican Church Grammar School who competed in the 2008 Australian School Teams Racing Championships in Sydney.

After 3 days of intensive team racing among the 16 top Australian secondary school teams competing at Woollahra, New South Wales, Anglican Church Grammar School and Moreton Bay College both had 6 race wins to their credit, and Brisbane Boys College had 9 race wins, including 2 against the top-ranked Tasmanian teams. Conditions were extremely testing and varied from gusting 25 knots on Day 1 of the regatta (which was abandoned) to superlight conditions on Day 4.

The 2008 Australian champion school teams are:

1st - The Hutchins School (TAS.)

2nd - St. Virgils/ Guilford Young (TAS.)

3rd - Brisbane Boys College (QLD)

The Brisbane Boys College team is eligible for selection to represent Australia in the 2008 Interdominion Schools Team Racing Championship to be held in New Zealand in October 2008.



2008

Australian Sailing Team for Beijing Olympics

Well today I am back on the Plane again to fly out to China to start another 21 day training Camp with the Australian Sailing Team. Being in the Olympic team support staff all sounds great but packing the bags every few weeks and heading back into the airport lines and living out of the suitcase is not for the faint hearted.

In this period we will be working with the Girls and perfecting skills and making sure they are in perfect shape, health etc. This sounds easy? When you can't drink the water out of the tap and all the food is foreign believe me it can be a challenge.

China is one of the best places I have ever travelled and I have spent the last 25 years on the Road. The Local people at our Olympic Town are so friendly and cannot help you enough.

As I pack all my bags with all my gear I am constantly looking at the scales to make sure I come in at the required weight as the airlines are so tough these days. I can't wait to get back to training with the team and have breakfast with all our top athletes such as Tom Slingsby, Nathan Totteridge and Darren Burdock.

Well here we are sitting in Hong Kong Airport for three hours after a rough trip from Sydney, Cathay Pacific seats are so much smaller than Qantas so was not much space to sleep. Have

been talking to Michael Blackburn Australian Olympic Laser Legend about how to prepare for the Games, Michael has so much to offer the team with his personal insight. The Girls are looking really fit and in shape after the two week break in Australia and are ready to go.

One of our first jobs when we arrive is to test our final sails design for the light conditions. Our sail design team from the Japan North Sails Loft has been working over time to come up with the final version.

Well we still have not found out what this massive Golden

Lady is who faces the Olympic training Harbor, maybe she brings all the sailors good luck? Again the weed has been a problem but the Chinese Government have come in full steam ahead we have heard they have 5000 men working on it approx 1500 Boats on the sea collecting the sea weed. The manpower they have is incredible well in the last 24 hours this has been increased to see what they are capable of is amazing.



The Girls are feeling a little tired after three very big days so we have the morning off, today was 6.5 hours on the water going around and around the marks perfecting entry and exit angles. The team has really stepped up a level in training to be fully 100% focused for this amount of time on the one task is very taxing on you mentally.

We trained again today with Siren Sundby and her team Siren being the Olympic Gold medalist from Athens in the Europe class. You can say we are very lucky to have such great day training with one of the greatest female sailors, it was a real pleasure.

As we go about our daily grind you can see how the pressure is affecting different athletes as the pressure comes on from Governments and coaches to perform. Many teams at this stage are trying to find the elusive advantage and will try nearly anything to make a gain.

New faces in the boat park as athletes bring in specialist coaches for the final few days. Today we tested our Olympic sails again from the Japan North Loft all look good we try and get some hours using the equipment before the games so the sailors are used to it.

We are all working hard as there is only 38 days to go. Working on boat handling, speed and fitness. We have been flat out for the last few days and there are just not enough hours in the day for the testing we need to churn through. We have had the Yngling in the Zou Boat Building Facility they are the biggest producer of the Optimist Class In 2008, 1200 in one year. The facility has everything we needed except the work place safety issues had a little to be desired.

The Yngling was first lifted from the trailer then placed on its side no easy feat as the boat is 645kg so a decent crane is required. Having the boat on its side makes the polishing work a lot easier. We started with 800 then 1000 to 1200 wet and dry sandpaper on long boards to take out any small imperfections or scratches. After this the boat is then buffed polished with 5 different grades of polishes and final coat of Teflon.

We also had to test the weight of the boat and double check all equipment for weight. The lengths Olympic sailors are striving for are incredible as you see the Girls weigh the Carbon Fiber Paddle and get it to weigh the regulation 250 Grams. Then came the buckets okay the 100 Gram handle on each bucket in the Bin. After the final weigh we have a very light boat which will be fast in the light air the girls very pleased with the diet we have had the boat on. When you look at every piece of Rope every Nut and Bolt it is amazing how much weight you can get

rid of.

We have another seven days of critical speed testing to evaluate our final sails and then Home for a seven day rest before coming back for the Games.

Well how good does it feel to be back in Sunny Brisbane for a few days, seven, to be exact and relax before taking on the Olympic Games. It has been a huge year with travels that Started in January in Miami then off to Germany, Holland, France, Italy China etc. This travel as an international sports coach all sounds great but trust me living out of a suitcase and Motels for eight months is no fun.

Today I had a day off and travelled to the Gold Coast the beaches have no weed? The Sun is shining and the Pollution well I could not see any. We live in the best place on Earth and I will be happy to see the crystal clear waters of Australia after September.

This next eight weeks I have two of the biggest Challenges I have ever faced, One is my second Olympic Games and the other is the Para Olympics. This means many restless nights thinking worrying and searching for answers on how to assist the teams win Gold. Life passes very quickly it only seems like yesterday I was training flat out trying to make an Olympic team in my 470.

So to all the Young Youth sailors of Queensland never give up keep training as some of us will make the Journey together. More reports from China once I return.

Adrian Finglas



Southport Yacht Club Member Rayshele Martin and Team Finish 3rd at NZ Women's Match Race Champs



Team Wild Oats Chardonnay/Musto, including Queensland's own Rayshele Martin, started their campaign to qualify for the worlds in Auckland by recording a 3rd place at the recent New Zealand Women's Match Racing Championships.

With several international teams competing this year, including World Number 1 and ISAF Rolex World Sailor of the Year Claire Leroy, competition was certain to be fierce at the Grade 2 regatta. Day one got underway, but not as planned when we recorded our first loss to New Zealand's Jan Dawson, the eventual regatta runner-up. After an early conclusion to the days racing our first day tally was 3 wins and 2 losses, leaving us in equal 2nd place.

Once again racing was delayed and the race committee were forced to shorten the series to a single round robin. With only one round robin it was even more important for us to record good results. To this end we had four wins and an extremely close loss to Claire Leroy, which left us in 3rd position at the end of day two.

After successfully making it through to the semi finals, we were keen to race against our opponent Jan Dawson, An inconsistent breeze built from the south and racing got

underway. In the challenging conditions we recorded a decisive victory over Jan Dawson and were confident we would make it to the Final. Unfortunately, the wind did not settle and racing was called off at 4pm. Final positions were taken from the completed round robin results, leaving Claire Leroy the deserving New Zealand Women's Match Racing Champion. Jan Dawson finished 2nd and Team Wild Oats Chardonnay/Musto finished 3rd.

Happy with our result and the improvements made to our boat handling in the difficult Auckland conditions, we look forward to competing against some of the world's best female match racers at the upcoming Harken International Women's Match Racing Champs and, finally earning that elusive World Championship invite.

Nicky, Kylie, Lilly and I (Ray) would like to extend our sincerest thanks to our sponsors and supporters particularly Wild Oats Chardonnay, Musto, Southport Yacht Club, Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club, and our parents and families, without their continued support our participation at these regattas would not be possible. If you would like any further information on how you too can support this team then please contact Nicky Souter at nickysouter@yahoo.com







“FOLLOWING THE KRAIT”

A project recognising the exploits of the heroes of JAYWICK 1943

The re-enactment of the Voyage of the Krait, a 36 week, 40,000km secret mission Operation Jaywick 1943, arrived in Southport Yacht Club's Marina on Sunday 15th June, as the Sydney to Singapore route is retraced.

A pilgrimage for peace, Operation Pilgrimage Group's re-enactment is in honour of not only the boat and the operation but the 14 heroes who sailed her into Australia's military history 65 years ago.

In 1943 a captured Japanese fishing boat was used to transport a group of Z Force commandos from Australia to Singapore on a secret mission codenamed *Operation Jaywick*.

These commandos, upon arriving into Singapore Harbour in two-man canoes, sank seven ships by attaching limpet mines to their hulls under the noses of the Japanese.

Today *Krait* is an Australian floating maritime military museum and a reminder of the sacrifice made by Australia during war in the quest for freedom and peace.

Upon departure of Southport Yacht Club, the Operation Pilgrimage Team who are all ex Commandos, proceeded up the East Coast of Australia to Cairns, Far North Queensland to where the team members of *Operation Jaywick* trained then boarded *Krait*.

Their voyage continued through Torres Strait to Darwin then on to Exmouth Gulf, their final port in Australia before heading up to Bali, through the Lombok Strait then along the northern coastline of Java and Sumatra to Singapore, arriving in Singapore Harbour 65 years after the attack was launched.

This time, instead of explosives, the Operation Pilgrimage Team presented to the Government of Singapore in September, a *Pilgrimage for Peace* greeting containing letters from Australian Government departments, politicians, WWII military Associations and POW survivors.

Departing Singapore the team called at Jakarta to present a similar *Pilgrimage for Peace* greeting to the Indonesian Government and before returning to Exmouth Gulf the team visited Bali and place a *Plaque of Remembrance* on granite rock to the Bali bombing victims as well as meeting local authorities.

Operation Jaywick officially ended in Exmouth so the Operation Pilgrimage Team returned to Sydney via Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne completing their second circumnavigation of Australia

The Operation Pilgrimage Team vessel was displayed in Southport Yacht Club's Marina from Monday 16th June until Thursday 19th June 2008.

✱



The *Krait* at its current location, the Australian Maritime Museum in Sydney.



Allan Miles, Chief Planner Following the *Krait* with Maxine McKew Member for Bennelong and Crew members Arie Braak and Warren Chislett with the *Krait* at its current location, the Australian Maritime Museum in Sydney.



Two Heads – Better Than One

Photo: Mr Dale Chapman, House Manager and Mr Brian Dawson, Finance and Marine Manager.

Southport Yacht Club's new two-pronged management commenced in July with Gold Coasters Mr Dale Chapman as House Manager and Mr Brian Dawson as Finance and Marine Manager taking the helm.

Prior to his appointment with Southport Yacht Club, Mr Chapman was the General Manager of the Southport Surf Life Saving Club for ten years and has been instrumental in co-developing and managing a number of other popular Gold Coast operations.

Such operations included: Benowa Tavern, Australia Fair Tavern and the Runaway Bay Hotel in conjunction with such hospitality and sporting legends as: Bob Ell; footballers Peter Gallagher, John Satler and Bob Hagan; Doug Ryan; and Clive Kitchener.

"100% good food and service in a happy atmosphere is crucial to success in the hospitality industry," Mr Chapman said.

"We have a good team at Southport Yacht Club and I'm looking forward to working with them and our Members to make some improvements to return the Club to its prestigious reputation of old," he said.

Employed as the Finance Manager of Southport Yacht Club for the past three years it was fitting that Mr Dawson be promoted to the position of Finance and Marine Manager.

"I have been given a great opportunity to merge two of my passions: managing the finances of a great community organisation and ensuring our water-based activities make a positive impact on the Gold Coast community," Mr Dawson said.

Both men have been heavily involved in the hospitality industry on the Gold Coast and are keen to continue to restore, with the help of Members and staff, all aspects of Southport Yacht Club's services including: Waterfront Restaurant, Functions centre, Sailing Academy, Dux on South Stradbroke Island, Marina and Hardstand.

Southport Yacht Club's Main Beach Clubhouse is undergoing Phase 3 renovations until late 2008 when the western side of the Clubhouse will be reopened with new bathrooms, reception, Members' lounge and Board Room facilities.

The Club's Waterfront Restaurant, Bar and Functions centre remains open 7 days.



SPINNAKER TALES

By Ian Grant.

Talented teenage sailor Shelley White (15) has enhanced her future Olympic selection prospects with an impressive performance at the 2008 World Optimist dinghy championship in Turkey.

The diminutive skipper who hardly tips the scales at 45 kilograms when dripping wet in her racing rig expressed her personal skill and determination to finish second in a championship heat earlier this week.

This was by far the best place ever expected from an Australian sailor in a fleet which has attracted 255 entries representing 54 countries.

Shelley packed all of the experience she has gained from a limited program in the class to lead the fleet at the first windward mark and then fought tenaciously to ward off the challenges from her male rivals.

She was poised to become the first Australian to win a heat of an Optimist World series only to be narrowly outpaced to finish with a deserved second place just astern of the male Greek skipper Alexandros Kavas.

However the small suntanned blond Aussie Battler was ecstatic with her result and was all smiles when she received a special hug from her proud dad Mal after she produced her best career result on the testing Turkish waters of Ilica Bay.

Both parents Mal and Kelly who first introduced Shelley to sailing on the placid waters of the Sunshine Coasts Mooloolah River have drained the reserves of the personal 'piggy bank' to provide their exceptionally talented daughter with the International exposure she needs to extend her career into the important World championship arena.

Sure the cost is an issue however Mal White was not prepared to place a price on watching Shelley achieve her career best result in the highly competitive Optimist class.

"This is the first time that Shelley has raced in a big fleet and has progressively improved with every race which has secured our target to finish in the top 100".

"She is happy and having a lot of fun which is important". Mal White said.

Shelley has continued to impress and has climbed to 13th in the female series and 72nd overall after 10 hard fought races contested in 36 to 40 degree temperatures and variable wind range of 10 to 25 knots.

Her last five heat results of 2-15-10-33 suggests that Shelley White who won the Australian Optimist championship at her second attempt will finish the series with Australia's best ever result when the medal deciding races are decided on the sun drenched Ilica Bay today (local time).

Meanwhile the east coast of Australia remains under threat of being buffeted by cold South Westerly winds as the Audi Sydney to Gold Coast ocean race fleet make the final sail selection for the winter classic starting on Saturday.

Fleet front runners the Mark Richard's skippered Bob Oatley owned pocket-maxi Wild Oats X will fly the New South Wales burgee against her sister design Peter Harburg's Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron 'pocket rocket' Black Jack which will be skippered by BMW Oracle Americas Cup sailor Mark Bradford.

Both crews are expected to become engaged in a mate against mate State against State dog fight for line honours in a bid to beat Brindabella's 27 hr 35 min 3 second record.



Qld Youth Week Bursts onto the Scene

By Suellen Hurling



The inaugural OAMPS Insurance Brokers Queensland Youth Week has been as gone however the regatta has left a mark on the youth sailing calendar and will be back again in 2009 bigger and better than ever.

Sixty three entrants from across the country ventured to the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron which is based on the waters of Waterloo Bay in Brisbane. The entrants included 420s, 29ers, Laser 4.7s, Laser Radials, Optimists and Sabots. The largest fleet was the 4.7s with 19 entrants.

Daily "blogs" on the official regatta website kept family and friends unable to attend completely up-to-date with the unfolding events.

Saturday 5th July – Coaching. *Just had the coaches meeting with all the athletes - it's absolutely pouring with rain and as cold as Tasmania! Who promised sunshine and bright skies???* That's right! The QLD Youth Week organizers said that racing in winter in Queensland was glorious! Sunshine, consistent winds, warm weather and water. It would seem that the visitors from down south brought the cold weather with them. *Most of the classes have gone out on the water today for some pre-race training and are now back on shore enjoying a hot shower. It's been raining all day and it's freezing!!! Are we in Queensland???*

Sunday 6th July – Racing. *THE SUN IS OUT!!! Racing*

commences at 1100 hours and they're off! Race 1 has started. Sabots & Optimist started at 1105 hours Lasers 4.7 & Radials started at 1110 hours 420s & 29ers started at 1115 hours. Race 1 has finished and Race 2 has started. Some very close racing. Day 1 of racing is over with the 3 races completed. What a fantastic start to the regatta.

On Sunday evening the athletes came together to take part in one of the two social activities scheduled during the regatta. The Trivia night was popular with sabot sailors coming together with Laser sailors and 420 sailors joining forces with the Optimists. It turned out that the athletes were smarter than the Race Committee.

Monday 7th July – Racing. *The sun is out, but it's raining. Pretty soon there will be a rainbow. The start boat is on station and monitoring the conditions to be ready for the first race which is due to start at 1100 hours. All the competitors are on the water and waiting for the gun. Race 1 is almost over. It's a shame to see that the rain has killed the wind. At 1415 hours the 420's and 29er's have finished Race 2, the Optimist's and the Sabot's are sailing a shortened course. The wind has almost died completely. At 1435 hours there is no wind. The Start Boat is flying AP over A. No more racing today.*



Tuesday 8th July – Racing. *It hasn't rained in Brisbane for about 2 months. We are still on Level 6 Water Restrictions and are not allowed to wash boats down at the end of the day with fresh water. But no one needs to worry about that at the moment. It's pouring!!! It's been pouring all night. The forecast says there is going to be wind, let's hope so. We have come to the conclusion that our southern friends brought the much needed rain with*

them. There are three races scheduled for today because only two could be raced yesterday. At 0915 hours, the Race Committee has decided to postpone the sailors heading out to the course area. It's pouring with rain and there is no wind to speak of...At 1200 hours Race 1 has been started and abandoned. The AP is flying for the second time today...on the Start Boat this time. 1205 hours, time to re-lay the course. Another wind change. 4 to 5 knots on the course. 1220 hours changing the course...again! The breeze has gone from 100° to 280°...it's just a little shifty. At least its stopped raining. 1435 hours the Start Boat is keeping the young sailors awake by handing out minties and fruit chews (lollies). There is currently 2 to 4 knots on course. 1545 hours

Race 2 has finished. There is no wind...the start boat is flying AP over A...no more racing today.

1645 hours The lighting is set... The music is pumping... The young sailors are waiting for their DISCO to begin! The second social event for the regatta was the disco. The athletes danced the night away to some great music of their time interacting with each other and forming new friendships.

Wednesday 9th July - Racing. The rain has finally cleared! The sun is out drying all the sailors gear and the giving the place a bit of a sparkle. Racing starts at 1000 hours today. The Race Committee hopes to get the final three races in so the champion of each division can be crowned in racing glory. 1030 hours Race 1 has started...the sabots and optimists are rounding the top mark! 1050 hours the Start Boat is going into a start sequence for Race 2. There

is currently 15 to 18 knots on course...quite a few boats are capizing! The wind picked up and provided what was promised to the visitors. But as the conditions increased to about 24 knots, there were a few capsizes. 1340 hours

Racing for the Inaugural OAMPS Insurance Brokers Qld Youth Week incorporating the Australian Midwinter Youth Championships is over! The racing finished off with a rather large bang and the promised wind of 20 knots hit the course. There were a few boat casualties (broken masts, booms, lost mainsheets etc.) but everyone is A OK and looking forward to a hot shower, some warm food and the presentation!

The regatta ended on a high note with nearly everyone promising to come back for the 2009 event. But it still wasn't over for the athletes. They had two days of coaching to finish off the inaugural OAMPS Insurance Brokers Qld Youth Week. Some stayed on for the coaching whilst others headed to Sydney for the School Team Racing Australian Championships.

The regatta will be hosted again by the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron in 2009 with the proposed schedule.

- Saturday 4 July - Registration and Coaching
- Sunday 5 July - Briefing and Racing
- Monday 6 July - Coaching
- Tuesday 7 July - Racing
- Wednesday 8 July - Racing and Presentation

To view the full blog entries, photos and results log onto the dedicated website: www.qldyouthweek.com

Laser 4.7 Girls

- 1st - Ashlie Lane NT
- 2nd - Caitlin Elks WA
- 3rd - Sasha Ryan QLD

Laser 4.7 Boys

- 1st - Andrew Torpelund QLD
- 2nd - Stephen Collings VIC
- 3rd - Cameron Parsons VIC

Laser Radial Boys

- 1st - Elliot Noye TAS
- 2nd - Curtis Skinner QLD
- 3rd - Mark Edmonds NT

Laser Radials Girls

- 1st - Ashley Stoddart QLD

420 Girls

- 1st - Genevieve Warlow/Madeline Jones QLD

420 Boys

- 1st - Angus Galloway/Alex Gough QLD
- 2nd - Sean Ott /Adam Lahey QLD
- 3rd - Rhys Collins/Andrew Gough QLD

Optimist Girls

- 1st - Milly Bennett NSW
- 2nd - Melissa Hitchen-Haw VIC
- 3rd - Louise Evans QLD

Optimist Boys

- 1st - Fergus Galloway QLD

Sabot 1up

- 1st - Aiden Geck QLD
- 2nd - Eloise Brake QLD
- 3rd - Felix Grech NSW

Sabot 2up

- 1st - Trevor Korman/Hannah Bates QLD

29er

- 1st - Josh Franklin/William Martineau QLD

STATE PRIZE

- Queensland
- Angus Galloway / Alex Gough - 420
- Aiden Geck - Sabot 1up
- Andrew Torpelund - Laser 4.7

Results Wrap-Up



John Cuneo (Olympic Gold Medalist 1972) presents medals to Alex Gough and Angus Galloway winners of the 420 Boys

Ian Grant

AGE NO BARRIER

Rod Sawyer added another important trophy win to the racing log of his 26 year old sloop Surefoot when they won the Cumberland Charter Yacht series on the Whitsunday Sailing Club course in June

The Peter Norlin designed Surefoot which has the career distinction of racing under the Royal Papua Yacht Club burgee at the Admirals Cup in England set the pace to clinch the four race series by a narrow one point margin over the Kevin Fogarty skippered Idle Time with another penalty point to Treasure VIII (Harold Menelaus).

It was a tight series with Pacific Phoenix (Alan Sneddon), Queensland Marine Services (John Galloway), 007 (Jeff Brown) and Treasure VIII each winning a heat however all four crews failed to remain consistent to match Surefoot which was cleverly sailed in the varied range of winds to claim the trophy with her 3-9-2-5 score.

Treasure VIII was clearly the star performer in last week's trophy deciding race convincingly outpacing her .868 handicap correction factor to win the first and fastest double in a variable South East breeze.

Skipper Harold Menelaus enjoyed the opportunity to sail in uncontested wind and sea room at the head of the fleet while an intense handicap rated match race developed between Africa (Terry Archer), Idle Time, Sunrise (Jeff Shipsey), 007 and Surefoot for the series deciding points.

As expected there were no favours requested or consented when all four crews were forced to protect their space and maintain the crucial opportunity to sail in clear wind.

Surefoot needed to generate consistent speed to sail on equal terms to mount a challenge against the series leader Africa.

Both crews were separated by one point and this became the focus of tactical attention when the fleet settled into their individual challenges to set the fastest corrected handicap.

Veteran skipper Harold Menelaus and his Treasure VIII

crew sealed an early claim on the major points when they cleared out from any prospective challenge.

But unfortunately the battle for the more important series winning points proved to be a tactical minefield for skipper Terry Archer and the Africa crew when they were buried in the pack with no escape route to produce the pace to protect their .743 handicap rating and trophy leading point score.

Tactical attention then focused on skipper Rod Sawyer however he managed to sail a high percentage of the race in uncontested space but generally struggled for pace when the breeze failed to blow the wrinkles out of Surefoot's race weary sails.

However skipper Rod Sawyer has sailed too many miles to let a trophy winning chance slip from his grasp eventually finishing fifth in a tight time frame when Idle Time and Sunrise were split by one second to decide the minor places behind Treasure VIII while another 28 seconds separated 007, Surefoot, Queensland Marine Services and Another Fiasco.

This close hard fought result eventually allowed Surefoot to win the Cumberland Yacht Charters trophy by the slender margin of 13 seconds.

CYCA The Top Team.

Cruising Yacht Club of Australia the nation's premier ocean yacht racing club added further trophies to their impressive mantelpiece over the Easter weekend.

Senior Flag Officer Commodore Matt Allen steered the super fast Volvo 70 Ichi Ban to another line honours win in the 60th Brisbane to Gladstone race winning the Gladstone Pacific Nickel trophy with an elapsed course time of 23 hours 34 minutes 10 seconds.

This was another quality performance by the Ichi Ban crew who completed the course with a surprisingly fast 13.07 knot average despite a slow 42 n/ml passage out of Moreton Bay.

Ichi Ban picked up the pace on the 250 n/ml open ocean leg between Caloundra and Gladstone Harbour reaching a peak speed of 17 knots during the brief and breezy local squalls to claim successive line honours trophies.

She set the IRC race clock ticking by posting the 37 hour 44 minute 5 second time factor for the fleet to beat.

That time was set at another level when Ray Roberts and his Quantum Racing crew intent on improving their 2007 performance blew Ichi Ban away when they reset the time factor at 35-08-44.

Skipper Ray Roberts displayed an element of confidence when he enjoyed the post race debrief with tactician Steve McConaghy, Richard Hudson and Gary Adshead.

His modesty was rewarded with the Farr/Cookson canting keel 50 setting the IRC handicap rated pace which her major rivals including the 8 time race winner Saltash II failed to match.

Quantum Racing which averaged an impressive 11.76 knots was simply sailed to fast and smart which allowed her proud owner to have his name engraved on the historical 60yr Courier Mail Cup for the second time.

His last win in 1995 with Millenium still remains a cherished memory and is one of the reasons why the Ray Roberts racing team support the iconic Queensland blue water classic.

Quantum Racing beat an impressive fleet including Bill Wild's Hugh Welbourne designed 42 Wedgetail and the Graeme Wood skippered TP52 Wot Yot.

This result combined with the line honours trophy defence by Ichi Ban allowed the CYCA team of Quantum Racing Wot Yot and Ichi Ban to win the Federation Cup teams trophy by a wide margin.

RENAISSANCE WINS MULTIHULL TROPHY

Ross Perrins has made a successful transition from a Brisbane-Gladstone race monohull champion to dominating the Multihull Yacht Club of Queensland Brisbane Gladstone race honour board.

The talented and experienced offshore racing skipper who previously won the prestigious Courier Mail Cup on three occasions with the Peter Norlin designed IOR Half Tonne champion Scampi A added another Gladstone Race trophy to his impressive ocean racing career over the Easter weekend.

Perrins who jokingly said "I only own one of the two hulls and that's the one with the fridge" showed the value of a happy and successful catamaran racing partnership with his good mate Mike Hodges when the very comfortable Jeff Schionning designed cruising

catamaran Renaissance won the Brisbane to Gladstone race.

The physically tough races spent in the spray drenched cockpit of Scampi A became a distant memory when co skippers Ross Perrins and Mike Hodges protected from the speed sailing spray steered Renaissance to another popular corrected handicap win.

Their victory hung in the balance after Renaissance completed the course in 28 hours 48 minutes to record 10.69 knot average while race officials considered an application for redress from skipper Rob Remilton (Wilparina II) for the role his crew played in the rescue of the four sailors from the capsized catamaran APC Max.

The George Owen skippered APC Max was duelling for the lead with Martyn Riley's Raw to the Core when the catamaran came to grief off Waddy Point around 11-30 on Good Friday night.

Skipper Rob Remilton's crew stowed the spinnaker and temporarily withdrew Wilparina II from racing to conduct a search and rescue mission for their unfortunate racing mates.

They executed excellent seamanship finding the inverted APC Max in 55 minutes before spending a further 36 minutes getting their mates safely onboard before they resumed racing.

Wilparina II was noticeably a lot slower with the extra crew weight as she tracked past Lady Elliot Island then onto the finish completing the course in second place behind Raw to the Core with a race average of 12.32 knots.

After the Wilparina II redress was considered the Renaissance crew was officially declared the winner with a corrected time of 22-39-56, 33 minutes 56 seconds ahead of Wilparina II with Mark Wilson's Viento another 9 seconds astern third.

BRUISING BREEZE PRESENTS A THRILLING FINISH TO MUSTO ETHELLS NATIONALS

A bruising flesh, fabric and hull tormenting strong wind warning sorted the players from the stayers during the final day of the 2008 Musto Etchells Australian Winter championship off Mooloolaba Beach.

Torn sails, bent spars and crew fatigue caused a long list of retirements while the heavy wind specialists were forced to hike hard upwind then hang on during the wild spinnaker runs to salvage their reputations.

As expected the coastal strong wind warning presented some apprehension when the fleet sailed onto the course and this clearly emerged during the physically demanding up wind slog in race five when title leader Magpie (Graeme Taylor) and his nearest rival Mark Bulka's Critical Balance were buried in the pack with no escape route.

The Magpie crew of skipper Taylor, Grant Wharington and Simon Gorman who handed the International standard fleet a sailing lesson to claim a 1-7-1-2 in the lighter winds on Friday and Saturday could only manage to finish 18th while Mark Bulka finished 24th in a physically tough race won by former Winter champion Ian Johnson in Bananas in Pyjamas.

These results compacted the points table allowing former World champion Cameron Miles, Phil Smidmore and David Sampson to become the new leader with Blake Snake.

Miles Black Snake combination expressed the benefit of consistency and was in the position to become a serious trophy challenger with their 5-3-6-7-4 score to lead the Magpie crew by four penalty points after they added an 18th to their 1-7-1-2.

This set the stage for an exciting final when the fleet lined up for another supreme test of fresh wind sailing.

As expected both the highly experienced Magpie and Black Snake crews became interested in their own private match race with Cameron Miles needing to force the Magpie crew to race back in the pack.

But Taylor had done his maths and remained committed to sail with a protective strategy while the Audi Australian Summer Champion Jason Muir and his Racer XY crew power sailed to a runaway win with unmatched speed.

Muir's Racer XY was easily the start performer when his crew of Matthew Chew, Darren Jones and Paul White left their rivals to follow their white water wake to settle the minor heat and overall championship places.

Racer XY finished over a minute in advance of the Mark Bulka skippered Critical Balance while the Magpie crew completed the bruising final in fourth place to win the title by four points from Critical Balance and Racer XY.

Results: 2008 Musto Australian Winter Etchells C'ship final:

Magpie (Graeme Taylor, Vic) 1-7-1-2-(18)-4 15pts 1.
Critical Balance (Mark Bulka, Vic) 6-2-8-1-(24)-2 19pts 2.

Racer XY (Jason Muir, Qld) (20)-5-5-6-2-1 19pts 3.
Black Snake (Cameron Miles, NSW) 5-3-6-(7)-4-5 23pts 4.
Bananas in Pyjamas (Ian Johnson, Vic) (21)-17-10-5-1-6 39pts 5.
870 (Mark Bradford, Qld) 11-10-3-4-(26)-11 39pts 6.
Racer X (Mike O'Brien, Qld) 3-1-2-13-(36)-22 41pts 7.
Triad (John Bertrand, Vic) 7-16-4-10-10- (17) 47pts 8.
Fifteen (David Clark, NSW) 4-11-(23)-11-12-14 52pts 9.
La Ve Desante (Chris Pratt, SA) 9-9-22-16- (37)-8 64pts 10.

QUANTUM RACING ALL CLASS

Sydney skipper Ray Roberts added the 60 year old Courier Mail Cup to his impressive collection when he steered Quantum Racing to a resounding win in the 308 n/ml Brisbane Gladstone race.

The Quantum Racing crew excelled in a testing range of winds to outsail a very competitive fleet when she logged an average speed of 11.76 knots to win the IRC class by a commanding margin.

They were tactically smart in the light winds in Moreton Bay then capitalised with a faultless strategy over the more important 250 nautical mile open ocean sailing leg between Caloundra and Gladstone Harbour to build an unmatched speed which ultimately paved the way for their 1hour 1 minute 15 second win over the equally well sailed Brisbane sloop Wedgetail.

Ray Roberts who previously won the Courier Mail Cup in 1995 with Millennium complimented his crew on the success of Quantum Racing.

"We have sailed a lot of miles together and they are a great team which is the reason behind the success of Quantum Racing".

"They were a little disappointed with the second place to Saltash II in 2007 and used this as the incentive to step up this year".

"It was a great race and they (the crew) capped the experience with a special result". Ray Roberts said.

The crew on Bill Wild's Wedgetail also sailed a very competitive race but was forced to sail in the shadow of Quantum Racing.

"Quantum was all class, we could find no fault with our race and they were still too good" Wedgetail tactician Kevin Costin said.

Wedgetail repowered with new spinnakers fell short by almost 12 seconds per nautical mile to race on equal terms with Quantum Racing however skipper Bill Wild was happy with second place 54 minutes 50 seconds ahead of the Graeme Wood skippered Wot Yot.

Sunshine Coast yacht designer Jon Sayer added another personal triumph to his impressive career when the Murray Bucknall and Jon Sayer skippered Ryujin FGI beat the Lucas Down helmed Wasabi for the top honour in the Performance Handicap class.

Sayer designed and built both yachts and proved his class as Australia's best marathon racing skipper when he combined with Murray Bucknall to win their class in the 5,500 n/ml Melbourne to Osaka race in 2007.

They were forced to apply a similar tactical attitude when the Ryujin FGI and Wasabi crews sailed almost in the same water and wind during their exciting 308 n/ml match race before Ryujin FGI sealed her class win over the equally well sailed Wasabi by a narrow 3 minute 48 second margin.

Shelley, a class act

Australian Optimist dinghy sailing champion Shelly White claimed another important career milestone when she represented Australia at the World championship in Cesme Turkey in July.

She contested the 15 qualifying heats of the prestigious Beacon Challenge Cup against the World's best.

The diminutive 45 kg 15 year old who developed her career from fun-filled learn to sail classes with the Mooloolaba Dinghy Club on the peaceful Mooloolah River has emerged as one of Australia's more talented teenage female sailors.

Many of her 264 World championship rivals representing 54 nations are stronger and heavier male skippers however the small sun tanned blond Aussie skipper was physically and mentally prepared for her challenge.

Shelly expressed her personal determination to win the 2008 Optimist National Gold Medal against a male dominated fleet in Melbourne earlier this year and has followed this up by successfully defending her Queensland Sabot title on the Keppel Bay Sailing Club course in June.

Remarkably she has the required physical endurance and the mental discipline to achieve results well beyond her relatively light body weight.

She has always presented an impeccable sporting attitude and accepts the male rivalry as part of the sport and has never been known to back away from a dog-fight addressing any attempts of 'bullying' by racing harder and faster.

There is a strong chance she will again experience some tactical aggression when racing against the World's best Optimist dinghy skippers however she has learnt to understand that a girl has no free ride to calling the shots with the tactically important uncontested use of sailing space.

"I have never raced in big fleets before and this presents a huge challenge which I plan on managing by assessing every situation with a quick response". She said.

Sure it will be difficult but the experience gained will prove invaluable as the exceptionally skilled female skipper continues to build her promising career.

Her first tilt at a World championship was very much a nautical educational experience for Shelly who maintains her personal focus on representing Australia in a future Olympic regatta.

"There is still a long way to go but that is my ultimate goal". She said.

Racing for Australia in the Optimist World championship represents the important initial step to achieving her goal.

Shelly will face a very busy schedule when she returns from Turkey including catching up on her back log of high school assignments during the week followed by training and racing her Sabot Stay Tuned on weekends in preparation for the 2008 Australian championship regatta at Airlie Beach later this year.

This will be her final chance to become the second girl in the history of the class to win the Sabot National crown.

Remarkably her idol Lauren Jeffries also a graduate from learning to sail on the Sunshine Coast steered the same dinghy Stay Tuned to her history making win on Townsville's Cleveland Bay 10 years ago. *

On the Whitsunday **Waterfront**

By Cap'n Dan Van Blarcom

Remember sailing? Always something to think about on the water

Researchers at the University of NSW have found that senior people could fight off dementia by being involved in activities such as sailing.

The researchers followed a group of 60-year-olds over three years and found that those who had been mentally and physically active continually since the age of 13 had a larger hippocampus, the part of the brain that controls short-term memory and navigation skills.

The author of the report, Dr Michael Valenzuela, from the university's school of psychiatry, said researchers showed that complex mental activity helped prevent dementia.

"It also helps throw some light on why there has been this consistent link between mental activity and lower dementia risk," Dr Valenzuela said.

However, he said the study, published in the Public Library of Science ONE journal, found that the size of the hippocampus was not directly related to intelligence.

"We didn't find that a person's IQ made much of a difference, it came down to them having a real diversity of interests," he said. "Some had gone back to university in their 60s and 70s and others just had a variety of interesting hobbies and socialise quite a lot."

Moreover, people could help themselves.

"It is vital that everyone is involved in cognitive, social and physical activities in later life such as dancing, tai chi, sailing, travelling or learning a new language, for example."

So, just keep sailing.

Boat skills build Rotary event

The first local schools Boat Building Competition was hotly contested at the Oceanic Whitsunday Boat & Leisure Show at Meridian Abel Point Marina in June.

Crews of young boaties from Hamilton Island, St Catherine's, Cannonvale and Proserpine State Schools,

Prossie High and the Christian College built ply boats with the help of experienced shipwrights.

Over two hours on Saturday morning, the teams worked vigorously to manufacture their masterpieces.

A long lunch followed, allowing the glue to dry. Then at 2.30pm, the race began. The boats, of all shapes, sizes and rigs, were launched into the waters of Abel Point Marina, their crews each expecting to paddle first to the finishing line.

At the start, Team Whitsunday Christian College appeared very unstable in their long outrigger.



Greenpeace visited the Whitsunday Sailing Club

However, when the starting flag was lowered, the crew lifted their feet into the narrow hull and left everyone behind. Did we hear-tell of an outrigger ring-in paddler?

Team St Catherine's' Primary, although underwater for most of the time surprised everyone by running second for the first half of the race.

Results for the inaugural event were; Race Winner - Team Whitsunday Christian College \$1000.00 prize donated by Whitsunday Transit. Best Built Boat - Team Proserpine State School \$500.00 prize donated by Des Davies of R Whitsunday. Most Enthusiastic - Team Cannonvale Primary - \$500.00 prize donated by the Reef Gateway, reports Tim Arland of Rotary Club of Airlie

"Special thanks to Home Hardware for all the materials" Tim added.

This boat building event is certain to be on the program next year as it shows in such a positive way in which Rotary works with the community to benefit us all.



Cruising is a lifestyle

Lost and found

Whitsunday Game Fishing Club junior member, Ryan Wardroper lost his tinny during the Easter break.

Ryan, his father and friends set out to the reef with Ryan's boat towed behind dad's larger vessel. After a couple of days fishing at the reef the weather turned for the worst, so they headed for home.

Unfortunately, Ryan's tinny, for which he had saved the money, was swamped by huge seas, the line broke and the tinny was lost! Ryan was devastated as he lost a bit of gear as well...

But... On Sunday the June 1, the tiny was found still intact and still floating . . . in Cooktown.

Sporty SOS

Berchtesgaden police officer Lorenz Rasp describes Jessica Bruinsma as "a very smart girl" who acted "very resourcefully."

German police say the 24-year-old hiker stranded in the Bavarian Alps for nearly three days was rescued after using her sports bra as an SOS signal.

Officials said the rescue team, including five helicopters and 80 emergency workers, responded when lumberjacks spotted the sports bra on a timber moving cable. Then an alpine rescue team was able to track the cable to a ledge where she had fallen.

He says, "She kept her shirt and jacket for warmth, but thought the sports bra could work as a signal."

Sometimes it just takes a knack for attracting attention in a distress situation.



Sailing in Bowen at Easter Regatta

Media sharks dive into feeding frenzy

Events surrounding the story of two lost scuba divers have left Whitsunday locals wondering who the real sharks are.

The shark infested media has enjoyed a feeding frenzy after an experienced British dive instructor and his American girlfriend, a qualified dive master, survived a night floating in 24 degree water near Bait Reef wearing 'only' their full length wetsuits and buoyancy vests. Their taking water bottles for a one-hour dive raised eyebrows on board the dive boat.

It was reported that Richard Neely, 38, and Alison Dalton, 40, sold the story of their 19-hour ordeal to the British Sunday Mirror for an estimated half a million pounds.

The newspaper's website states that the "Home of the Sunday Mirror Newspaper. Celebrity, Football, Today's News Headlines"

The half a million-pound story tells readers, "As the couple

recovered on dry land, they told their inspirational story to the Sunday Mirror"

"When a helicopter finally arrived, the chopper's crew couldn't see them, even though they were hovering virtually overhead.

"Eventually, suffering from hypothermia, they were plucked to safety - just after a highly-venomous sea-snake reared up in Alison's face.

"I truly thought we were going to die. Sharks were on our mind the entire time, but neither of us mentioned the 'S' word," Mr Neely told the Sunday Mirror.

Queensland Premier Anna Bligh suggested the couple should contribute to the costs of the operation, estimated as \$400,000, which involved seven helicopters, three planes and six boats.

Queensland Water Police acting superintendent Shane Chelepy said: "We're going to take statements from everyone on board that vessel and then there will be the normal issues of taking possession of all of the equipment for further examination."

The divers have rejected claims they had flouted directions, and blamed their dive crew for not finding them sooner. They dismissed claims they should not have left the lagoon near the dive boat; that they had ignored a safety briefing because they were experienced divers and had been told by their tour leader to surface if they left the lagoon.

"I don't believe they were looking for us." said Mr Neely.

They have sold their story to the UK's Sunday Mirror and to other media outlets for an undisclosed fee, although reports have put it at up to \$1.1 million AUD.

Celebrity agent Max Markson, who has taken on the couple as clients, said the cost of the rescue would be met by their insurance.

However, David Lippman of insurers Divers Alert Network said the network was willing to cover the evacuation costs from the time the couple were found and may donate some money towards fuel costs.

Max Markson, who helped to sell the story of their rescue exclusively to the English tabloid newspaper, says their story could become a movie.

"There's interest from the major TV networks throughout the world and agencies. There's an immediate story that needs to be told because it's just a miraculous survival," Mr Markson said.

"And then there's the long-term ... there might be a movie

or even a book out of it you just never know on these occasions."



Grey nomad flybridge land yacht

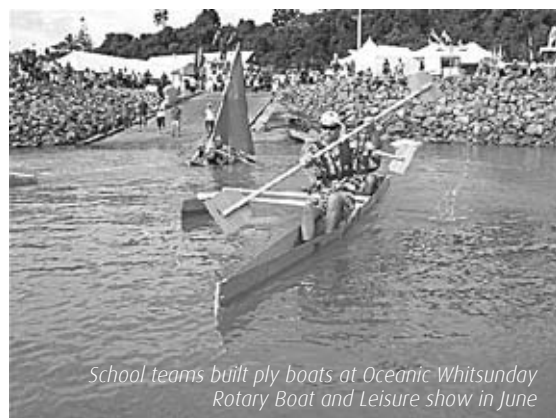
Coral trout breakthrough

The development of spawning and larval-rearing techniques for the common coral trout is a high priority among established fin fish producers.

In Australia, all previous attempts have failed to produce weaned juveniles. At the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries' (DPI&F) Northern Fisheries Centre (NFC), wild-caught broodstock populations produced natural spawning events in November 2007.

These fertilised eggs were used for the first successful production of coral trout fingerlings in Australia, opening the aquaculture potential of this high-value, premium marine finfish.

A broodstock population was sourced during October 2007 and consisted of 16 females and four males. During November 2007, two natural spawning events occurred three days and one day after the new and full moon respectively. Typically, these events are consecutive spawnings occurring over 2-3 nights between 9 pm to



School teams built ply boats at Oceanic Whitsunday Rotary Boat and Leisure show in June

11.30 pm and result in approximately 400,000 eggs with a fertilisation rate as high as 70%.

The peak spawning period occurred during the three nights following the new moon, accounting for 78% of total spawned eggs and fertilisation rates of 60-70%.

Success in developing suitable broodstock husbandry practices for this species has resulted in further spawning events during 2008, with a peak of approximately 200,000 eggs released in a single night and a fertilisation rate of 98%. While a spawning event typically occurs over 2-5 nights following a new or full moon phase, this single population of broodstock have demonstrated the capacity to spawn continually every night over an 18-day period.

How Much?

A man walks into the toy store to get a Barbie doll for his daughter. So he asks the assistant, as you would, "How much is Barbie?"

"Well," she says, "we have Barbie Goes to the Gym for \$19.95, Barbie Goes to the Ball for \$19.95, Barbie Goes Shopping for \$19.95, Barbie Goes to the Beach for \$19.95, Barbie Goes Nightclubbing for \$19.95, and Divorced Barbie for \$265.00."

"Hey, hang on," the guy asks, "why is Divorced Barbie \$265.00 when all the others are only \$19.95?"

"Yeah, well, it's like this ... Divorced Barbie comes with Ken's house, Ken's car, Ken's boat, Ken's furniture ..."

Science is fun

Marine scientist Lisa Gershwin says this creature was at an evolutionary dead-end: "It's lost the ability to sting, it's lost the ability to swim: it's not a very good jellyfish, as far as jellyfish go."

It looks like snot, it's the size of a grain of rice, and it's taking the marine science world by storm.

Dr. Lisa Gershwin says the tiny creature was found in a seahorse tank at the Townsville Aquarium.

The jellyfish, of the family Coeloplana, has its mouth on its underside and its anus wrapped around its brain.

"It's up to about a centimetre long, it doesn't swim, it glides along the bottom," she said.

"It's found on algae and seagrass and it's just a real thin



film, real mucousy like a flatworm but it's got these two tentacles sticking out and it's actually genetically a jellyfish that looks like a flatworm."

Dr. Gershwin told The Whitsunday Guardian the species was an evolutionary "dead end," merely an "anus wrapped around its brain"

Dr. Gershwin said it was the 159th species she had found, and would be named after Dr. Russell Reichelt, chief executive of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

"This particular one, I think is really, really special," she said.

"The typical non-science person thinks of science as happening in sterile labs far away, in a university or a hospital by people in white lab coats and latex gloves.

"This really brings it home that science is all around us and happens in our own backyards."

The jellyfish will be studied further before it is described and submitted to a peer-reviewed journal

Mother of invention

Following a recent marine rescue, a new invention to sell fishers will be an Esky with EPIRB holder. Don't go out without it!

It happens

Mates Frank and Leisa are up here in Whitsunday on their boat again. On the way up the coast, they borrowed the courtesy car at the Keppel Bay marina to go shopping. They bought a 10-kilo block of squid to use as crab bait on their leisurely trip up the coast. They said bon voyage to the marina and journeyed up the coast to a nice anchorage. When they went looking for the ten kilos of bait -- yes, it was still in the courtesy car.

Lucky For Me

Award winning author Frank Robson's new book, Lucky For Me, is a full-blooded account of a friendship between man and dog.

Frank Robson puzzles on Lucky, a cream-coloured terrier, who trotted into his life and taught him about survival, mate-ship



and the joys of an independent spirit. Expect to laugh, cry and shake your head as you read this wonderful book.

At eighteen months of age, Lucky, a cream-coloured terrier, was dropped off at a vet's clinic in Queensland, abandoned by his owners and suffering from ticks and other terrors. A week away from being put down he was rescued and adopted by Frank Robson and his partner, Leisa.

From the start, the fluffy new member of the sea-going household proved an enigma, displaying a twelve-snot



*International Talk Like a Pirate Day in Airlie Beach
Saturday September 20*

ITLaPDiAB

International Talk like a Pirate Day in Airlie Beach is Saturday September 20. Everyone likes to talk like a pirate, so in a town like Airlie you can also dress up like a pirate and have some fun. The Pirates of the Whitsundays are the polite pirates who use their manners and say please and thank you, and ensure that visitors always come first. Cap'n Bligh in Airlie Beach - Hon Anna Bligh MP Premier of Queensland received her Ship Captain Certificate in Airlie Beach from Cap'n Dan and it's online at <http://piratesofwhitsunday.blogspot.com/>

Spare a thought

vocabulary, an ability to climb trees (the better to chase parrots) and a disdain for suburbia.

In this full-blooded account of a friendship between man and dog, Robson puzzles on the sentient being who trotted into his life and taught him about survival, mateship and the joys of an independent spirit.

www.luckyforme.com.au/aboutbook.htm

"Remember, Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did, but backwards and in high heels"

South Molle upgrade

Work to upgrade sections of walking track on South Molle Island will continue into August. During this time some track closures will occur as machinery, plant and equipment are in use. For your safety read and heed all EPA signage and check with the EPA/QPWS or resort office.

Save our Ship

It's 100 years since 'SOS' came into force across the world as the standard signal for ships in distress. However, times have changed in the rescue business.

Before the advent of radio if your ship got into trouble on some far off stretch of rolling sea, that trouble was not easy to survive.

Communication off the ship could only be achieved with other ships within distance, using lights, flags, rockets or flares.

If you were in dense fog or in a howling gale far out at sea, and you started taking on water, the first communication most sailors would make was heaven-wards.

Colossal Squid

A species of squid reported to be significantly larger than the giant squid, is called the colossal squid, officially named *Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni*. In February 2007, a live colossal squid was brought to the surface in Antarctic waters by a New Zealand fishing boat. This enormous squid, which was determined to be a male of the species, was 10 meters (32.8 feet) in length, and weighed 450 kilograms (992 pounds), making it the largest squid (the largest invertebrate) ever captured. What is even more astonishing is that, from what scientists know about squid species in general, there is great sexual dimorphism in squids, with females being significantly larger than the males. If that holds true for the colossal squid, a much larger female of the species could very well dwarf this captured male specimen.

A dark and foggy night

Late one foggy night two boats collide head on while navigating a narrow channel. Both their boats were damaged, disabled and slowly sinking.

As they watched, their boats slowly slip away beneath them, the first boater said, "You know, this is a sign that we should never take life for granted and that we should live it to the fullest".

"You're right," said the other boater as he pulled out a bottle of rum. "Let us drink to living well for the rest of our lives".

The first boater took the bottle and, after a big swig, handed it back to the other boater who in turn quickly threw it into the river.

More than a little surprised the first boater exclaimed, "You didn't take a drink?"

"Naw," said the other boater "I think I'll just wait for the Water Police to show up."

Port of Airlie

Mariners are advised that dredging of the Port of Airlie Marina entrance channel in Boat Haven Bay has started and will continue until further notice. The gazetted exclusion zone is extended and marked by lighted yellow marker buoys F1.Y.5s. Mariners should navigate with caution in this area and keep well clear of the marker buoys. AUS charts affected 252, 253

Fisherman's Prayer:

"Lord help me to catch a fish so large that even I, in the telling of it, never need to lie"

Fair winds to Ye! Cap'n Dan

On the Whitsunday Waterfront
By Cap'n Dan Van Blarcom



Whitsunday boating news each week in The Whitsunday Coast Guardian an online at <http://waterfront.blogspot.com/>



walking on water