

Australian 9er Association Presidents Report 2019

We have had a busy 12 months and seen continued growth of both the 29er and 49er/FX classes throughout Australia. The committee has met several times during the year to work through the various tasks and organising events which has worked well.

The 2019 Nationals in Hobart were a highly successful regatta - where we exceeded our expected entries and delivered a very successful event (with a special thanks to the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania and their Team including RO Nick Hutton). I would also like to thank Richard Fischer for his work in preparing for the event. It was disappointing that the Australian Sailing Team chose to deliberately not attend the event due to its location. I would personally like to thank Will and Sam Phillips for as the only AST Sailors who competed (I understand that they personally found the event and the Sailing conditions as good as anywhere)

This year, we will have a year of split Nationals Championships with 29er's in Blairgowrie and the 49ers/FX's in Geelong due the World Championships a weeks later. In future our intention and policy as an Association is to run our National Championships as a 9er Class with 29ers/ 49ers and 49erFX at the same event. I would like to thank the tireless work of Felica Brown (and I am sure David Brown) for her (and his) work in organising the 2020 Nationals at Blairgowrie.

We have also worked through the 2021 Nationals in Perth which will be held at the South of Perth Yacht Club and be sailed on the Swan River. Whilst there are still some details to be worked through, confirming the water space on the river and the venue has put the class in a great position (there are many other Nationals and Worlds being sailed out of Perth at the same time which has put enormous pressure on Clubs and water space).

I would also like to refer to the Treasures report confirming that the class is in a solid financial position which is expected to continue with our future budgets.

On the World stage I would like to congratulate our Australian 29er competitors and coach (Harry Morton). 175 boats competed with Archie Cropley and Max Paul finishing 6th and other Australians competing including Axel Fleet/Kieran Bucktin, Zoe Dransfield/Madeline Mcleay. The 2020 Worlds will be in Weymouth, Great Britain.

With the 49er/FX Class we have recently had the 2019 Worlds in New Zealand. This was an exceptionally well-run event with a significant budget including media coverage of over \$750K (by World standards the class has never had such significant funding). The event also had purpose-built App which offered an improved delivery of information to the sailors – The upcoming Worlds in Geelong will have the same level of Sailor information.

Significant work has been done organising the 2020 49er/FX Worlds and Oceania Championships including the Australian National Championships in Geelong.

Other areas the Association has spent time developing:

- Further development of our website (as an independently custom website built specifically for the class)
- Continued developed and use of our Facebook Page as a principal means of distributing class information and keeping the wider 9er and sailing fraternity up to date with our national and state events and programs.
- Continued national insurance coverage for the states

In the next 12 months there are a number of areas I would like the Association to further develop including

- Developing a Committee Guidelines Manual to assist in simplifying the National Championships requirements
- Race Management Guidelines
- Safety on water Guidelines
- Developing a better strategy for transitioning to the 49er/FX
- World Championship assistance for the Australian 29er team
- Expanding the media/video coverage of our events

Chris Manton
President
Australian 9er Class Association