

Young champions set sail

CHARLOTTE MARTIN

THE 63rd International Cadet Australian Sailing Championships were held last week, with cadet sailors from across the southern parts of Australia battling it out in Port Lincoln waters.

Boat Jonathan L from Royal Yacht Club of Victoria came out on top of the handicap series, while Port Lincoln Yacht Club vessel Vela took second place with skipper Kai Phillips and crew Rollie Haywood and Stolen Pig from the same club, skippered by Cleo Sturman and crewed by John Sturman, came in third place.

The line honours three top all hailed from Sandy Bay Sailing Club in Hobart, but cadets across the boards agreed it was all good for experience.

Club cadet Flynn Morris-Hewetson has been sailing for four years, and this year marked his first time competing in the Australian Championship.

"It's fun, because you get to go out pretty deep and it's a good experience to be able to be out on the water a lot," he said.

Flynn's sister Evie also competed, with this also being her first year as a skipper.

"I've only been skippering since the start of the year, so I'm borrowing the club boat," she said.

"I'm still getting the hang of it, but it's good."

Club commodore Harden McFarlane said cadets came from South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria to compete in the event from Saturday, December 28 to Saturday, January 4.

"New South Wales doesn't actually sail this class of boat," he said.

"Lincoln has been pretty heavily involved in the cadet class for a while and within the last few years we've actually had national champions from our own club.

"In 2021-22 Max Sturman and John Sturman won."

Mr McFarlane said the club had a strong cadet fleet, which was a feeder class to come through out of the sailing optimists, stepping into a slightly larger two-handed boat.

"We've actually probably got the biggest cadet fleet in the state," he said.

"We run between six and seven cadets every week and the cadets are the next step up from the learn to sail boat.

"It's the next step for kids and they can sail them right up to about 18-years-old."

The Tasmanian fleet from Sandy Bay and the Royal Geelong Yacht Club were tipped to bring strong competition from the onset.

"This is actually a selection regatta or the world championship," Mr McFarlane explained.

"It's a big commitment for all the families, just to get to Port Lincoln from Tasmania it's a three-day trip and most of them left on Christmas day to get here.

"The weather hasn't been too bad, Monday, December 30 was a late start, waiting for the wind to come in, so it was a really long day and there were some pretty weary kids."

Port Lincoln Yacht Club has a small committee that put the event together, including its hard-working club secretary Tania Sturman, who is also the treasurer of the Australia cadet class.

"The naming rights sponsor is Port Lincoln Bendigo Community Bank, it's also sponsored by Doi's Ocean Front Apartments at Streaky Bay and Dinko Tuna Farmers," Mr McFarlane said.

"The course depends on the wind, this time of year the wind is better around the corner, our race officer sets the course to conditions.

"At the moment it's sort of out of Snapper Rock and the Marine Science Centre, it really does look quite spectacular."

Clubs that completed in the event were Royal Yacht Club of Victoria (RYCV), Port Lincoln Yacht Club (PLYC), Adelaide Sailing Club (ASC), Royal Geelong Yacht Club (RGYC) and Sandy Bay Sailing Club from Tasmania (SBSC).

Top 10 handicap results

- Jonathan L - Jarvis Coyle, Louis Ridgeway - RYCV
- Vela - Kai Phillips, Rollie Haywood - PLYC
- Ringo - Jack Benyan, Louis Davis (exempt due to top ten overall placing) - RGYC
- Stolen Pig - Cleo Sturman, John Sturman - PLYC
- Sniper - Ellie Fazakerley, Emily Dean - RYCV
- Duke - Aiden Waller, Flynn Morris-Hewetson - PLYC
- Driftwood - Evie Morris-Hewetson, Cain Gower - PLYC
- Electric Blue - Isla Fenske, Austin Smith - RGYC
- Unfinished Business - Caitlin James, Rohan



Port Lincoln Yacht Club competitors Oli Stevens, Evie Morris-Hewetson and Flynn Morris-Hewetson. (Charlotte Martin: 451938)



The cadets competing in the 63rd international Australian championships in Port Lincoln. (Ash Lukin)



Crews getting their boats ready for the first day of competition on the Port Lincoln foreshore lawns. (Ash Lukin)



Sailing past Brennan jetty, cadets battled for the 63rd Australian Championship. (Jack Davies: 451938)



A cadet takes a tumble. (Jack Davies: 451938)



Ten-year-old Royal Geelong Yacht Club cadet Bodhi McKenzie. (Charlotte Martin: 451938)

- Turaga - RGYC
- Solitaire - Matilda Schulz, Lilli Inns - ASC

Top 10 line honours results

- Little Devil - Sam Hooper, George Shugg - SBSC
- Incognito - Alex Ashbolt, Lachlan Prior - SBSC
- Executioner - Olive Hooper, Samantha Archer - SBSC
- Gray Hawk - William Garner, Jack Jones - RGYC

- Upshift - Henry Mcquillen, Hunter Hogan - SBSC
- Ringo - Jack Benyan, Louis Davis - RGYC
- Apollo - Charley Stephens, Jack O'Brien - RGYC
- Stoked - Sarah Reynolds, Harriet Hogan - SBSC
- Mischief Managed - Walter Howard, William Smith - RGYC
- Foto - Calin Went, Luke Schulz - ASC



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