



NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2002

RL24 - It's YOUR kind of boat

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From the Secretary:

The summer is almost upon us and in an effort to let RL24 sailors know what events are on for trailable yachts, I have put together a calendar of events. There are probably many I have missed, so if your local club have any open events on for trailable yachts please let us know for future newsletters. This could be an opportunity for those RL24 sailors who are keen to travel to race at some different venues. I can be contacted via e-mail if this is more convenient. We need as much information as possible sent in by members of this Association to keep this newsletter and the Association going. If you would like to have your e-mail address included in a newsletter to members please let me know. That way members will be able to make contact with news, coming events, questions etc. It is very difficult to put a newsletter together without news coming in so please send in anything of interest to get it published. A list of websites which have some interest to RL sailors is also being compiled. None of these are affiliated with the RL24 Owners Association but you may find something of interest there. Eventually the Association may have its own website if there is enough interest.

Just a reminder about the National Titles at Loch Sport. I have included an entry form with this newsletter for those members who have not yet entered, just in case you have misplaced your form and still wish to enter. A great time is guaranteed for all, so come along and help make this event bigger and better than ever.

The presentations for this years Victorian Titles will be made at the Nationals, somewhat late for which I apologise, but there has not been an opportunity for the Association to get together during the year. For the next State Titles, which will again be held at Portarlington, we will endeavour to present the trophies at the event.

I am about to go on holidays where I will again be involved with the attempt to break the world sailing speed record (no, not in an RL24). Two of us from Loch Sport will be running the rescue boat which chases the speedsailing yacht in case of any mishaps. Previous attempts at the record were not successful, mainly due to weather conditions not being ideal. However the designer, Lindsay Cunningham and the co-pilot Tim Daddo are very confident that the boat will break 50 knots if conditions are right. To get an idea of how awesome this boat is, our rubber duck rescue boat with a 25 horsepower outboard will only do half that speed. The wing sail on the yacht has roughly the same sail area as an RL24, about 20 square meters. You can see pictures and details of Macquarie Innovation on the website
www.macquarie.com.au/speedsailing.htm.

Some other websites of interest:

www.runge.com.au/rl28/

www.vic.yachting.org.au

www.loch-sport.net.au

FAREWELL BRUCE CASTLES.

It is with a leaden heart that I have to record that Bruce Castles died on the 17th April last after a long and heroic struggle with multiple myeloma. As a foundation member of the RL24 Association of Australia and a keen and very active member right up until his death, Bruce was widely known and respected with affection wherever RL's were sailed in Australia. Less well known was the fact that he was first diagnosed with this illness, for which there is still no cure, more than seven years ago. Such was the power of his positive attitude that Bruce simply refused to let this fatal disease dictate the terms of his life and so he continued to sail, tour the Outback, go trekking in Peru, camping around Europe, sing and act throughout Gippsland, participate in all sorts of local committees, support his local church, serve his beloved Lake Wellington Yacht Club, somehow keep up with the ever-growing family business AND remain a devoted, supportive husband and father. It was a colossal performance but for Bruce, life was like a piece of cake. He believed strongly that what you got out of it, what it tasted like, depended entirely on what you put into it. And so Bruce's life was always about putting in. What he had no idea about, because it never occurred to him to think about it in these terms, was the extent to which all of us who knew him were the beneficiaries of the qualities he brought to the business of day to day life. Brilliantly creative in so many areas and a person of exceptional integrity, he was nevertheless almost excessively modest, self-effacing and assiduous in his efforts to avoid the limelight. But no amount of modesty or self-effacement could hide the fact that here was a man who was different, a man who for lots of reasons was just a great bloke to be around. For me, to whom he was a close and loyal friend for just on 40 years, one of the many things that I loved about him was the acuteness of his mind. Unless he was asleep, there was a constant stream of innovative, refreshing and stimulating ideas sparking off his brain all the time. Many I didn't understand and some I didn't agree with but all of them made me think. Of course, while ideas seemed to come so easily to Bruce the reality was that he worked very much harder than most of us at making the time to just think through the matters which were important to him. He never stopped thinking and being in his company was always stimulating and often very, very entertaining.

Bruce loved sailing. Apart from skiing from time to time, it was the only sport in which he actively participated although, as a young man, he had the occasional set of tennis and I once saw him drop-kick a footy perfectly over about 50 metres in the park outside his front door. But sailing was his special delight and we can all recall the times we've seen Bruce in the stern of his beloved *Pegasus*, a grin from ear to ear as she planed down the waves under a beautifully set kite. Bruce raced for the sheer joy of being on the water, his view being that if one ignored racing, you turned your back on a huge part of the sailing experience and why would you do that? Perhaps that explains why racing seemed to come so effortlessly to Bruce. He was never fazed or stressed by it and never seemed to care about results. The critical issue, as far as Bruce was concerned, was to do your best *and* maximise the fun. He certainly did his best over the years as his collection of trophies attests. Among other things, he was National RL24 Champion in 1982 (Adelaide) and Victorian Champion in 1975, 1981, 1982, 1983 and 1988. Somewhere in those years he won the Kinnear's Classic Series for Tailable Yachts, the equivalent at the time of the Victorian Tailable Yacht Championship, bringing great credit to the Class and paving the way for the likes of *Sasha*, *Lowana 6* and *Ohau Rua* to maintain the supremacy of the Class in open

competition. The level of Bruce's commitment to the Class can be seen in the fact that, starting in 1974, he attended every RL24 National Championship except one – the year his eldest daughter Linda was married. He was at the 2002 Titles held at Loch Sport but sadly was not on board *Pegasus* in Heat 2 when, with son Jim on the helm, she came home a meritorious 3rd. His last race was with his club on October 20th 2001 when he sailed *Baldrick*, his faithful Windrush 14 cat (which he pressed into service whenever he had trouble raising a crew for *Pegasus*) into first place on Personal Handicap. As we all know and as Neil Ross of LWYC said so eloquently, Bruce was always a winner.

Bruce's funeral was held on the 23rd of April in St. Columba's Uniting Church in Sale – the church he had served so faithfully for so many years. As you might expect, it was packed by friends and admirers who came to pay their heartfelt respects. At the conclusion of the service, his coffin was reverently placed on the back of a Castles Mitre 10 truck which then proceeded past a Guard of Honour, made up of members of the RL 24 Association and LWYC, as it made its way to the Sale Cemetery. A brass plate bearing the name *Pegasus* which had been handed down from Bruce's father Rex's Cadet Dinghy of the same name was attached firmly and proudly to Bruce's coffin as a tribute to a master mariner who truly loved and served his sport. All who knew him will miss him badly and to Barbara, Jim, Linda and Helen, the Association extends its deepest condolences.

Ross Corben

Following is a list of events which may be of interest to RL24 sailors. It is not comprehensive, however it is a start and if you know of any other future events please let us know so that we can include them in future newsletters.

EVENT	DATE	CONTACT
Loch Sport Lakes Challenge (around Raymond Island)	Nov. 2	Barry Phillips 51460938
Bendigo Classic	Nov. 16	
Geelong / Queenscliff	Nov. 30	
Colac Yacht Club Regatta	Dec. 7/8	Chris Parker 52312334
RL24 Nationals	Jan. 4 - 10	Trevor Jones 51460592
Sail Melbourne Trailable Regatta	Jan. 18 / 19	Noel Heyes 59757001 Mornington YC
Geelong Festival of Sail	Jan. 25 -27	
Around Mud Island Race	Feb. 1	
Vic. Trailable Championships (RL24 State Titles)	Feb 22 / 23	Portarlington YC
M.P.O.N.R.	Mar. 8 / 9	Lake Wellington YC



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