



# *Vee Ess Sailing Association Inc.*

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25 June 2023

## ***Race Secretary report Season 2022-23***

After the uncertainty and disruptions of the past few years due to Covid 19, it was good to return to some normality for season 2022/23. And in an encouraging sign, a new era of VS sailing seems to be emerging. New crews, new regatta formats. But as always great sailing!!!

The Australian Championships moved from the traditional week-long series just after Christmas to a 3-day series over the Australia Day long weekend. It was a success as twelve boats contested the series. Whether this was because the sailors were keen for the first 'one regatta' nationals since 2020, were keen to enjoy other holidays over Christmas, or wanted to experience more of the excellent Teralba winds, it matters not. A start line full of boats means competitive racing for everyone in the fleet.

The other regattas throughout the season were also well attended. For the record the number of starters at each regatta was:

- Teralba regatta – 8
- Teralba nationals – 12
- Sunshine - 8
- Hawkesbury – 8
- Port Hunter – 6

The results for each championship were:

Australian Championship - Scratch: 1<sup>st</sup> Firestorm 7 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Troy Botting Shipwright 16pts, Meeks Real Estate 19 pts.

Australian Championship – Handicap: Wobbygong 30pts; Firestorm 31pts; Black Diamond 32pts.

Coal Board Shield – Firestorm.

Sid Peare Invitation – Not contested (unfortunately)

States Scratch: 1<sup>st</sup> Firestorm 5 pts; Runaway 8 pts; Troy Botting Shipwright 11pts.

States Handicap: 1<sup>st</sup> Black Diamond 12pts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Stowe 13pts; 3<sup>rd</sup> Runaway 16 pts.

Travellers Trophy – 1<sup>st</sup> Stowe 29pts; 2<sup>nd</sup> Firestorm 31pts; 3<sup>rd</sup> SFC 36pts.

With a late-in-the-season date, improving race format, and a welcoming club, the Port Hunter regatta is becoming a staple of the VS regatta calendar. And having a relationship with a club always helps when seeking future Nationals hosts.

Unfortunately, the Vacluse regatta now tends to clash with either the Sunshine or Hawkesbury regattas, so we haven't been able to attend for a few years now. As the birthplace of the class, I think we should always strive to keep in contact with VYC and sail there, if only infrequently, when we can. Sailing on the harbour is unique and worth the effort. The club looked after us well for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary & hosted our states that season. As stated earlier, having a good relationship with a club is an asset.

The other 'VS friendly' club and regatta that has slipped off our calendar recently is Taree. Another foundation club, the sailing on the Manning is unique but always enjoyable. And again, keeping a relationship with a club provides opportunities for future nationals venues.

The reason I'm tabling these opinions now is that this will likely be my last opportunity as a member of the VS committee. Starting as secretary in 2001 I've held several positions on the committee since and enjoyed them all. With the opportunity, and in an effort to bolster enthusiasm, I've produced many newsletters and race reports over that time, most with a touch of what I think is humour. To my knowledge I have offended only one person on one occasion (that I know of). My unreserved apologies if you found the postings less than entertaining. That was not the intention.

Wishing you all fair winds and smooth waters for the future.

John Hodda  
VSSA Race Secretary