

# Hobie Cat Association of S.A

## Yacht Clubs

Please find below a list of current contacts for the Hobie Cat Association of South Australia  
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Very sad news – Bob Henderson, an old-time Hobie sailor from Yarra Bay, died on the weekend in Qld.

Bob Henderson and wife crew Marilyn began sailing at Yarra Bay 16 foot Skiff Club along with good mate Bob Munroe, initially Hobie 14's, then H16's.

Yarra Bay had a very strong H14 fleet at that time...20+ boats regularly. The two 'Bobs' threw a lot of effort into the club and youth training (both monohulls and multies) including providing loaner boats for potential club members.

Hendo and 'Maz' sailed together at state and national level for many years on a Hobie 16, and when retirement came along, they moved north to Currumbin to follow Bob's passions...surfing and sailing. The Hendo's were regular competitors in the Currumbin Hobie fleet.

Regular surfers at Currumbin say Hendo was so well known that they could "set their watch" by when he gets in and out of the surf each morning. It is understood Bob suffered a surfing accident many months ago and had been unable to leave his hospital bed since that time. Wife (and crew) Marilyn has been by his side.

Hendo was a true blue Hobie 'fossil' ...with all that it involves...laid back on the beach, fierce on the water. He will be missed by his many friends in the Hobie family.

### Queensland Youth Week

From the 1-5 July, RQYS once again hosted the annual Queensland Youth Championships. Youth Week is an event for all classes, ranging from dinghies, skiffs, sailboards and most importantly the cats. Youth Week is used as the final selection regatta for the Australia youth sailing team, and for the last time, the Hobie 16 is the cat class for the selection process.

The conditions were very trying, with light westerly's every morning. The breeze didn't hang around long after sunrise meaning early starts everyday trying to get races in to make a series. Being towed in every afternoon was definitely something new for the competitors. It was extremely tight racing throughout the regatta with the lead changing daily

This year the Australian Hobie 16 youth fleet was stronger than ever! We had 8 boats on the water during the week with tight contest, each race coming down to the wire. With only one race being held each day until the fourth and final day where 4 races were held in shifty conditions, all teams had moments of glory and utter despair, sometimes in the same race! Apparently it was even more stressful on the Hobie Dads coach boat where the adrenaline was running high.

After dominating the Youth Nationals in January, Lachie White and Ethan White took third position, with Will McKenzie and Pat Butler in second closely following Kyle Fortier and Bonnie Butler who took out the event, securing their position on the Australian Youth Sailing Team. The duo will be competing in Auckland, New Zealand during mid-December at the ISAF Youth Worlds.

It is great to see the improvement from Haylie and Milly over the last year as they are now a force to be reckoned with, and Jed Fatches is close on their sterns.

A huge congratulations to Bonnie and Kyle for their accomplishment, it was very tight competition throughout the selection series and is a well-deserved victory. A massive thank you to all the parents for getting us there, looking after us and supporting us throughout the whole week. Thank you to Rob Andrews who provided the Hobie parents coach boat, Donna Fortier for the photos and Darren Bundock for his vital input to all us cat sailors as the Australian youth multihull development officer.

During the first week of the April holidays, the 50th annual CHS sailing regatta was held at Belmont 16's sailing club. There were 6 exciting races held over the 4 day event, with all sailors immensely enjoying their time on Lake Macquarie, NSW. There were six Hobie 16's at the event with the top four being hotly contested throughout the whole regatta. In addition to the Hobie 16 teams, 2 other Hobie youth also sailed in the regatta. Bailey Skewes sailed with Lucy Nissen on a Nacra F18, and Lachie White carved up the fleet and took top honours in the multihull division sailing a foiling A Class.

At the conclusion of the regatta Kyle Fortier and Bonnie Butler ended up winning the Hobie 16 class on count back to beat Will McKenzie and Pat Butler. Even with predominately light breeze over the week, there was still plenty of excitement. On the 3rd day of the event, racing was postponed due to lack of wind and then due to a 3 meter shark in the race course, and it was spotted by Vincentia's very own Nick Eastment and Chilli Engel when it swam up and attacked their rudders! All in all the regatta was a great success with all students/sailors having a wonderful time.

Thanks must also go to Hobiecat Australasia for donation of the magnificent trophy for the Hobie class at CHS regatta. It will be a lasting legacy for the class and it will be appreciated for years to come.

The first day of the Hobie 14 Nationals and Jervis Bay Classic was as good as it gets. A Fleet of 18 Hobie 14s, 7 Hobie 16 Youth teams and 10 open H16s enjoyed (or endured) a Jervis Bay Nor-Easter that built quickly from around 12 knots at the start of race 1, through to a

solid 20 with gusts in the mid to high 20s in the fourth and final race for the day. The strong wind and blue sky provided many great photos.

The H14 fleet is a tight tussle with Fletcher Warren-Myers and Brad Sumner tied for first, and Georgia Warren-Myers just 2 points ahead of Gordon McGillivray. The H16 open is a McKenzie family benefit at the front with Andrew and Helen leading, closely followed by Upu and Amanda McKenzie, and in third Pat Eastment and Georgii McKenzie. The heavy conditions suited Will McKenzie and Pat Butler and it showed in the set of "1"s on the score card, 2nd is Tait Fortier and 12 year old crew Saxon Perry, who handled the conditions well.

Not only was it great to see so many women and girls on the water today, but the number of young Hobie sailors proving themselves in conditions that challenged some very seasoned sailors. Notably Hayley Fisher – age 9, crewing in her first races and loving sailing with her Dad Dave. Young Noah Skewes, also 9, is sailing in his first ever regatta, and was all smiles and full of confidence in his skipper Jeremy Lawson. As mentioned above, 12 year old Saxon Perry is no longer happy to just be out there, but is now striving for good results too.

The forecast for day 2 is in stark contrast, with light (under 10 knots) variable breeze forecast – this could shake up the results in all classes.