

Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta 2009

Over 150 women sailors from South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria turned on an impressive and competitive display of sailing over the three days of the Australian Women's Keelboat Regatta.

The regatta was sailed on 6, 7 and 8 June 2009 in winds that varied from a 5 – 8 knot northerly on the opening day to a gusty 18 – 25 knot westerly on the final day.

The regatta was sailed over windward / leeward courses at the top end of Port Phillip Bay and saw a fleet of 21 yachts competing, ranging from a Thompson 7 sports boat to a 40ft ocean racer.

Royal Geelong had crews on three entrants for the regatta. The Adams 10 design, 'Valiant', finished 13th in PHS division, and was skippered by Michelle Deblaquiere with Christie O'Brien amongst her crew to give some helpful tips. In AMS, Jo Norbury and her team completed the regatta in fourth place with their chartered S80 'Executive Decision'. Bec Bohling again joined Erin Foster on the SB3 'Ocean Buro', which took out Most Improved Yacht for the regatta. Well done ladies!!

Photo Competition Winner

Congratulations to Patricia M Clark for this magnificent entry. The prize is a Marina Cafe Voucher for a meal for two people.



'Lady Skippers'

Taking the last first, the highlight was the 'Lady Skippers' race held on Sunday, 15 February. A total of 17 ladies laid it on the line creating a record for the number of entries on board an amazing array of craft. From Sydney/Hobart yachts to a Thunderbird and all shapes and sizes between!

'Ocean Skins' skippered by Mary Hanna was first home for line honours followed by 'Cinquante' skippered by Melanie Tink and third home was 'Outlaw' skippered by Joanne Norbury. One report had Ian Murray as skipper of 'Cinquante' but obviously, he is the wrong shape!

Then it came to the handicap results. The dartboard said that 'Lucky Lady' was skippered by the not so lucky Jan Jones and dropped into third place. Kate Robertson, showing that Crusoe spirit, skippered 'Spirit' into second place but they were beaten to first place by the valiant Christie O'Brien (pictured right) skippering 'Valiant'! Congratulations to all the ladies taking part, terrific effort!

Bob Appleton



Christie O'Brien

Off The Beach Regatta.

The Royal Geelong Yacht Club conducted an Off The Beach Regatta in October for invited classes. This included International Cadets, OK Dinghies, Lasers, Tasers, International Contenders, Finns and Moths. There were at least 72 entries but sadly the wild wind conditions on Saturday reduced the number of starters to between 35 and 40 boats.

On Saturday, racing was postponed for almost two hours because of the very strong wind conditions but when the wind dropped to about 16 to 22 knots, the decision was made to race.

Once again, the Cadet entries handled themselves very well under the conditions and two races were completed. Unfortunately, a number of the classes decided not to race as they considered that conditions were too strong for their competitors. The third heat was postponed for the day.

On Sunday the wind was down to approximately 15 to 20 knots and Heat 3 started at 10 am. This was followed by five other divisions racing from then on. As is usual on Corio Bay, the wind moved around about 20 degrees from the set course but four more heats were able to be run back to back. A total of six heats were completed out of the seven that were programmed.

Royal Geelong Yacht Club boats sailed very well in the regatta and Brian Case took out the Laser Division. Chris Jones excelled in the Contenders and Nicola Dixon was the outstanding Cadet skipper to take out honours. The Club passes its thanks to the team who assisted in running the Regatta with special thanks to the Off The Beach Committee, the canteen staff and all on the start and finish boats.

The crews manning the rescue boats handled the difficult conditions very professionally standing by boats in difficulties and giving assistance as required. Their assistance in setting the course was a distinct bonus.

Well done to all concerned.

Corinthian 2009

