

rolling swell and lack of wind were conditions we were not used to. The local boats had the advantage.

We spent each race huddled up on the leeward side as the boats bobbed around in the rolling swell and light breeze. Our tactician, driver and trimmers worked every breath of wind they could find. The rest of the crew moved carefully and smoothly allowing Phoenix to make the most of even the gentlest breeze.

Day Three, race six, saw Phoenix ahead by just nine points. The planned three day, thirteen race regatta turned into a three day, seven race event due to the weather conditions.

The wind increased to ten knots and the race officers decided to run another race late in the afternoon. Unfortunately Phoenix didn't start well and a yacht tacked in front of us, taking our wind, putting us further behind to finish in eighth place so we didn't know if we had won or lost. It wasn't until twenty minutes later when the results came up on line that we knew Phoenix was the National Champion for 2015!

It was a great achievement! A reward for all our preparation, dedication

and teamwork. We are looking forward to the battle beginning again in the coming season.

Lou Abraham Sydney 38 National winning Team from left (pictured on page 26) – Blake Robertson, Aaron Cole, Ben Gardiner, Matt, Jennifer Carnell, Brenton Carnell, Tom Kelly, Chris Jones, Christie Alberts, Jason Boyle. Our support crew was Aaron Brighton and Terri Dodds.

We attribute our success to our amazingly dedicated crew. We enjoy each other's company and have a mutual respect for each other. There is a fierce competitive streak but there is plenty of fun and laughter along the way.

Due to a window of good weather Phoenix was quickly packed up and as soon as trophy presentation was finished Brenton, Jen, Christie and Jason headed Phoenix for home, still pinching ourselves at what we had achieved.

After a short stopover at Eden and three days on the ocean, Phoenix was safely back in her pen at RGYC. We could finally celebrate our achievements.

It wasn't long before we were into race mode back at SYC for the two day Sydney 38 State Titles. First

day was very light tricky conditions. Phoenix was ahead by nine points. The second day saw 40 plus knots so, unfortunately, racing was abandoned, leaving Phoenix as State Champion.

The win topped off an unbelievable year and an incredible journey.

One of the amazing things has been the support, through followers on Phoenix facebook page, Sydney 38 Association, and the Members at RGYC. All this support has been so humbling and a huge honour.

We are looking forward to the start of the first event for the season, the Morris Finance Regatta in September at RGYC where we will be racing with mast head kites. We're very excited about the Sydney 38 Nationals being held in the 2016 Festival of Sails at RGYC in Geelong.

A huge thanks to Teri Dodds Photography for all of her support and awesome photos, Tom Smeaton for his photos each week in Geelong and Thomas Alexander for his video.

Jen Carnell



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fee will be donated to RGYC**