

OPTI STATES, FIREBALL STATES & NOELEX NATIONALS

2017 Gill Optimist Victorian Championships

The Optimist State Championships were held at Royal Geelong Yacht Club over the March Labour Day long weekend, with more than 80 Opti sailors descending on Geelong for the three day regatta.

Riley Cantwell was the best of the Geelong locals finishing 8th overall in the Open regatta, while Jorja Mahoney ended up as first overall in Green Fleet. In a boost for junior female sailing, 11 of the 16 starters in Green Fleet were girls.

VIODA Vice President Jan Talacko thanked the Royal Geelong Yacht Club and all the volunteers who helped both on and off the water for providing a great venue, and making it a great experience for the sailors and families alike.

2017 Gill International Fireball Victorian Championships

The Victorian Fireball Championships were held at Royal Geelong Yacht Club on 18-19 March 2017. The conditions were light – so

light that competitors were convinced that there would be no racing on Sunday. Luckily, a nice NE came in and with good race management led by Past Commodore John Garner, all 4 races were run, albeit in some tricky conditions! Geelong duo Brendan Garner and Peter Durran finished 3rd overall while reigning champs Heather Macfarlane and Chris Payne won it again for the 9th time in 11 years! The Fireball State Championships were a great lead in event, with the announcement that the Fireball Nationals will be held at Royal Geelong Yacht Club in 2019, followed by the Fireball Worlds in 2022.

2017 Gill Australian Noelex Championships

The Noelex 25 & 30 Australian Championships were held at Royal Geelong Yacht Club over the weekend of 20-21 May 2017. Unfortunately, Day 2 saw a low cloud keeping the wind at bay until racing was called off at 1pm. Although disappointing not to get on the water for a second day, the 3 races held on Saturday constituted a series, allowing Glen Collings and his team of Dale

Collings and Warren Slater on Leewana to take their 6th Australian title in the class. RGYC Member Howard Hughes finished 2nd in the Performance Handicap division.

Ron Parker, Australian Noelex Association President said, "We are very pleased with the running of the Noelex National Championships at RGYC and we had great support from the Club and their volunteers. Geelong has great facilities for hosting regattas both on the water and in the city, which has been great for the interstate and country visitors coming to Geelong. Of the 15-strong fleet, seven of the teams had family members on the crew.

"We enjoyed seeing a wide skill level across the fleet, with plenty of families getting involved, and crews ranging in age from 13 to 70. We had close competition across the fleet with some great race management under challenging Autumn conditions".

All three of these State and National regattas were supported by Gill, the official apparel provider for Royal Geelong Yacht Club, Festival of Sails and the Wooden Boat Festival of Geelong.

