

VICTORIAN INTERNATIONAL OPTIMIST DINGHY ASSOCIATION INC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023

Committee: Nick Darlow (P), Leah Keh (VP), Michael Cantwell (T), Maree Deeth (S), Rachel Griffith (GC), Paul Simmons (GC), Alexandra Starkova (GC), Errol Stent (GC).

2022 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS – SANDRINGHAM YACHT CLUB

The 2022 Opti State Championships were held at SYC during the Long weekend. This regatta was a true launch out of Covid and we had 82 entries – up from 49 the previous year. The weather was warm, the club was well set up and organised and with our naming sponsor Cygnett donating prizes from entry packs to winners packs. The event was a sailors favourite from Green through to Open.

A stand out from the event was the number of green fleet entries – 23. The club helped pushing entries into ‘rainbow’ fleet tackers boats – as well as helping to get second hand boats sold and on the water with new boats.

ALBERT PARK WINTER TRAINING

Winter coaching at Albert Sailing proved once again a great success and opportunity for our sailors to continue sailing development over winter, learn to sail in shifty conditions and have fun with sailors from different clubs around Melbourne. Open, Intermediate and Green fleet sailors were all catered for. Parents enjoyed the socialising, walks and coffee by the lake.

We ran the training in two blocks – the first a block of 5 weeks (\$250) and the second a 7 week block (\$350). Numbers for block 1 were excellent at 38 boats – the second block was a smaller number of entries - and it is worth noting many families had trouble justifying a full 7 week non refundable block when juggling winter sports and travel. Something for the committee to consider next season is two smaller blocks for a greater overall entry list.

2022 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS – Bodrum Turkey

VIODA members represented Australia this sailing season at 3 International events.

World Championships – Bodrum Turkey. Aidan Simmons.

European Championships - Sonderborg, Denmark. Dmitry Sorokin, Callum Simmons and Jorja Mahony.

Pacific Championships – New Caledonia. Zoe Jackson, Lottie Griffith, Maya Cantwell.

Girls Camp + City Sail – 10-11 SEPTEMBER

This year, VIODA Girls Camp was a terrific success, run parallel to Albert Park Yacht Club's CITYSAIL, a coaching and racing regatta designed only for women and girls! In between the 2 days of regatta, the VIODA Girls sleepover camp was Albert Sailing Club, where our girls enjoyed pizzas, movies, popcorn, nail painting, hair braiding, a team robe and plenty of giggles and laughter! Our wonderful Mum's were not left out and enjoyed some champagne while performing their camp duties!

23-25 September VIODA Training Camp #1 - \$165

Mornington Yacht Club – Grand Final Long weekend.

We teamed up with Mornington Yacht club who run their Grand Final training camp annually. Coaching was organised in line with our Albert Park Lake sessions – with coaching groups split into VOST / VODS / Intermediate / Green.

19-20 November VIODA Training Camp #2 - \$110

Our final training camp was held at RYCV – a weekend of coaching being run the weekend after the RYCV Lipton Cup. Unfortunately, the Lipton Cup was a one day event for the dinghies – so the incentive to stay for the training the week after was removed - thus numbers were down on our Camp 1 and Albert Park numbers.

Coaching over this weekend focussed on Teams racing – which the children really enjoyed and helped to prepare both sailors and coaches for the Teams racing at the Nationals.

More focus on Teams Racing during our training sessions is something for next year's committee to consider. Our sailors were visibly (and audibly) energised by teams racing – and it helped with their friendship groups and social interactions.

National Championships – 9-15 January RPAYC Pittwater

Team Victoria travelled to NSW with a solid team of 27 sailors this year. We had 17 sailors in open, 7 in intermediate and 3 young sailors learning their craft in green fleet. Fleet sizes were exceptional with 90 in Open (split into two fleets Gold and Silver), 60 Intermediate entries and 26 Green.

Outstanding results (within the top 10 in each division) from the regatta for VIODA members included:

Open Fleet:

Callum Simmons 1st

Augustus Buividas 3rd

Jorjia Mahoney 4th

Sam Henderson 8th

Lottie Griffith 10th

Green Fleet:

Rachel Benoy 3rd

The National Championships serves as a qualifying event for various International events. VIODA will be well represented in the coming months with the following members being selected to represent Australia at the following events:

World Championships – Callum, Augustus and Jorja

European Championships – Lottie

African Championships – Ashlea

Asian Championships – Maya

Victoria also entered 6 teams into the teams racing event held the day before the regatta with one of our teams winning the event. Again, teams racing brought a lot of energy and interaction within our group.

The Year ahead

As I present this report we are at the Mornington Yacht Club for our 2023 State Championships – and we have achieved another strong turn out of 77 boats entered.

36 Open Fleet, 22 Intermediate Fleet and 19 Green Fleet.

The International events as mentioned above are now the focus of selected sailors – club racing will continue for all our Members and talk in the boat park is already turning to the cooler months and another year of Winter training on the lake.

The 2024 National Championship is confirmed for Brighton and Seacliff Yacht Club – South Australia.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our committee for their work into the running of VIODA, and the development of our young sailors over the last 12 months. I wish all our sailors and parents the best of luck in their endeavours over the Melbourne winter – and a successful 2023/24 sailing season. With our family move to Sydney – I farewell VIODA for now. See you in Adelaide!