



Junior South Queensland Sailors compete at the 46th Sabot National Championships & Sabot Week Regatta

Gosford NSW December 2009 - January 2010

Over forty young sailors and their families from the South Queensland Sabot Association (SQSA) participated in the 2009-2010 Sabot National Championships and Sabot Week Regatta hosted by the Gosford Sailing Club in NSW over the Christmas holidays. With over 150 young sailors under the age of 16, this is the largest junior sailing event in Australia.

The SQSA team spirit prevailed, with 33 Sabots from 8 South Queensland sailing clubs making sure SQSA was heard both on and off the water. Variable conditions over the 9 races included frequent rain squalls, and shifty light to moderate winds. Competition at the top of the fleet was intense, with the top boats being those consistently getting good starts and clear air in the large fleets.

Two fleets compete at the regatta. Sailors pre-qualify to represent each of 6 regional zones from Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania in the National Championships; and the Sabot Week fleet is open to all sailors, some of whom are competing in their first national regatta. Both fleets compete together at the Invitation Race: over 100 sailors on the senior start line and 27 on the junior start line made for exciting fleet racing.

In the **Nationals Fleet**, Joel Turner from Southport Yacht Club (SYC) was the top SQSA senior division sailor, placing 10th overall; and the top 10 SQSA sailors placed in the front ½ of the fleet of 63 boats. Individual race highlights include: 3rd place finishes by each of Joel Turner and Jack Sherring (SYC); a brilliant battle for 2nd place by Lachie Robbie (Brisbane Sailing Squadron and Darling Point Sailing Squadron). Ed Duhig (BSS, Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron) showed consistent front-of the fleet racing throughout the regatta; Hannah O'Brien (Port Curtis Sailing Club, Gladstone) secured 2nd place on Handicap Results; and Trevor Koreman (BSS, RQYS) showed consistent improvement throughout the regatta. In the 2-Ups, Lily Geck and Carlton Smith (BSS) sailed solidly for 2nd place overall and led SQSA's 6 junior Sabots in securing the Junior Team Trophy.

In the **Sabot Week Fleet**, Zane Comadira (SYC) won the senior division, Nick Eutick (BSS, RQYS) in 2nd, Conrad Byrt (Keppel Bay) in 3rd, and SQSA earned 8 of the top 12 placings. In the junior division, Steph & Ben Markey (BSS) won, and SQSA had 4 boats in the top 5.

The comradeship both on and off the water, and the hospitality of the Gosford Sailing Club, made the regatta a great success for sailors and their families. The Sabot Week and Junior division results offer a solid base for continued development of the Sabot class in south Queensland. The Noosa Yacht and Rowing Club, in conjunction with Yachting Queensland, is hosting a **Development Camp 27-28 March 2010 for all Sabot sailors**. Monthly squad training for the 2010 season will start soon thereafter, and all events leading up to the 2010-2011 Nationals in Tasmania will be posted on the SQSA website, www.sqsa.org.au.

Results -

National senior division results for SQSA sailors in the 63 boat fleet -

- Joel Turner (Southport YC) – 10th
- Jack Sherring (SYC) – 15th
- Lachie Robba (DPSS, BSS - Brisbane) – 17th
- Ed Duhig (RQYS, BSS - Brisbane) – 21st
- Kimberley White (Keppel Bay Sailing Club, Yeppoon) – 23rd
- Trevor Koreman (RQYS, BSS - Brisbane) – 24th
- Alex Ker (RQYS, BSS – Brisbane) – 25th
- Hannah O'Brien (Port Curtis Sailing Club, Gladstone) – 27th
- Reece Baguley (Maroochy Sailing Club) – 29th
- Natalie Koreman (RQYS, BSS – Brisbane) – 30th
- Sophie Lahey (SYC) – 33rd
- Frazer Smith (BSS) – 42nd

National junior division results for SQSA sailors in the 18 boat fleet –

- Lily Geck and Carlton Smith (BSS) – 2nd
- Hunter Vercoe and Jasper Mainwaring (Noosa Yacht & Rowing Club) – 5th
- Harrison White (KBSC) and Ezra Pritchard (SYC) – 7th
- Nicole and Jack Carter (BSS) – 8th
- Maggie and Christina Bowden (BSS) – 12th
- Xanthe Walker and Hanne Preisler (BSS) – 14th

Sabot Week senior division results for SQSA sailors in the 40 boat fleet -

- Zane Comadira (SYC) – 1st
- Nick Eutick (RQYS, BSS) – 2nd
- Conrad Byrt (KBSC) – 3rd
- Kodey Sherring (SYC) – 5th
- Dylan Baguley (Maroochy Sailing Club) – 6th
- Liam Geck (BSS) – 10th
- William Bates (SYC) – 11th
- Sarah Dahl (RQYS) – 12th
- Jessica Vercoe (NYRC) – 16th
- Elijah Walker (BSS) – 24th
- Charlie Blundell (NYRC) – 28th

Sabot Week junior division results for SQSA sailors in the 9 boat fleet -

- Steph and Ben Markey (BSS) – 1st
- Hugo and Anton Van Buuren (BSS) – 2nd
- Seamus Byrt (KBSC) and Danielle Hughes (Gosford) – 4th
- Eloise Blundell (NYRC) and Phoebe O'Brien (Port Curtis, Gladstone) – 5th

For full regatta results and photos, visit the South Queensland Sabot Association's website: www.sgsa.org.au



South Queensland Sailors at the 46th Sabot Nationals and Sabot Week Regatta, Gosford NSW December 2009