

The Bluebird & Top Hat Newsletter



The official newsletter of the Bluebird Yacht Association of Victoria Inc. The articles and opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the official views of the BYAV.

From the President

Another successful sailing season for our Bluebird sailors has come and gone. Several Bluebirds have changed hands, promising to bring the energetic enthusiasm of some younger sailors.

The Bluebird Association had been invited to compete as a class by the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria in their Lipton Regatta last November. This proved to be a good start to our season with six Bluebirds taking part, the three race series being won by *Paramour*.

Our Christmas party was well attended, at which our Winter Series Bluebird Cup presentations were made after the barbeque dinner.

Bluebirds were represented again this year in the Passage Race to Geelong on the Australia Day weekend. *Secret* and *Paramour* both competed with good results.

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IMPORTANT DATES

- * **FRIDAY 27 APRIL – BYAV PRESENTATION NIGHT , YOUR INVITATION INSIDE**
- * **SATURDAY 5 MAY – START WINTER SERIES**

The Summer State Titles Series was hotly contested with several surprises among the winners and placegetters in a field of eight entrants. Congratulations to all those who took part as the results showed a significant improvement in the standard of racing.

We look forward to our presentation night on Friday 27 April and our nine heat Bluebird Cup Winter Series

commencing on Saturday 5 May in which I am optimistically hoping to see everyone involved.

Finally I would like to thank your committee for helping to make all of the above such a success.

Ivan Knight
President



Bounty preparing for the start of Race 2 of the 2007 Bluebird State Titles.



Dan's Big Swim



Dan Kennedy at the end of his swim. *Picture courtesy West Coast Times.*

Wondered why you haven't seen *Hanini II* out sailing much lately? Skipper Dan Kennedy has been concentrating on his swimming that's why. On Saturday 10 March Dan swam the Cook Strait between the North and South Islands of New Zealand. Less than 60 people have achieved this feat so it's a great effort by Dan.

Known as an extremely difficult stretch of water to swim because of the tides, Dan took 11 hours to complete the 26 km distance.

We understand he's now ready to get back onto his Bluebird – probably for a rest!

Congratulations Dan.



Disaster strikes at Williamstown

A fierce easterly on Sunday 11 February saw a number of yachts break free from their moorings and end up on the rocks at Williamstown. President, Ivan Knight, was oblivious to the drama as he was in Hobart enjoying the festivities of the Wooden Boat Show. That was until he

received a call on his mobile from a friend telling him his yacht *Paramour* was directly in line to be hit by any one of the out of control boats. Fortunately *Paramour* survived unscathed, but Nick White's *Pisces* suffered some slight damage.



Your Committee for 2006/07

President	Ivan Knight	Ph. 9398 2177
Vice-President	John Owens	Ph. 9314 7763
Secretary	Ian Lewis	Ph. 9699 1996
Treasurer	Louise Avery	Ph. 9398 2177
Ordinary members	John Owens	Ph.9314 7763
	Tim Blunt	Ph.9397 7024
	Jock Murphy	Ph. 9853 0143
	John Vermeulen	Ph. 9367 9523
	Glenn Hall	Ph. 9397 5319
	Warwick Norman	Ph. 9397 6294



From this.....to this!



Hijack ready to be transported to Melbourne

Our Winter 2005 edition of the Bluebird & Top Hat Newsletter featured an interview with Leigh Yarnall who had recently purchased Bluebird *Hijack* and transported her from New South Wales to Melbourne. Leigh quickly changed the yacht's name to *Badboy* and readied her for sailing on the Bay. Unfortunately we didn't get to see *Badboy* out there very often as Leigh was busy with other things and ultimately he put her on the market.

Christian O'Halloran purchased *Badboy*, quickly changed her name to *Manjimup* and was last seen in the HBYC slipyard with anti-foul roller in hand.



Christian O'Halloran, proud new owner of Manjimup (nee Badboy, nee Hijack) preparing her for the water.

Christian is rapidly becoming familiar with the Bluebird having had a number of successful sails with President, Ivan Knight in *Paramour*.

We welcome Christian as a new member of the BYAV and look forward to seeing *Manjimup* out there competing before too long.

But wait there's more...

Leigh Yarnall may have sold *Badboy*, but it wasn't long before he was looking for another yacht, and as good luck would have it, Bluebird *Drambuie* was on the market.

Drambuie suffered damage when in her pen during a wild storm in February 2005. It took a couple of years, but finally her repairs were complete and now she can be seen sailing once again with Leigh at the helm.

Kotare changes hands

Kotare (H 85) has a new owner and we hope to see this yacht competing against other Bluebirds in the near future.

Geelong Regatta

Once again the Passage Race to Geelong attracted something like 350 entrants in several divisions. Cruising Division 'C' with spinnaker was represented by *Secret* (Jock Murphy) and *Paramour* (Ivan Knight) in a field of 58. The first couple of hours saw little wind and slow, frustrating progress. Once the breeze filled in the fleet made good progress to Pt Richards channel pile. *Paramour* was able to use her small reaching spinnaker to advantage from there to the Pt Henry channel pile, when most of the fleet were unable to fly their fuller spinnakers, and kept up with much larger yachts. The crew of *Paramour* (Ivan Knight, Andrew Lucas and Christian O'Halloran of *Manjimup*) waited anxiously for the results after the event and were not so surprised when they found that they had won their division once again. *Secret* was also sailed well by Jock Murphy and crew, coming in only 10 minutes or so behind *Paramour*. Unfortunately for them though, a heavier handicap had been set for them and they ranked further back in the handicap results than they should have been. Hopefully all Bluebirds will be given the same handicap in future and we will endeavour to ensure this is the case.

Pisces (Nick White) also sailed down to Geelong as an unofficial entry and the three yachts tied up together. We know several Bluebirds are intending to enter in 2008 which hopefully will be our best representation to date.



Paramour approaching the finish line at Geelong.



Bluebird State Championships 2007 Final Results

	Yacht	Sail no.	Owner	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Final Points
1st	Tandeka	H158	Peter Roberts Glenn Hall	2	3	DNC	DNC	DNC	23
	Paramour	H66	Ivan Knight	1	1	3	2	3	7
	Warranilla	H271	Ian McGrath John Vermeulen	3	5	DNC	5	DNC	22
3rd	Secret	H 90	Jock Murphy	DNC	2	6	6	1	15
	Shadow	H241	Ian Lewis	4	4	5	1	4	13
2nd	Bounty	H56	Bruce Hocking Peter Hocking	5	6	1	7	5	17
	Jay	H 411	Ryan Blackstock	DNC	DNC	4	3	7 (DNF)	23
	Moody Blue	H 1150	Mike & Narelle Grey	DNC	DNC	2	4	1	16



Paramour behind Tandeka before the start of Race 2



Moody Blue Race 3

Bluebird State Championships 2007

Here is how Ian Lewis (*Shadow*) saw the 2007 Bluebird State Championships unfold.

Race 1

The first race of the State Titles held last Sunday (Feb 4th) had 5 starters. It was a great day, with zero wind 5 minutes prior to the start and then a lovely South-westerly coming in at about 10 knots right at the start of the race, which was delayed by 10 minutes or so. Turned out a perfect day for sailing. Results were:

1. Paramour by 10 to 20 seconds from

- 2. Tandeka by about 3 minutes from
- 3. Warranilla by about 4 minutes from
- 4. Shadow by about 5 minutes from
- 5. Bounty

Congratulations Ivan. It was good racing, with something in it for everyone.

Race 2

The 2nd BYAV State Titles race last Sunday was once again interesting and close. In 20 to 25 kt southerly winds, Paramour came in first (again) by 3 to 4 minutes from 2nd placed Secret who was about 3 minutes ahead of Tandeka (3rd) by 20 seconds from Shadow (4th) with another 20 seconds to Warranilla (5th) and about

3 minutes ahead of Bounty (6th).

Congratulations to Ivan, and to Jock who has now moved into genuine contention with tremendous sailing.

Race 3

The 3rd race of the State Championships held on Sunday, March 4th was another great race. Sailing the 18 mile two-handed course, 6 Bluebirds headed south in around 10 knot southerly winds for the Outer Anchorage mark and then on to the Spoiled Ground Buoy before heading for home under spinnakers. Around five and a half hours later who should cross the line first but



Secret Race 3

Bounty, ahead of Moody Blue, followed by Paramour, Jay, then Shadow, with Secret keeping look-out at the rear to ensure there were no casualties along the way - thanks Jock. There was only about 7 minutes separating 1st from 5th - that's around a 2% difference, showing again the closeness of the competition.

Congratulations to Bruce and Peter Hocking and Peter Brewer on Bounty for a great win and to Mike Grey and Mike Kavanagh for coming in second. Reminds me of an old Bob Dylan song - "and the loser now will be later to win" - let's hope the times keep on a changing for those of us that haven't got a podium finish yet!!

Race 4

The 4th race of the State Titles last Sunday was again sailed in great conditions. In fine weather and a southerly of around 10 knots, the long southerly course (course 4) was the go. Thanks to a bad start (unusually) by Ivan, great work by the Bluebird "Spinnaker master" John Owens, some "Mylar magic" and a lot of luck, Shadow scraped home by 10 seconds or so from Paramour, with Jay a minute or so later, then Moody Blue, Warranilla, with Secret right up Warranilla's clacker - excuse the un-

nautical "poetic licence" but 7 seconds is that close - with Bounty coming in 7th (again Bob Dylan's lyrics in "The Times They Are a Changing" are prophetic - "the first one now will later be last" - he just didn't say only 2 weeks later).

Ivan cannot be headed for the 2007 title - well done Ivan, Louise and the rest of Ivan's crew on a thoroughly deserved win.

However, with one race left, taking the best 3 of the 4 races completed for each yacht, only 7 point separate the next 7 yachts (see attached). So the minor placings really are up for grabs.

Race 5

The final race of the 2007 Bluebird State Titles last Sunday (March 25th) was again held in near perfect conditions. A 10 to 15 knot southerly meant that course 4 got the nod again.

There was more than the usual excitement in this race when Ivan decided to drop off one of his crew (Matt) before they reached the jetty - in the water near channel mark 80 to be exact. The event was quite spectacular viewed from further back on the spinnaker leg from marker 77 to 80. Paramour was rolled on a wave and whacked by a wind gust at the same time - the mast hit the water not once, but twice. Matt had no chance as he was under the mast when it hit the water. Fortunately, he was retrieved from the water uninjured (only his pride got dented). Paramour was leading at the time, with Secret close behind. Jock kindly stopped sailing Secret to render assistance to Paramour, allowing Moody Blue to slip through and cross the line 1st. To his credit, Jock set sail after Moody Blue and crossed the line 2nd, with Paramour making up ground to finish 3rd with Shadow 4th and Bounty 5th. Jay had some gear trouble and had to pull out.

A committee meeting was hastily convened to discuss the situation. It was decided that, given Jock's position at the time he stopped to

render assistance to a boat in difficulty and given the time he subsequently made up, he should be awarded joint 1st place in the race with Moody Blue, with the remaining placings as they crossed the line.

The final placings for the series are on page 4 (the best 4 races for each yacht to count) together with details of each race. In summary, Paramour was 1st (7 points overall), Shadow 2nd (13 points) and Secret 3rd (15 points), then Moody Blue (16), Bounty (17), Warranilla (22) and Tandeka and Jay tied with 23 points.

Congratulations again to Ivan on winning, to the minor place getters and to all the Bluebirds who competed. It was a great series - no races had to be cancelled and there was plenty of wind in each race. Everyone was up there at some stage with 5 different winners from the 5 races (Paramour won 2 but there were 2 winners in the last race - see above).



Warranilla Race 2



Man Overboard Drill by Ivan Knight

Well, I guess it had to happen sometime. It was the last race of the State Championships while running square from 17 to 80 channel piles. *Paramour* had a healthy lead flying the big spinnaker. Nick White was on the helm with Matthew and myself crewing. The waves had built up to a fair size in about 15 knots of wind and as we approached No. 80 we started to get the rolls. The first couple of rolls seemed harmless enough, but the next couple were definitely death rolls, dipping the starboard deck, spinnaker pole and with the mast probably touching the water. Matthew, who was trimming the spinnaker sheet found himself dumped in the water with about six knots of water pressure pushing him off the boat. I had let go the guy and Matthew had simultaneously done the same with the sheet and the boat immediately righted. It took a couple of minutes or

so to get the boat under control as the spinnaker pole, although not broken, was jammed skyward in the masts' bullring and its downhaul wires had broken off. We hardened up the sheets, went about and had around 50 metres to run back to Matt. The spinnaker was still flying from the top of the mast with sheets flailing ahead of it. Matt saw the opportunity to grab hold of a spinnaker sheet as it whipped around him. We luffed up as Matt pulled himself hand over hand towards us and finally I was able to pull him over with the long boathook. Now with the spinnaker sheet in hand I was able to retrieve it while Matt climbed aboard with help from Nick.

Luckily Matt was assisted by the wearing of a PFD 2 and the warm bay water temperatures. It was also reassuring to have *Secret* standing by to assist if needed. Thanks Jock.

As all was well apart from an unusable spinnaker pole and a lost shoe, we continued racing to try to make up some of the five to ten minutes of lost time.

The main lesson learned was realising one should to stop the rolls before they get out of hand. To do this the guy should have been eased and the helm pushed over to bring the wind onto the quarter.

It was also noticeably easy to retrieve a crew member back aboard a boat with no staunchions or lifelines. (*Eds note: Doesn't it also go then, that where a boat is fitted with staunchions and lifelines, it is probably not so easy to lose someone over the side!*)



A few of the Bluebirders and families enjoying themselves at the 2006 end of year festivities.



Glenn Hall in receipt of the winners trophy for the 2006 Bluebird Cup.



Bluebird Cup trophies – Be in it to win it for 2007