

## QUEENSLAND A CLASS STATE TITLES

The last of the Championship Regattas for the Australian season was the Queensland Championship held over the Easter weekend. The venue was Hervey Bay Sailing Club which has hosted previous Australian Titles and is the proposed venue for the 2018 Worlds.

The regattas so far this season have been an intriguing battle between foilers and floaters. With variable winds forecast and rainy weather in the lead up, this looked like being another huge test for the people learning to foil. Friday saw three races held in 10-15 knots but with pressure varying across the course. Brad Collett continued his January form in the Nationals taking three bullets and foiling effectively on his J board equipped Exploder. None of the other foilers were able to maintain consistent flight. Much more practice needed.

Saturday brought light wind with only one race possible. 5-7 knots ruled out foiling and the extra drag from the foiling boats meant straight and C board boats were prominent. Bruce Woodward had a great win on his Geltek Flyer II followed by a C board Scheurer and two DNA's.

Three races followed on Sunday starting in 10 and dying off to 5 eventually. Brad had enough breeze to score three bullets and take the Championship. Paul Neeskens on a C board DNA used his local knowledge to take second and Claire Neeskens also on a DNA took third. She sailed brilliantly in the light air and her placing is the highest for a female skipper in the Australian Championship circuit. Well done Claire.

The message from this series is very much that floaters are still highly competitive and the foiling boats need lots more practice to get the downwind speed consistent enough to win. When they get it right it is spectacular.

Full results are here

<http://www.herveybaysailingclub.org.au/sites/default/files>