

Letter from the new President

It was a great honour to be elected as President at the recent AIADCA Annual General Meeting held in January 2020.

It is also with some trepidation that I step into the shoes of Ian Johnson, aka, "Storm". Ian has been the backbone of the A Class Association for many years and I recommend you read his brief "Memories of the A - the cat and the class ". By my count he has served 8 years as world IACA president, 18 as national AIADCA president and perhaps 10 as Victorian President, and I am sure when not actually President, still very actively contributing. Ian does remain on the AIADCA Committee and I am sure will be my reference point for quite a while.

Congratulations to Darren Bundock to secure an Australian Championship in the Open fleet. Only 1 point behind was previous multiple champion Steve Brewin 2nd, and only another point back for 3rd was relatively new A class sailor James Clark from WA. In the 20 strong Classic Discipline fleet, old hand Andrew Landenberger was again mostly untouchable with 6 out of 7 firsts. Richie Howells and David McKenzie are probably still grinning with their 2nd and 3rd respectively, and also for bumping young Andy Landenberger into 4th.

Results at <http://www.a-cat.org.au/2020/01/zhik-2019-20-a-class-australian-championships-results/>

Or via your Sailor App -> Class -> Aus. Int A Division Catamaran Association

The Paynesville nationals were a challenge. Having chosen not to cancel the event because of the bush fires we deferred the start 2 days to allow competitors to arrive. In the end 36 of 47 registrants completed 7 races in 3 days of sailing in light but fair breezes. One hopes that sailing in smoke haze is a once in a lifetime experience. The Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club team were a wonderful group, both the race management team managed by RO James Frecheville and the catering team led by Wendy. The GLYC is a great family-based club and was a home away from home for many of us that week.

As agreed at the AGM, and agreed by the paid registrants that could not attend, the AIADCA has used the surplus race fees and some of its reserves to make a \$4000 donation to the National Fire Relief. Our presence as visitors and tourists was appreciated by the Paynesville community and our financial contribution to the disaster is fitting.

The sailing year proceeds, and the major regatta dates are:

VIC Championships – Westernport Yacht Club - Sat 7th to Mon 9th March 2020

NSW Championships - Port Stephens Sailing and Aquatic Club - Sat 14th to Sun 15th March 2020

QLD Championships – Humpybong Yacht Club - Fri 10th - Sun 12th April 2020

2020-21 Australian Championships - Port Stephens Sailing and Aquatic Club – Sat 30th Jan to Fri 4th Feb 2020

Notices of Race soon.

Happy Sailing

Paul Neeskens

AIADCA President 2020