

# AUSSIE 12 METRE GROUP

NEWSLETTER No 3. May 2008

The newsletter comes from [www.dldirect.com](http://www.dldirect.com)

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Well, before we can blink we are up to No3! The first two newsletters have been well received. I suppose the reason for this is that there isn't any other news about 12 metres on offer in this country.

**NAUTIC 12s** ([www.rcyachts.net/nautic12/](http://www.rcyachts.net/nautic12/))

The Web page for the Nautic 12s is there to give you the class rules. You will notice that it doesn't show the Figure Pages of the Mast, Sail Area etc. these can be had from the Class Secretary for that page.

The Nautic 12s have been steadily doing their racing program at Scarborough Park in Sydney. We had a Lakeside meeting for a discussion about the other (similar type) boat, the A2. It was felt that these should be included in with us, if we found any? We will ask them to put a Nautic rudder in them though. It more scale than the one it 'sports' at the present. Up to this present time we have only had one appear and that was owned by Leigh Grove. Leigh said he was interested in the A2 but didn't have time to do anything with it or to even get it sailing. A pity really, so I made him an offer for his and called it "Botany Bay".

The Nautic 12s have been invited down to the Wollongong Club on the Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, for a BBQ and a friendly club sail. Only two eventually got there. Wollongong is approx 1 1/2 hours from Sydney. (We have some happy memories going to this club years ago and we are all looking forward to it.) Bob and Jerry got there on the day. (See Photos)

# 12's

The other types.

We have been getting other types of 12 metres down at our lake like we mentioned in the last newsletter.

The other day we had a “talk fest” on Australian 12s. This is surprising for so many people are interested in this subject at the pondside.

We received news the other day from somebody who had a photo that looked like a Australia 2 type model with no keel on it. We thought this was interesting in the fact it is moulded from a one-piece mould. This saves a lot of set up time at the moulding stage and the prospect of putting a weed free keel on this hull could be an outstanding event. One of the bug bears of wing keels is that they do pick-up the odd bit of weed. Still we have to work out where this type of yacht would fit in, in the scheme of things?

We got a new set of Power Sails for Ted’s “FJ Palmer” 12metre. This boat started life as a tank test model of Fred Palmer’s 12 Metre Syndicate for the America’s Cup challenge back in Circa 1959. Fred Palmer was a prominent yachtsman of his day, around Sydney Harbour. It will be fascinating to see what it can do against the newer 12s?

# A2

Well the only thing we can report is that we have found another one in Sydney of this type and this one won’t be going on the water, either. Still not put together. Still it progress’ two steps forward, one back.

“Botany Bay” is in the Boathouse. I have been planning my deck layout. I had a look at Don Leitis’s photos on his A2 (and they were a help) On Don’s web page (at the top of this Newsletter). But I kinda want to ‘nut’ a couple of other things out at the same time. ( If you have the time) have a look at Don’s photos, they are a work of art!!

# General News

(1) It appears that this NEWSLETTER is getting about. I have had some reports coming back to, how much people are appreciating the 12 METRE GROUP NEWSLETTER. I even had an inquiry from an overseas country that is interested in taking it on a regular basis!

Well, it's the only news going around! While some clubs don't get it officially but it certainly comes through the back door. We really don't care how they get it as long as they do get it. If you're reading this NEWSLETTER, print off a copy for your mates at your club that have not got a computer?

(2) The National EC12 Champs are on 17&18 th May in Brisbane. If you were lucky enough to get up there I hope you had a good time? Our Correspondent VIKING and a couple of his mates have competed at this event. So we are expecting a report off him for this in EC12 Metre News. Just remember the sponsor of these events. They put up prizes so that the contestants can get something to remember the event. So it is in your own interests to support all those sponsors.(Report see Vikings page).

(3) We saw a beaut little winch the other day from Futaba. (No, it is not the little arm winch type) It is a more robust one with a rather large drum on it. It is very much like an old Whirlwind Type winch, that was about the same size as a normal servo. A friend of mine, Ron F from the Drummoyne (Marblehead) club, bought one from Hobby Co (Syd) for a special price of \$169.00. It needs 2 batteries or one battery with the receiver and winch tapped into one. Now this winch should do a 12 Metre and the "throw" is adjustable.

(4) Our little "Rules Thingy" at the back off the last Newsletter No2 was a great hit. We have seen some around already being used and one was being used on a web page in NZ with a couple of Add-Ons to it, for good measure. We know this that there are less arguments on the rules because of it and some have even "read em". Now that is a plus, well done to all involved!!

# EC12s

Well the NATS are on for this class as we write this. We believe they had 14 entries. This is really good, for if anything is going to fire it needs the numbers to do it.

We see the different Manufactures are all there. And with the mix of a couple of good days, as they say in Brissy! Perfect one day beautiful the next, everyone should have a good time, there.

I wonder have you already picked who you think could win before the start? Not that we are taking “book” or anything. But there are a few notables in the field, should prove interesting.

In actual fact Mal Kampe won it, so much for bragging by the kiwis. More later!

EC12 News from **VIKING**  
General Sailing activities continued during the past month, the local fleet hasn't grown but I'm hopeful that I have convinced my son-in-law David and my grandson Jackson to consider the unique sailing experiences associated with the EC12s. As they hail from Queensland, they may expand the EC12 ranks in the near future up there.

During their four- week visit here, we had ample opportunity to introduce them to our club and our sailing activities. My son-in-law David has some experience with “A” class and currently owns the last A class boat made by the late David Burns. Dave Burns was a significant person within radio sailing community in Australia and is considered in the same vane as ARYA life Member Ron Dunster(in his day). Their memory lives on in Canberra's radio sailing community. To my surprise, young Jackson has become a “natural” in sailing and with experience, over time, has the potential to succeed in this sport.

Our Preparations to attend the EC12 Nationals in Queensland are complete! All that is left to do is, packing the vehicle. This will be a major feat in itself as we have to fit in three boats, sail boxes, tool box, radio gear, Batteries and chargers. Spare parts (beer), etc etc. Fortunately, our mate Lyndon is driving up on his own so there will be room in the vehicle but the down side is we are all coming home in the car with him. Try to imagine all this with two extra blokes and their luggage! (Now you know what sardines feel like . ED) VIKING.( I'm curious, is that a fox sitting on the wharf at Tuggeranong? ED.) see photo.

## 2008 EC12 Metre **Nationals**

Four Members from the National Capital Radio Yacht Club were fortunate enough to attend this years EC 12 metre National event, with increasing fuel costs and associated travel expenses the long distance is becoming more restrictive however. We are very glad we made the effort this year, it was well worth it and I can highly recommend that you try it, some time in the future.

As you may have seen from the report contained on the ARYA website, the Championship was well attended by 11 skippers from three states plus a contingent of 3 from New Zealand. Weather conditions throughout the 2 day event were mixed and provided the entrants the opportunity to use all 3 rigs during the course of the weekend.

It was also a good opportunity to renew some former acquaintances and meet many new faces and in particular the NZ skippers, what a bunch of great guys. NOTE, the headgear in one of the photos! I enjoyed their company and was grateful for the sailing advice they offered unreservedly to me, it was a big help.

Being a one design Class competition, any yacht could have won the event as demonstrated by the scoring. My yacht was capable of running in the front of the pack but unfortunately; the nut behind the transmitter was not in the same league of so many other great skippers. I was in ore of the talents of a number of skippers and none more so than Malcolm Kampe. This gentleman over came even a demolition of his boat and his B rig. Other hardships thrown at

him and despite all this adversity, Malcolm succeeded in becoming the National EC12 Champion for the second year running. Similarly, I was impressed by Graeme Turk's attitude on the water, one wouldn't have known he was in the competition until you looked at the race results during the break, he was that quite. Just goes to show that you don't have to scream and shout to be a top skipper and to achieve an excellent result.

There were so many standout results and memorable moments, none more so than a very humorous quote made by Yoeman Sands on the final day. Where he said "These boats are like children, you tell them what to do and they take no notice"! This has to be the quote of the week, if not the year.

I must admit I was disappointed with a number of unacceptable comments and lack of respect shown to some fellow competitors regarding penalties. I don't believe any skipper would intentionally infringe just to impede the progress of any skipper, however, as I was on the receiving end of one such outburst, I couldn't help notice the change in his tone when he made an error and infringed another competitor. It soon became known there was a whole different story with every excuse being offered!!! There is no need for such behavior at any time and it only serves to put people off; that's something the sport doesn't need.

The topic of the 2008 Revised EC12 Rules seemed to be popular as a number of skippers voiced their concerns as to why the EC12 Owners were not given the opportunity to vote on the final amendments and subsequently questioned the validity of those revised rules? In order to clarify the situation for myself, I have written to the EC12 Co-ordinator Leigh Grove, seeking his advice and will share his comments in the next edition of the newsletter!

In closing, I would like to reiterate our appreciation for the splendid efforts of Graeme Turk, the officials, ladies and volunteers helping out, it made our trip very memorable.

**VIKING**

### Alternate Smaller Class:

Remember in the last couple of Newsletters we have been talking about a smaller class? Well we are still looking for the answer to this question. There are a few that have been mentioned. The Aussie 11 from Victor has been discarded because of a supply issue. The Canterbury J has a cost issue that hasn't been resolved. So we have been looking at the light Etchells design some people know them as the R50. We will go into more detail in the next issue on what the Etchell is about and bring you some photos.

I just want to leave you with a little point here. That point is that things discussed at pond side, other than about the boat is not a **POLITICAL** discussion as some people would have you believe but the necessary workings of a club. And for you to discuss them, is not a political act either.

Photos this issue: The Aussie 11 keels were given as a prize at a EC12 regatta in Queensland about 1986 circa. Photos of the 2008 EC12 nats. I think they were taken by Viking.