

2015 NSW State Trailable Yacht Championships

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The 2015 NSW State Trailable Yacht Championships were held over the October long weekend on Lake Macquarie. Newcastle Hunter Trailable Yacht Assn (NHTYA) was proud to host and run this prestigious event sponsored by East Coast Marine and Sail from Newcastle.



Competitors and crew from all over NSW travelled to enter their 13 yachts into the championship, a first for NSW for many years. Trailerable yachts from various classes were represented and included; Castle 650, Sonata 7, Beale 850, Careel 22, Sabre 25, Noalex 25, Timpenny 670, Skippy 650, Farr 6000 and Farr 7500. Brian Harrison, qualified race officer, said the racing was competitive with the weekend's front runner just beaten overall in the last race and it would be exciting to see the Spinnaker division grow in future events.



Overall Winners; 'Indigo' A Skippy 650 - sailed by Chris Hart and crew, Kevin Sharkey





The 3 day event resulted in 5 races of varying wind and course types, allowing the diverse fleet an opportunity to maximize their yachts' strengths.

The first day of the competition saw two tight 'around the buoys' races in the waters of Kilaben Bay, and was a spectacular sight from around the shoreline. Day two; and the entrants were treated to two bay races, by navigating set courses around Lake Macquarie marks showing off our beautiful lake. The final day was a passage race around Pulbah Island, with competitors having the freedom to determine which way to sail around the island, Port or Starboard. The best laid tactics were to no avail as a lack of wind, just off of Wangi Point, resulted in a shortened course.

Scoring for the event was based upon handicaps listed within the Australian Trailable Yacht and Sports Boat Rule, however a mini 'race inside the race' ensued between the three Sonata 7s. The lead changed throughout each race, resulting in Gary and Cathy Chalmers of Newcastle being the highest placed Sonata 7 in the championship. No protests were heard over the championship albeit some excitable conversations could be heard on the start line.

The social event for Sunday night consisted of a competitors' BBQ. A big thank you goes to NHTYA Commodore Phillip Sparkes and his wife Kim for organizing the off water activities. A highlight of Sunday night was the outdoor big screen viewing of the NRL Grand Final.

