

## **Presidents Report**

*Vic9ers Association – December 2016*

The past 12 to 14 months has been a very active period for the Vic9ers association. Going from 29er to 9er has challenged the association to grow not only the 29ers but the 49er and 49erFX classes.

We have continued to work closely with Yachting Victoria/Australian Sailing to encourage and guide our sailors to support both the important local and interstate regattas which include National and State titles in both Youth and Open class. The class has also worked hard with both local and interstate contacts to open the doors to include the 49er/49erFX classes in some of these regattas. This includes lifting the Youth age to allow sailors who transition to a 49er/49erFX the opportunity to grow and compete at the Youth level and ultimately contribute to growth of this class.

Sailing numbers have some increase over the past 12 months with sailing hubs at RGYC, SYC, RBYC, RYC and RYCV. The approx. active boat numbers are 23 29ers and up to 8 49er/FX's. At each of these clubs we have a mixture of support with some of the sailors supporting the local and interstate regattas and some happy to remain sailing at their own clubs. Our challenge will be to encourage some of the latter group to compete at some of the regattas outside of their own club such as state titles etc.

The Victorian state titles were held in conjunction with the 420 class at Blairgowrie this year and was a great success with a very hot 29er fleet competing. We had 11 29ers and 2 49erFX's with the 49er class being included for the first time in many years. The inclusion of a coach to provide support for the newer sailors worked very well and the overall feedback for this event from parents and sailors was very positive.

Class development is an important function moving forward with the class targeting each of the hubs with dedicated class development days. The committee are still fine tuning this model and see it as an important part to the growth of the class and great way for transitioning sailors from other classes to experience skiff sailing.

Communication with sailors and parents has been a challenge with forever changing technology so the association has targeted 3 means of communication:

- Facebook site has setup as the principle tool
- Email to sailors and parents – cover those not on Facebook.
- Website - currently setting up a dedicated site via the Peak Websites group.

The committee have published a calendar for the 2016/17 season that has included all supported regattas, Class Development Days, training events etc. with the format designed to show 29er, 49er or 49erFX inclusion for the specific event. A regular newsletter has been published providing information and feedback, results and photos to sailors for both future and recent events.

Finally I would like to thank the members of our committee, Felicia, Chris, Lesley and Colleen for their hard work and support, particularly while I was ill and absent and wish the new committee, made up of some existing and new members, all the very best for the 2017/18 season.

Daryl Robinson