



Australian Laser Class Association Inc

Annual General Meeting Minutes

30th December 2016 – 9.00 am

Adelaide Sailing Club, SA

Meeting Opened: 9.00 am

1. Present

Ken Hurling (President), John d'Helin (Vice president), Kath Herrmann (Secretary),
District Representatives: Kevin Phillips (NSW & ACT), Daniel Self (QLD), Juha Vanhakartano (SA),
Jason Harriss (TAS), John d'Helin (VIC), Bruce Utting (WA)

General Attendance

Andrew Darcey (SA), David Williams (SA), Anne Littlewood (WA), David Whait (WA), Chris
Caldecoat (NSW), David Edmiston (NSW), Steve Bryant (NSW), Dave Kershaw (VIC), Frant Bucek
(VIC), Joby Graves (VIC), Peter Merritt (VIC), Mark Kennedy (QLD), Owen Self (QLD), Steve Gunther
(QLD)

Apologies: Geoff Lucas (NSW/ACT) Treasurer, Don Elks (WA) Youth representative, Rob Lowndes
(NSW/ACT) Masters representative, Michael Wilson (QLA President)

2. **Confirmation of minutes** of the Annual General Meeting held at Belmont on 30 December 2015.
Moved by Daniel Self, seconded Steve Bryant. Accepted.

3. **Business arising:** Nil

Reports

4. Committee Reports

Chairman: Ken Hurling welcomed all to the meeting at Adelaide. Report attached.
Report accepted.

Treasurer: Treasurer's report presented by Kevin Phillips on behalf of Geoff Lucas. Report
attached. Financial reports (profit and loss, balance sheet) tabled. Report accepted.

5. District Reports

Queensland: Daniel Self. Membership numbers have remained reasonably steady. Queensland
2016 State Champs held at Yeppoon on the Anzac weekend and well attended incl interstate
mainly from NSW. QLA held coaching camps at Brisbane, Gold Coast and Maroochydhore.
Financial assistance provided to 6 youth sailors travelling overseas. QLA will launch Activate
program in February. QLA 2017 State Champs will be held at Mooloolaba in late March. The next
Laser nationals will be held at RQYS with the Laser masters nationals at Mooloolaba in February
2018.

NSW/ACT: Kevin Philips - report attached.

South Australia: Juha Vanhakartano - SALA using social media to promote its Frostbite series and
attract more Laser sailors to combined events. Alex Zimmerman has been appointed SA Laser
State coach.

Tasmania: Jason Harriss – report attached. Tasmania will be hosting 2018/19 Nationals, venue to
be confirmed.

Western Australia: Bruce Utting – report attached. Strong performance by WA sailors.

Victoria: John d’Helin, report attached. Victoria is hosting 2020 Nationals and making bid to ILCA for Open, Women and Masters Worlds in 2020.

VLA has produced a booklet with calendar of Laser events, including coaching, development and other participation events, other states may want to consider.

6. Sub-Committee Reports

Youth report by Don Elks and Masters report by Rob Lowndes attached.

7. Election of Office Bearers

President - Ken Hurling (Qld); Vice president - John d’Helin (VIC); Secretary - Kevin Phillips (NSW); Treasurer/Public Officer - Geoff Lucas (NSW). Elected unopposed.

8. Sub-Committee Representatives

Youth – Don Elks, Masters – Rob Lowndes

9. Oceania update and proposed changes to 2018 Australian Championships.

With ILCA adopting Oceania as new region and loss of World Sailing World Cup events from southern hemisphere, a proposal was put forward to incorporate the Oceania Continental (Regional) Laser Championships (a points event) with the nationals. The proposal includes 2 new Corinthian categories for the open standard rig and the open radial women. Discussion paper circulated prior to the meeting. There was general support from the floor for this proposal.

Districts to be kept updated.

Action: Ken Hurling

10. Ranking of sailors to attend ILCA World Championships

VLA propose amendment to current policy to address possible ambiguities. VLA draft policy circulated prior to the meeting. John d’Helin to consolidate comments and reissue to Districts for acceptance.

Action: John d’Helin

11. Cost of spars and sails

QLA comment noted.

12. Cube inventory

Unused cubes a considerable cost for smaller states. Agreement in principle that ALCA will assist with cube inventory. Cube requirements to be co-ordinated with states.

Action: K Herrmann

13. Other business

- i. **District association membership:** Chris Caldecoat advised PSA runs VLA website; VLA members were given vouchers on joining / renewal but PSA/VLA now considering rewards points system. Could be extended to other Districts if interested. Depends on technology platform. To be investigated further. Action: Chris Caldecoat and Andrew Darcey
- ii. **Duration of nationals:** Mark Kennedy raised issue of condensing nationals regatta from 9 to 5 day event. Ken advised general support for existing format and dates based on his discussions around the boat park. Any suggestions for change to be submitted to committee for further consideration.
- iii. **Measurement:** Requires resources and time at regatta start. Main defect appeared to be rudder angle. Any suggestions for streamlining to be submitted to committee.
- iv. **2020 reunion regatta:** Consideration to be given to inviting past champion Laser sailors to a reunion regatta in 2020. To be promoted with 2020 nationals.

Meeting closed 10.30 am



Presidents Report ALCA Annual General Meeting 2017

30 December 2016

Good morning and welcome

“Please sign in and voting delegates also advise the Secretary”.

On behalf of the members I would like to thank Belmont 16’s Sailing Club for hosting the 2016 National Championships, and a special thank you to Jacky Ellis-Bell for her assistance and support throughout the regatta. It would be remiss of me not to mention the NSW Laser District under the direction of Kevin Phillips and his great team who worked so hard behind the scenes to produce a fantastic event.

In 2016 we also held a separate Masters Nationals Regatta and once again Kevin Phillips and his team were on hand along with Port Stevens Sailing & Aquatic Club producing great weather and close racing to stage a great regatta. Over 430 sailors competed at the Nationals last year, a fantastic result for the Laser class.

Looking back separating the masters on the east coast has been one of the best decisions the ALCA has made with increased numbers in attendance.

One Sailing

As you will be aware all the State and Territory Yachting Associations (MYAs) have signed and support the “One Sailing” service delivery plan administered by Australian Sailing. I have been involved to date with this decision and its new direction for our sport. In the new order some grey areas remain for Class Associations and there has been little or no contact from Australian Sailing to ALCA or District Associations.

The decision to move the dates of the Australian Youth Championships is still an ongoing problem for our class with no resolution in sight. It appears that the date of the 2018 Youth Regatta could change again to accommodate the 420 Class as they are having their Nationals and Worlds in WA. This is becoming very frustrating.

The ALCA has offered a solution by way of an overhaul and re-planning of their youth regatta

so that our members can reclaim January for family time and holidays.

Australian Sailing has appointed an Events Director whose job it is to run and coordinate events Australia wide, what events, the ALCA has yet to be notified. The issues I see from this appointment, particularly for under 21 year olds, is that there are too many regattas and that sailing and class development at clubs does not seem to be a priority. Without strong clubs our class and sport could be in big trouble. It is my view that Australian Sailing must decide is who is in the business of running regattas clubs, class associations or peak bodies. History tells us peak bodies running events can be a disaster. World Sailing is a classic example, I can't understand why we can't all work together.

In the coming weeks ALCA will have meetings with Australian Sailing to resolve some of these issues and as always I will endeavour to achieve the best outcome for all our members.

Australian Sailing has also appointed an Australian Youth Advisory Committee that advises Australian Sailing on youth issues. Who these people are is a mystery as Australian Sailing again have not contacted the ALCA or asked for our views. The Australian Sailing web site is years out of date and needs updating.

ILCA

I attended the ILCA World Council Meeting in November and the new carbon top section was approved and a World Championships in Australia in 2019 and 2020 was proposed.

A new division 'Corinthians' is to be introduced. After approval from the ILCA Board, entry qualification for this division is;

- radial women and standard men
- 21 to 34 years old
- with less than 100 points from World Sailing events.

More of this in the Notices of Race for 2017/18.

The relocation of regional boundaries is important for the ALCA membership as we are now part of Oceania and one of the Olympic rings on the IOC Olympic logo.

I issued a press release on this informing all involved and we are now in the planning process

to host the first Oceania Laser Championships incorporated into the Australian Laser Championships in 2018. As this develops, it is hoped it will become a World Sailing points event in the future.

World and Olympic Regatta's

Again Aussie Laser sailors have done very well on the world stage. Tom Burton bringing home gold from the Olympics in Rio and Ashley Stoddart finishing 3rd in the Rio Medal Race and 9th overall.

Finn Alexander won the World Youth Championship with Zoe Thompson 7th in the Girls.

Australian Laser Masters Sailors won five of the 10 age categories in the Laser Masters World Championships in Mexico. Congratulations to Ozzie winners Mark Bethwaite (GGM Standard), Gavin Dagley (GM Standard), Brett Beyer (Master Standard), Rob Lowndes (GGM Radial), Vanessa Dudley (GM Radial).

In the Australian Sailing awards for the year;

- Tom Burton (NSW), 2016 Olympic gold medallist, was named Male Sailor of the Year.
- Alistair Young (WA), 2016 ISAF Youth World Radial Champion, was named Youth Sailor of the Year.
- Michael Blackburn, AST Laser coach and former Laser World Champion and Olympic Laser medallist, was named Coach of the Year.

Finalists included Laser sailors Ashley Stoddart (in Female Sailor of the Year), Zoe Thomson and Conor Nicholas (in Youth Sailor of the Year).

These are outstanding results and congratulations to these fabulous sailors.

I would also like to note the large fleet of 4.7s sailors who attended ILCA Worlds in Europe in 2016.

I must also thank Australian Sailing for their support and the coaches for a job well done at all ILCA world events.

Towards the Future

Some new ideas for the future are;

- membership cards
- ALCA handbook
- re-activate the Laser program

These ideas are things which all Districts should look at.

National membership numbers is something we should all encourage as in the last twelve months membership to ALCA has dropped from 656 to 627. Membership growth helps Australia when attempting to secure ILCA world events and spots, more members more spots.

I would like to set a goal to have 1,000 members by 2020, this is only a small increase in all Districts and is very achievable.

Thanks to ALCA Team and Volunteers

On behalf of our members I must thank the ALCA team for their support, advice, and the way they have worked together this last twelve months. The ALCA has only one goal and that is to obtain the best outcome for all our members from 10 to 80 years old, support Laser Districts, Laser clubs and see the Laser Class grow from strength to strength.

This year we say goodbye to some of our long hard working volunteers Ross and Kevin Wilson and John Middleton. I would sincerely like to thank them for their many years of service to the Laser class and for a job well done.

All ALCA sailor of the year nominations are in and have been approved and the winners will be announced on presentation night.

Thank you everyone for another great year.

Ken Hurling OAM

President ALCA

ILCA Oceania Chair



Treasurer's Report Year Ended 30 June 2016

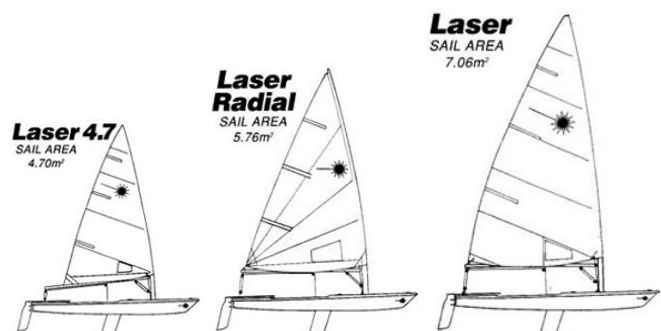
The operations for the year ended in a small loss of \$507.22 compared with a profit in 2015 of \$2,083.23.

While total income was up by approx. \$900.00, additional expenses incurred, as shown in the Profit and Loss Statement, resulted in this small deficit for the year under review.

The Radial Youth Worlds in Kingston Canada incurred a shortfall of \$2,079.86 in their budget. This shortfall was due to a misunderstanding in the currency quoted in the contract for coach boat RIB hire. The group understood the payment was to be made in \$CAN whereas when it came to make the payment after the event was completed, the hirer insisted the payment was to be made in \$US. The committee of ALCA resolved to underwrite this shortfall on behalf of the competitors.

Turning to the Balance Sheet, the balances of the Trust Fund accounts held on behalf of the two groups (\$7,793.51) have subsequently been paid. All districts have now paid their contributions of \$7.50 per financial/life member due in September 2016 resulting in a balance of \$23,341.37 in funds on hand as at 7 December 2016.

Geoff Lucas
Hon. Treasurer
7 December 2016





Laser



NSW/ACT District

NSW/ACT Laser Report ALCA AGM 2017

NSW/ACT and Nationals Sailing

We run four major events in the season to fit around the others which fill the busy Laser calendar. At our Open State Championship at Georges River we had 100 entries including 21 4.7's. We expect as many entries at our State Masters at Great Lakes Forster in February. Our Coast and Metropolitan events attracted 150 entries.

We ran the very successful National Open Championships at Belmont which saw 194 competitors including many internationals and several sailors who went on to compete in the Rio Olympics. We also ran the National Masters at our favourite stomping ground Port Stephens Sailing and Aquatic Club which had 201 entries. We had good conditions for the majority of races and thanks to our top notch RO's Col Chidgey and for the Open Nationals Kevin and Ross Wilson the events ran very smoothly.

State Champions for 2016/17 were Brett Beyer in the Standards, Finn Alexander Double Bay Sailing Club in the Radial and Nathan Bryant from RPAYC in the 4.7's. Congratulations to the winners and all participants in these regattas.

Thanks to the host clubs for putting on a great show for us. Though we pay \$1,000 per event per day to the clubs this would probably just cover their running costs. The on the water and in the club house teams make the events work. They do it just for the love of the sport and we thank them one and all.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from NB SailSports we had the NBSS Sprint Series again last winter. We were unlucky with the winds with races being completed at only two of the four scheduled events namely Middle Harbour ASC (2 races) and Woollahra (3 races). We had 105 entries overall in the series.

The winners overall were Mark Bethwaite in the Standards Zac Skulander in the Radials and Jack Littlechild in the 4.7's.

International Sailing

Great to see Tom Burton's fabulous win in Rio following the (don't try this at your home club) manoeuvre pre-start in the Medal Race. Great to see Ashley Stoddard from RQYS qualify for, and finish 2nd in, the Rio Medal Race and finish 9th overall. Well done the whole AST.

Congratulations to Finn Alexander for his recent great win in the World Youth Championship in Auckland.

Australia and in particular NSW/ACT Laser Masters Sailors did very well in the World Masters in Puerto Vallarta Mexico in April/May this year. There were 222 competitors from around the Laser world. We punched above our weight winning five of the 10 age categories. Congratulations to Ozzie winners Mark Bethwaite (GGM Standard), Gavin Dagley (GM Standard), Brett Beyer (Master Standard), Rob Lowndes (GGM Radial), Vanessa Dudley (GM Radial).

NSW/ACT Membership

Overall our District membership has increased 10% YoY to 254.

Administration

We plan to continue with our regatta arrangements going forward and backed by our strong financial position are looking to fund additional club level coaching as well as assist where practical with funding for international level sailing.

A special thank you to our own small team of helpers in particular RO's Col Chidgey and Andrew McLachlan, our treasurer Geoff Lucas, membership secretary and regatta helper Kath Herrmann, measurer Michael Mills, regatta helpers Sue Phillips Dave and Elaine Edmiston, Youth representative Stuart Plenderleith and advisor and Masters Representative Rob Lowndes for their work and support.

A special thanks to the many people who helped out with administration and on the water for the two National Championships which we ran last season. Without people just stepping up as required we could never have managed the tasks involved in staging these big events.

A special thanks to Belmont 16foot Sailing Club and Port Stephens Sailing and Aquatic Clubs for their support hosting these events.

Cheers

Kevin Phillips
Chair NSW/ACT Laser Association

Tasmanian District Laser Association (TDLA) report 30th Dec 2016

The TDLA has again enjoyed another growth year building on the impressive numbers from last year. Rising from 30 last year to 38 this year, a 26% increase.

A focus for our committee this year has been engaging our regional areas from the north west of Tasmania and some of the other clubs outside of the main stream in Hobart.

We incorporated with our traveller series opening regatta "The Burnie Icebreaker" an opportunity for local sailors in the region to come along and race, chat, share a BBQ, and get involved with the hottest show in town. Burnie Yacht club graciously including TDLA membership as part of the regatta fees to enhance the experience for local members.

Focus will now turn to a training weekend for Burnie and provide a TDLA supplied coach for a day or weekend and a hand full of regular sailors to escalate the skills and show the region what we can offer. We have also offered the use if required of a single axle Laser trailer that holds up to 6 boats for transporting to regattas.

The associations other focus has been a local club just south of Hobart, Kingston Beach Sailing club. Interest from the club was received and a plan was hatched to combine a TDLA training weekend and include as many Laser sailors from Kingston Beach as possible. TDLA's policy for new sailors to the association receive their first training weekend free to ensure we had the most bum's in seats as possible. The weekend albeit the weather was a success and plans to follow up this weekend in the new year are already on the cards.

The Associations is also very proud of the fact of the growing number of female sailors. This year we have increased our numbers to 6 with at least another 3 girls from other classes looking to continue sailing in a laser next season.

On the international front, two of our 4.7 laser sailors attended the World Championships in Kiel Germany. Both attending a Worlds for their first time and both successfully completing their goals.

Further ahead but closing quickly, preparations for the Laser Nationals in 2018/19 have begun with a subcommittee formed to get the ball rolling. Already 2 locations have been shortlisted with others clubs showing interest and discussions continuing with those clubs, we had hoped to have a location resolved before this meeting but decided to give ourselves more time to properly evaluate each option.

All this and our usual complement of training weekends and traveller series has kept our growing committee busy but also kept our sailors on their toes, which will be no more evident than this week, good luck to our Tassie sailors and good luck to all other states.

Regards

Jason Harriss

President of the Tasmanian District Laser Association

WALA ANNUAL REPORT 2016

This year has been another successful one for WALA. The following points are worth noting.

1. Continued increase in numbers and performance of female sailors. Program developed and implemented to provide coaching as an ongoing initiative
2. Strong performances by our members at National and International level. 43 WA sailors entered in Adelaide Nationals, a fantastic result.
3. Solid participation and performance of Masters sailors at Nationals
4. Continued support for Metro Championships , however scheduling is an ongoing issue. New format for 2017
5. Successful State Titles at GBYC and planning is underway for 2017 at FSC
6. Ongoing development and use of WALA website and further development of facebook page,
7. Excellent entry numbers at local regattas. 50 plus lasers on most occasions, although event timing remains an issue
8. Rapid growth and interest in the laser 4.7 fleets
9. Total of 9 , 4.7 rigs for all clubs to use to promote the laser class and for rental to individual sailors, new to the class
10. WALA Travel Grants awarded to 7 sailors for their participation at International events during the Northern Hemisphere Summer season
11. Implementation of Nationals Coaching Strategy developed by Anne Littlewood and David Whait . Several Clubs united to carry the costs with nominal input from individual sailors and WALA. This strategy ensures all participants at Open and Youth Nationals have access to Quality coaching throughout both events.
12. Masters Coaching – Provided specifically for Sailors entering Masters Nationals in the lead up to Port Stephens. 5 sessions involving a combination of short course mini series and training sessions with coach Ben Walkemeyer
13. Development of online entry for Membership, regatta entry, surveys
14. Competitor survey conducted following State Titles with the results being used to plan future events
15. School Holiday Laser Camps – during each school holidays WALA is conducting coaching for laser 4.7 sailors, 4 hours per day over 4 days. Usually about 20 participants, and we rotate around different clubs. Next camp will be late January 2017 ,targeting new 4.7 sailors and those transitioning from Oppys ,Bics etc following their Nationals

I would like to acknowledge the good work done by all members of the WALA committee and thank them for their contribution to the above highlights. Also thanks must go to all Clubs who hosted Laser events throughout the year.

Bruce Utting - President WALA

Victorian Laser association 2016 ALCA AGM report.

In season 2015/16 we dropped about 20 members on the previous year which was disappointing. Membership YTD is running stronger than this time last year with 110 signed up from 23 clubs. We still have our Open States & Masters states to run in 2017 so would be confident of exceeding last year.

Year 2020 Victorian bid for World Championships.

The VLA have lodged a bid for the 2020 Men's, Women's & Laser Masters World Championships. These would be held over January & February in the Olympic year of 2020. This means these regattas would most likely be selection events for the Olympic games.

Training & class development:

In January YV advised the VLA that they would no longer financially support the successful VLA run High performance program. The resources would be redirected to an AS run program. Unfortunately, the AS program has not met the expectations of the campaigning sailors. The VLA commissioned Mark Tonner Joyce to create a class development program open to all VLA sailors & this will run through 2017 commencing in February.

- **Pure Laser** is an annual subscription program with 39 contact sessions run by the lead coaches, including 2 x two day camps & a downwind passage sail. The Pure Laser program is open to any Laser sailor campaigning for a major regatta and will cover Pure Laser skills and techniques.
- **Laser FUNDamentals** are coached training sessions open to all Laser sailors who wish to improve their skills with regular training but who do not wish to commit to an annual program. Bookings will be required and there is a charge per session.
- **Laser squad** sessions are run on Sunday mornings from 10 am until 12 noon through the winter months of May, June & July. These are informal on water sessions for Laser sailors who would like to sail with other Laser sailors prepared to share their knowledge and train as a group. No bookings required.

Laser Activate:

The VLA supports clubs to build their Laser fleets via our Activate program. This season there was an activate at Royal Geelong attended by 14 sailors & in December another at Ballarat attended by 16 sailors. We plan to have two more this season with the next at Mordialloc.

Congratulations to Brody Riley for his 3rd at Belmont & a creditable 19th in his first Worlds in Ireland & to Gavin Dagley for winning the GM standard rig & Jim Temple 3rd in the GGM's worlds in Mexico.

I would also like to thank the VLA committee for the work they have done this year.

I move that this report be accepted.

John d'Helin

President VLA.

2016 ALCA Youth Development Report

ALCA Youth Development strategy continues to actively push coaching for ILCA Worlds for U21, Radial and 4.7 Youth Worlds as a practical way to attract and retain sailors in the Laser class. 2016 saw the largest contingent of Laser Sailors representing Australia in history, with the largest contingent of 5 coaches.

ALCA was instrumental in raising coaching funds to an estimated value of \$53,112 for ILCA Youth Worlds coaches this year. Added to that the U21 ILCA Worlds team also had coaching support for the first time.

2016 U21 Worlds, Aug 8 - Aug 16, Kiel, Germany

Raising funds and coaching support for U21 coaches has been difficult as parental support wains with maturity, also the AS Squad (ASS) program focus has been on supporting Squad members alone, hence U21 participation has been struggling.

But this year could mark a turn around. For the first time we are seeing State HP programs actively support U21's. Despite seven sailors who looked likely to attend in 2016 at the outset, ultimately Brady Lowe with QAS support was there to coach four. WAIS withdrew support after Alistair Young and Conor Nicholas pulled out through illness and injury, Richard Maher decided to compete in an Open event.

ALCA's view is that U19 youth sailors are more likely to be retained in the Laser class if there is a healthy U21's Worlds competition and if it can be seen as a springboard to ASS. ASS can have a larger and more experienced competitive pool to draw from, but they need to invest in ILCA Worlds coaching. ALCA will continue to support AS and State HP programs with this. Congratulations to:

1. Lachy Gilham 24th (U19)
2. Daniel Self 41st
3. Annie Eastgate 33rd
4. Simone Wood 46th (U19)

2016 4.7 Worlds, Jul 30 - Aug 7, Kiel, Germany

Sixteen 4.7 sailors represented Australia this year, a record number. ALCA was instrumental in raising funds for Coaches Tristan Brown and Luke Elliott to coach to an estimated value of \$23,733. With the support of AS and State High Performance programs ALCA was able to reduce the cost to sailing families to \$9,280 who each contributed \$855 per sailor. Congratulations to:

1. Finn O'Dea 20th (2nd U16)
2. Rome Featherstone 26th
3. Will Sargent 36th (U16)
4. Hayden Coote 40th
5. Max Gluskie 61st
6. Tom Needham 4th (Silver)
7. Nathan Bryant 19th (U16 Silver)
8. George Morton 33rd (Silver)
9. Jack Littlechild 38th (Silver)
10. Mark Louis 61st (Bronze)
11. Boston Cortis 11th (U16 Emerald)
12. Henry Davison 23rd (Emerald)
13. Antony Hawke 24th (Emerald)
14. Logan Cortis 57th (U16 Emerald)

1. Bronagh Allison 43rd
2. Hailey Johnson 52nd

2016 Radial Worlds, Jul 23 - 30, Dun Laoghaire, Ireland

Thirteen Radial sailors represented Australia this year, a record number. ALCA was instrumental in raising funds for Coaches Tristan Brown and Ash Brunning to coach to an estimated value of \$29,379. With the support of AS and State High Performance programs ALCA was able to reduce the cost to sailing families to \$10,169.33 who each paid \$782.26 per sailor. Congratulations to:

1. Finn Alexander 5th
 2. Brody Riley 19th
 3. Caelin Winchcombe 36th
 4. Zac Littlewood 42nd (4th U17)
 5. Indeabeau Laborie 51st
 6. Noah Taylor 9th (Silver)
 7. Jordan Makin 50th (Silver)
 8. Oskar Hansen 48th (Bronze)
 9. Nathan Dutton 13th (U17 Emerald)
-
1. Zoe Thompson 1st
 2. Elyse Ainsworth 9th
 3. Marlena Berzins 16th
 4. Mara Stransky 26th

A lot goes on behind the scenes with organising the coaching effort. Special thanks to Geoff Lucas, Kath Hermann, team reps Sondra Cortis and Anne Littlewood, coaches, Australian Sailing and State HP Program management. We could not do anything without the support of the sailing families.

2017 ILCA Worlds Applications

Applications will be called <https://sailing.laserinternational.org/public/site/event-list> in the coming weeks for those wishing to compete. ALCA will rank sailors on performances and participation at Adelaide Nationals. Sailors need to make application as soon as possible to have the best chance of being accepted.

1. 2017 Laser Under-21 World Championships 26 July - 2 August 2017 Nieuwpoort, Belgium
2. 2017 Laser Radial Youth World Championships 11 - 18 August 2017 Medemblik, Netherlands
3. 2017 Laser 4.7 Youth World Championships 16 - 24 July 2017 Nieuwpoort, Belgium

I will be available to stand again should membership require my involvement.

Regards
Don Elks
Youth Development
Australian Laser Class Association

Australian Laser Class Association
Masters Report for Annual General Meeting

30th December 2016

At a national level, the most significant happenings were two very successful masters events: the February Australian Masters Championships at Port Stephens, and the strong Australian turn up and results at the April/May World Masters Championships in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico.

Australian Masters Championships, February 2016 at Port Stephens

This event again proved the popularity of the ALCA policy of a separate Australian Masters Championship every second year. The table below shows the attendance since the format was changed:

Australian Masters Championship Competitors

	2011		2012		2014		2016	
	Port Stephens		RQYS*		Gippsland Lakes Vic		Port Stephens	
	RAD	STD	RAD	STD	RAD	STD	RAD	STD
A	9	17	10	13	5	6	6	11
M	29	44	27	21	23	23	28	38
GM	21	35	25	25	28	25	37	36
GGM	19	5	20	0	26	0	33	9
Total	78	101	82	59	82	54	104	94

* Preceded World Masters, some international entries, many Aussies did not enter

Particular thanks must go to NSW & ACT District Chair Kevin Phillips and RO Colin Chidgey for their outstanding organisation.

2016 Masters Worlds, Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico

For the first time the event was split over two separate regattas, the first for Radials (22 to 30 April) and the second for Standard Lasers (20 to 28 May), to provide sufficient charter boats – a consequence of the popularity of the masters worlds.

In the Radials, Australia had more competitors than any other country with 28 out of a total 138. Vanessa Dudley won the Grand Masters, with Jeff Loosemore second. Rob Lowndes won the GGMs. In the Standards, there were 13 Australians in a field of 89. Brett Beyer won the Masters, Gavin Dagley the GMs and Mark Bethwaite the GGMs.

At a meeting of masters at both regattas a North American proposal to change the masters format to all ages racing together (as they do in the US) was soundly rejected and we will continue to oppose such a change.

The sailors expressed a strong desire for all masters rigs to sail at the same event and this will be the case for the 2017 masters worlds although entries will be restricted because of the available rigging area at Split. The Notice of Race has yet to be issued.

The ILCA is concerned at the lack of Apprentice Masters entries in the world championships but the small numbers are reflected at a national (as shown in the above table) and district level as well. It seems to be a result of several demographic factors, a solution for which has not been found. A European proposal to change the masters age categories to 30 – 40, 40 – 50, etc was not adopted at the last ILCA executive meeting.

Rob Lowndes

Chairman ALCA Masters Sub-Committee