



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