

VLA 2020 LASER REGATTAS NEWSLETTER

The VLA is close to finalising agreements with all relevant parties to conduct a series of National, Regional and World Championships in the January – March period of 2020.

This achievement follows more than 12 months of effort from a dedicated bid committee including John D'Helin, Peter Merritt, Campbell Rose and Jack Graves with strong support from the Australian Laser Class Association, Oceania Laser Class Association and an EOI process involving many Victorian Sailing Clubs. This included hosting the Executive Secretary of the International Laser Class Association (ILCA) in Victoria for a tour of the selected host clubs, the sailing waters and to meet the VLA committee and class supporters.

This is a once in a generation grouping of Laser events, in the run up to the Tokyo Olympics, where rapidly advancing technologies and communications are enabling the appeal and athleticism of the Laser Class and the sport of sailing to be observed and appreciated by millions around the world. It provides the opportunity to demonstrate the unique characteristics of the Laser Class – simple, low cost, one-design boats allowing fair and intense competition sailors of both genders and sailing experience across ages between 15 and 85+.

Here are the planned race day dates for each Regatta.

2020 VICTORIAN LASER REGATTAS (RACE DAY DATES)

HOST CLUB: SANDRINGHAM YACHT CLUB

2020 Oceania & Australian Laser Championships - Standard, Radial and 4.7 (Jan 3-8)

2020 ILCA Standard Men's World Championship (Feb 11-16)

2020 ILCA Laser Radial Women's World Championships (Feb 21-26)

2020 ILCA Laser Radial Men's World Championships (Feb 21-26)

HOST CLUB: ROYAL GEELONG YACHT CLUB

2020 Oceania & Australian Laser Masters Championship - Standard, Radial and 4.7 (March 15-18)

2020 ILCA Laser Masters World Championships - Standard, Radial and 4.7 (March 22-28)

CURRENT STATUS

The ILCA hosting agreement for 4 World Championship events has been received. Its Acceptance by the VLA is pending a State Government funding application lodged in November 2017.

A Club hosting expression of interest process has been completed. Hosting agreements are drafted. Execution is also subject to the funding application.

The VLA is working closely with Australian Sailing and the Sail Melbourne International Regatta committee to coordinate programming of Sail Melbourne to further enhance the

appeal of Victoria to Laser sailors in 2020, an Olympic year, as part of a wider “Summer of Sail” with several other class world and national championships being planned in the summer of 2019/20.

A 2020 Laser Regatta Organising Committee has been formed under the auspices of the VLA. Chair - James Mitchell, Secretariat - Maria Racovalis, Regatta Delivery – Peter Merritt and Jack Graves, Sponsorships & Merchandising – Joby Graves, Legal Counsel – Simon Merritt, Measurement – Neville Beeson.

This committee needs leaders for the a) Finance and b) Event Communications / Marketing activities.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We need volunteers – you or someone you know (sailor or non-sailor) for:

- Organising Committee
 - Finance lead – a person familiar with accounting of events to manage the event accounts, provide strategic direction regarding budget & cash flow management, reporting, chart of accounts structure, GST, sponsorship structuring, management of volunteers including accounts managers.
 - Event Communications / Marketing lead – strategic communications direction, event brand development, budget line responsibility, ideas generation, competitor and sponsors advocate, management of volunteers including journalists, media managers, database support, web site / app service providers.
- On Shore or On Water management (all types of jobs working with host club volunteers).

We also need:

- Host accommodation for race officials at both locations and/or race official transportation.
- Please spread the word – locally, nationally and internationally.
- Sponsorships - \$ and in-kind support.

ALL INITIAL ENQUIRIES TO: JACK.GRAVES@BIGPOND.COM