

# Cobra tails

Victorian Cobra Catamaran

Association: Sep/2009 newsletter

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# Presidents reports

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Hi all,

With only a few more weeks to go until the start of the season I look out the window and realise that all the things I had planned to undertake on the boat simply hasn't happened. As I look around the house and see all the half completed projects the chances of them being done is pretty remote, where has the winter gone?

The organisation for the Nationals, to be held at Victor Harbor SA, is well underway and I hope you have all recorded it in your diary and planning to attend? There will be plenty of camping accommodation available at the local show grounds and with power onsite should cost about \$100 for the week. The Stingrays are doing most of organisation and they are attempting to keep the entry costs down as much as possible so there is no excuses for not attending this event. This Nationals is a combined event with the Arrow's, Stingray's and Cobra's and if anything like last year the spectacle of all the boats out on the water is great. The Stingrays are organising some photographs of the area and the camping facilities and I will send them out once they arrive.

Laurie has just returned from several months touring up to Cape York, he got back safe and sound. I am sure he will have plenty of stories. It was good seeing him waving the Cobra flag via his Cobra polo shirt standing at the northern most point of the Australian continent.

C U on the water soon

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# RACE SECRETARY'S WINTER UPDATE

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What happened to racing in winter?

The months are racing away before the upcoming season, some of us are racing to build new boats, others racing to have sails made, and there was one person racing down the shop to get some acetone to scrub off the epoxy that didn't go off.....

Plenty of racing in winter!!!

As the news raced around, camping is now available at Victor Harbour for our National Titles in the first week of January 2010.

For all of us who want as much practice before the Nats as possible there is a 2009 Mordialloc (S.C.) Winter Series - August 2 to September 20, refer to their website for all details. A good head Start for the racing Series at Parkdale Y.C. (and to test those new light weight parts while fewer people are watching..... 32mm boom this season?).

The VCCA is planing a new Traveller series for the 09-10 season with 4 racing / camping events held mostly in the long weekends, delicately arranged not to compromise our club's championship series.

As sadly we now have very few inland sailing venues, we are rearranging our traditional traveller series to include some coastal events. An exciting addition proposed will be the Westernport Challenge held from Cowes YC; very close to the start of February. We also plan to hold an event in S.A. to help support Cobra's growing and enthusiastic following there.

Specific confirmed details will be promoted in newsletters and on [cobracat.com](http://cobracat.com).

After our Winter practice,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Club championship, a Traveller Series, and National Titles, we will all be sharpened up, on edge for a real WIZZ BANGER of a showdown, the State Titles, expected to be held at Bullen Merri during Easter 2010.

Let's dust off our Cobras and drag out the heavy wetsuits, the race is on!

*Traveller Series Dates:* Cup weekend – Rivoli Bay SA, 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Westernport Marathon, 25<sup>th</sup> April – Yarrowonga, June – Sauna Sail.

Wes Miles

# WHAT DO COBRA SAILORS DO IN THE OFF SEASON?

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Well, we finally made it! About as far away from the Melbourne cold as it is possible to be and still be in Aus. It's been an exciting and action filled trip, with some amazing scenery and great 4WD action to keep us interested. We have met an extraordinary range of people on the way. Been bogged once, pulled several people out of deep mud, enjoyed the fruits of our fishing endeavors and seen a huge range of flora and fauna. Trod on a snake last night – luckily only a python-, fished off a bank with a 3 metre croc a short distance away – I think it was a freshwater variety, but took no chances

Haven't been able to escape the Cobra influence – camped at Nixon Rocks near St George (not bad rocks as it turned out), crossed the Dawson River and Cobra Creek, raided a few orchards, bought meat at Marsh's butchers near Cairns and so on Ad Nauseum!!!

The roads up here have been surprisingly easy for the most part, provided we stayed on the Peninsular Development Road where there has been a great deal of effort put into maintaining good access, especially to Weipa. Once you leave the PDR it's a whole new story, especially on the old telegraph track with deep water crossings (over the bonnet at one stage), log bridges, 3 metre vertical drops into creek crossings (usually with a chicken track for the faint hearted) – in all a sheer delight to an enthusiastic four wheel driver!!

We spent several days at Laura and took a guided tour of aboriginal rock art sites. A fascinating time with a knowledgeable guide to explain the significance of the images. I know a few spells now to slow down the opposition, so watch out if I start singing out on the water!!!

This was one of the log crossings we had to negotiate – a few metres into the water if one of the logs gave way. Even had a few onlookers waiting to see if we made it before they tried.

But it wasn't all that difficult. The only disappointment of the whole trip is that although we were often on the edge of crystal clear water – sea, billabongs, creeks and rivers – we couldn't swim. Human beings are at the bottom of the food chain here, even hundreds of kilometers from the sea, so we were always careful. Given that the day temps haven't dropped below 25 C, it has been difficult.

So now its time to head back south and reacclimatize before the start of the next sailing season. Hope everyone has been well and working conscientiously on boat preparation and looking forward to another exciting season

Laurie



For those of you that can attend or just can't get enough sailing in, the F.O.A.K. Regatta looks to be a good event & it'd be a chance to show people that Cobra's are alive & kicking.

**Chelsea Yacht Club  
F.O.A.K. 4 of a Kind Regatta**

**Saturday & Sunday  
21 - 22 November 2009**

**4 Races**

**Saturday 11am & 2pm**

**Sunday 11am & 2pm**

Briefing 30 mins prior to each race

**\$20 per boat**

**PRIZES on handicap to class associations:**

**MONOS \$400 1st Class \$200 2nd Class**

**CATS \$400 1st Class \$200 2nd Class**

**\$500 for the largest class over the weekend**

**Bacon & egg brekkies available  
plus BBQ after racing both days**



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**Chelsea Foreshore - via Kelvin Grove**

**Phone 9772 2854**

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## 2009/10 Cobra Nationals @ Victor Harbor

All Cobra Sailors are warmly invited to the 2009/10 National Titles to be held at the picturesque Victor Harbor in South Australia from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of January. The Series is expected to be sailed in a competitive but fun atmosphere where new sailors to the class should not feel intimidated but see this as a chance to learn from the leaders, who are usually more than happy to offer plenty of helpful advice throughout the series.



The venue will once again be shared with the Stingrays as well as the Arrow and Arafura Classes. This has proved very successful in the past to make things more interesting both on and off the water.



We have secured spacious camping accommodation at the Port Elliot Showgrounds. It is about 10kms from the Sailing Club and the facilities are quite basic but given the region is extremely popular with tourists during the time of the Series it is a great opportunity for those who enjoy camping to all be at the one location.

To book a 'site' call **Steve Rogers** on **08 8598 52 44**



Nomination Forms and Notice of Race will be available soon. If you have any enquiries please don't hesitate to contact:

David Badrock 0408570884 or Wes Miles 0417154885