



## Cairn Curran Sailing Club Report

Lake water levels have increased further so there has been no deterrent to launching Flying Fifteens. The local fleet has responded with enthusiasm up to four Fifteens racing regularly. There have been a variety of skipper and crew combinations namely: Alan Carson, Darren Carson, Tim Day, Andrew Pollard, Michael McCartney, Helen Whiteman, Chris Telford, Michael Monk, Chris Weight and James Weight. Even Peter Mullenger has been enticed to take the helm of "Fiasco" with a resulting win, much to the chagrin of the more regular sailors. Peter's response was as expected and of course unprintable.

The racing has been close and competitive with all boats often finishing within a minute between first and last. Andrew Pollard and Mike McCartney in "(Up) The Duff" being the outstanding combination at this stage. "Force Five" by the most outrageous misfortune due to a couple of fortuitous tacks onto significant wind shifts found itself at the head of the fleet. This totally unfamiliar position was quickly rectified by a 720 that put "Force Five" back into its usual and probably rightful position. Two crew members from different boats were thrown overboard for insubordination namely: Chris Telford by Alan Carson in "Reliance IV" and Darren Carson by Chris Weight in "Force Five". Darren also underwent a full frontal lobotomy via a somewhat oversize and blunt surgical instrument (the boom).

Alan Carson's new plastic fantastic is no further advanced - could this be Cairn Curran's answer to Wocka's "White Boat". The most interesting news is that Michael Monk has procured a new (only slightly used) set of sails in preparation for the Nationals in Adelaide. As usual "Force Five" has kept the varnish and sand paper suppliers of Bendigo in champagne and caviar.

We were looking forward to the Crayfish Cup at Apollo Bay and were bitterly disappointed to miss such a great event due to the build up of sand at the harbour entrance. We are also disappointed for Apollo Bay's sake as we know only too well what the loss of a regatta causes to the finances of a sailing club.

Michael Monk took "Fiasco" to Adelaide and teamed up with Peter James to represent Cairn Curran Sailing Club at the National Championship Regatta. The light winds that

occurred for most races were not to the liking of "Fiasco's" crew, however they finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the Classic fleet and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Since Christmas Cairn Curran has been regularly racing four Flying Fifteens with Brett Cornish and his son Jack joining the fleet in "Fast Forward". Honours of late are shared between Andrew Pollard's "The Duff" and Alan Carson's "Reliance IV". After a good day of 20 odd knots and the fleet of Fifteens passing them by, that misguided NS 14 sailing, mid life crisis couple of Max Stevens and Elvene Hogan were heard to say "wish we had brought out the Fifteen". There is hope for them yet. The Carsons are starting to follow in their father's wake. On a few occasions we have had Alan and sons Darren and Scott each sailing in a different Fifteen. I have it from reliable sources, (well, maybe not so reliable) from both Craig Ginnivan and Alan Carson in any case, that the plastic fantastic is actually progressing and the deck is complete and ready for adhesion to the hull. It looks like the reputation of Wocka's phantom "White Boat" may again be secure. Even Chris Telford's Fifteen must be moving forward; at least he is discussing getting the trailer registered. For some strange reason Mike McCartney and Chris Telford were closely checking the rigging and layout of "Force Five" but that might have been after several rations of rum.

Cairn Curran look like sending four boats to the Gippsland Lakes for the State Championship Regatta, which augers well for the class as for two years there has been precious little water for sailing.

Lake Boga is full and so offers potential for the South East Australia Inland Flying Fifteen Regatta about the ANZAC day weekend as mentioned in the previous "Fortissimo". Please let me know if there is Victorian interest so that I can liaise with South Australia and Canberra.

Chris Weight

"Force Five" 1682