



ILCA Australia Inc.

2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes

5 January 2024 at Adelaide Sailing Club

Meeting Opened: 9.00 am

1. Attendance

Ken Hurling (QLD, AusILCA President), John D’Helin (VIC, AusILCA Vice President), Kevin Phillips (NSW & ACT Chair, AusILCA Secretary), Rob Lowndes (Masters Rep NSW & ACT & AusILCA), Mike Wilson (Pres QILCA), Colin Dobs (AusILCA RO), Don Elks (WA, AusILCA Youth Representative), Michael McAullay (Pres WAILCA), Margaret Gordon (Pres SALA) Ros Sayers (Sec SALA), Christian Cantwell (VicILCA), Edward Fader (Chair TasILCA), Sue Phillips (NSW & ACT), Craig Shears (GM PSA), James Mitchell (VicILCA), Ann Louise Jones (TasILCA). Philip Danks (Sec QILCA)

2. Apologies: Geoff Lucas (Treasurer AusILCA),

3. District Representatives for Voting : Mike Wilson (QLD), John D’Helin (VIC), Kevin Phillips (NSW & ACT), Margaret Gordon (SA), Michael McAullay (WA), Edward Fader (Tas)

4. Confirmation of minutes of the Annual General Meeting 5 January 2023 at Georges River Sailing Club. Minutes accepted as presented.

5. Business arising from Minutes: Nil

6. Reports

ALCA Chairman: Ken Hurling - report attached.

Treasurer: Geoff Lucas’ report attached was presented.

Levee on AusILCA Districts is set year to year to cover costs which along with account balance are held to minimum levels for prudent management. Any additional initiatives which have substantial costs are only undertaken with the approval of all districts.

It was explained that substantial funds flow through the AusILCA account following collection from Families of sailors to coaches and associated costs for Youth World Championships. These funds are held in trust temporarily in the AusILCA account

AusILCA will be making application to the regulator to change the end of financial year from 30 June to 30 September to allow us to continue to run our AGM in January at the Nationals and be within the regulatory requirement of holding the AGM not more than 6 months after the close of the financial year.

Moved, seconded, and passed that the Treasurer’s report be adopted.

Queensland District: Mike Wilson – presented report as attached.

Tasmania District: President Edward Fader reported.

- Competition with Cadet class for kids graduating from Optis in Tasmania however they are seeing an influx of ILCA 4 and ILCA 6 new sailors.
- Good participation at the men's elite level by Tasmanian ILCA sailors.
- States to be held 2-3 March.
- Focus on 2026 Nationals with details being negotiated with RYCT
- Looking for enhanced charter and shipping arrangements.

Victoria District: John d'Helin – presented report attached.

Western Australia District: Mike McAullay reported.

- Good attendance at their events and membership growth.
- Great success of WAILCA sailors in Men's and Women's Worlds.
- States at Royal Perth YC. & pre-Nationals event at Mandurah

NSW & ACT District: Kevin Phillips – presented report as attached.

South Australia District: Margaret Gordon presented attached report.

Youth Representative: Don Elks – presented report attached.

Masters Representative: Rob Lowndes reported.

- Good turnout for windy 2023 National Masters at Port Stephens.
- Great Australian success at 2023 World Masters in Pattaya Thailand.
- 150 AusILCA sailors entered for 2024 Worlds in February at Adelaide Sailing Club.
- 2024 National Masters at RQYS and 2025 at Westernport YC Victoria.

7. Election of Office Bearers

Ken Hurling thanked the office bearers for their work over the past year.

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 Director Don Elks and Masters Director Rob Lowndes re-nominated to these positions.

9. General Business

ASC and SALA have done a great job organising the Oceania & Australian Open & Youth Championships and work on the ILCA 7 Men's and Masters Worlds is progressing well. 620 boats will be competing across the three events making it the largest regatta in SA's history.

John d'Helin reported on the success of the 2024 Solidarity Program for ILCA 4 girls. The inclusion of New Zealand, Samoa and Solomon Islands brought the participants to eight. It is planned to run the 2025 Solidarity Program in Brisbane with a similar selection of all AusILCA Districts and three from Oceania islands participating.

John d'Helin drew attention to the President's report concerning membership. John emphasised the role of membership numbers in determining Australia's allocated places in World Championships. John also reminded districts of the importance of reporting membership numbers and payment of ILCA dues since until all AusILCA Districts are financial no Australian sailors will be accepted for entry for World Championships.

Michael McAullay raised the issue of ranking of sailors for Worlds Championships when there are sailors applying who qualified sailing in a different class from that of the World Championship event – such as sailors qualifying from ILCA 6 and ILCA 7 Nationals applying for Under 21 Worlds(sailed in ILCA 7). Currently this situation is handled by using World Sailing system of 100 point to scale for qualifying fleet size and only a portion of the points counting for the junior fleet (ILCA 6 in this case). The Secretary is to discuss the system with Michael McAullay with the possibility it can be altered to make it fairer.

Meeting closed 10.30 am

Kevin Phillips
Secretary ALCA

AUS **ILCA**

ILCA Australia Inc.

Chairman's Report for ALCA 2023/24 Annual General Meeting

We are very sad to report the passing of our Nationals PRO Peter Merritt. We extend our sincere condolences to Peter's family. He will be sadly missed.

Australian Sailing

It was great to get back to running our events as normal. The Oceania & Australian Open & Youth and the separate Masters were sailed this year at Georges River Sailing Club and Bay Sailing Centre Port Stephens and were a great success.

We had a hot fleet in the Open & Youth event with some of the best ILCA 6 and ILCA 7 sailors in the World competing alongside a strong fleet of youthful Australian ILCA 4 sailors. There were 180 boats competing in the Open & Youth event and 150 in the Masters.

Congratulations to Team Victoria for their performance in winning the Battens Trophy for top state at the Nationals.



Some of the very best ILCA 6 sailors in the World finishing top five at the 2023 Oceania & Australian Championships

The ILCA Victoria initiated Solidarity Program was also a great success bringing six up and coming ILCA 4 girl sailors into the ILCA 4 fleet as a coached team. In 2024 we have extended the program to sailors from Oceania outside Australia. Thanks to PSA for their support and provision of team merchandise for this program.



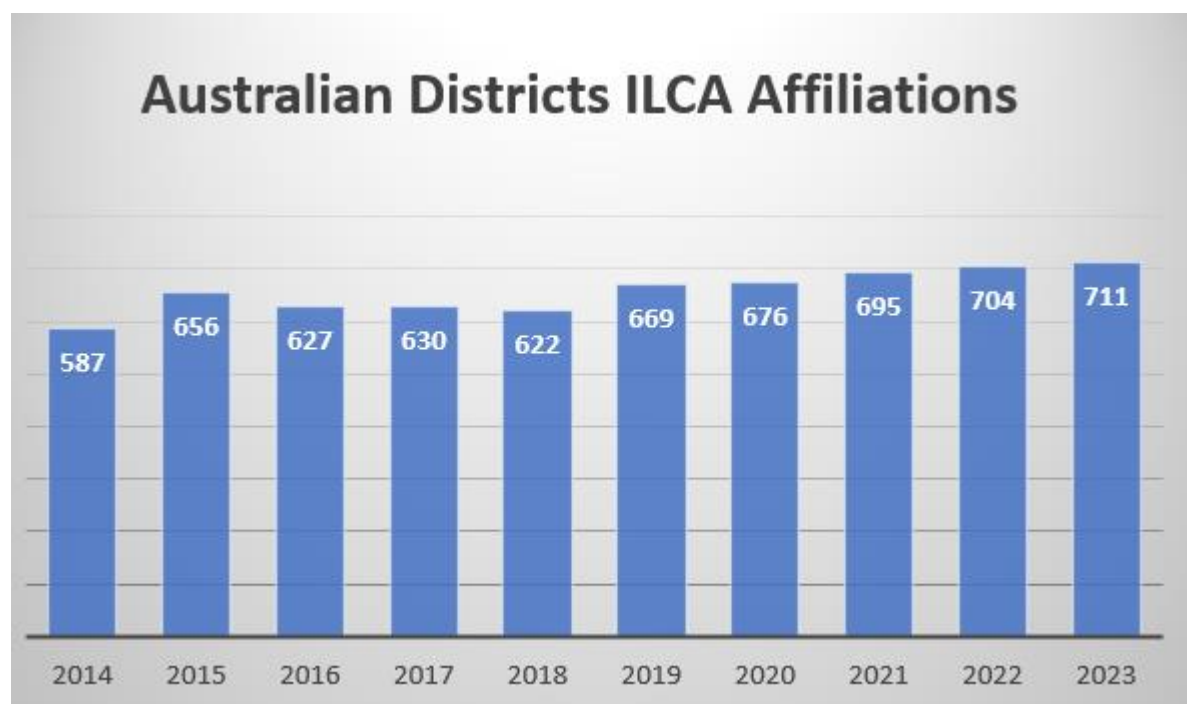
Solidarity Program Girls and AST ILCA 6 Sailors at Georges River Sailing Club

Local club and interclub district events are all back to normal and have been well attended. Some clubs are reporting smaller youth learn to sail involvement which has been a problem for many organised sports. Fortunately, we seem to be over this as these club level programs are functioning again.

With the combination of our district, national and regional events, world championships in our season and Australian Sailing run Youth coaching and racing plus Sail Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane etc. we have a very busy program this year.

Membership Trends

We now have 711 members affiliated with ILCA. Affiliations have been showing a pleasing upward trend of the past few years and means we are allocated a larger number of entries for limited entry ILCA World Championships Well done all Districts.



ILCA will not offer places to districts which are not financial and for Australia where places are pooled this means all districts both reporting their membership and paying the resulting ILCA affiliation invoice. It is thus important for districts to promptly report and pay these dues especially when, as in 2024, the World Championships are on very early in the year and the reporting, affiliation payment and event application processes are all carried out in a similar time frame.

International Sailing

It has been a busy year with Australians participating successfully at all the 2023 World Championships. More information is on the [ILCA web site](#) and posts are on [the ALCA web site](#) with dot point reports below.

- In July Matt Wearn won the Olympic Test Event in Marseilles. Going into the Medal Race Matt was third but the win in that race to a ninth by GBR's Michael Beckett saw him take gold. Zoe Thompson was 20th in the ILCA 6 event.
- The 2023 World Championships which in the lead-up year to the Olympics are run for all Olympic classes by World Sailing were held in August in The Hague, Netherlands. The huge event saw 900 boats and 1,400 participants from over 90 nations competing.

Matt Wearn with some clever sailing in the last fleet race had just to start in the Medal Race to win his first World Championship. The Australian ILCA 7 team overall had great results. Ethan McAullay was 17th, Luke Swifto Elliott 20th, Zac Littlewood 34th and Finn Alexander 35th in the 138 boat event.

In the ILCA 6s the first Australian Mara Stransky finished 10th and qualified the country for the Paris Marseilles Olympics. Casey Imeneo had a great series with a win and a 3rd place mid series. She finished 16th in the 110 boat event. Elyse Ainsworth was 31st, Zoe Thompson 35th, Sylvie Stannage 50th and Evie Saunders 62nd.

- The ILCA 4 Youth World Championships were sailed in Volos Greece in July. There were 437 total competitors including 3 girls and 10 boys from Australia. The Australian team was guided by Australian Sailing Qualified Coach – Tasmanian, Rohan Langford.

ILCA Australia Youth Director Don Elks said "Everyone got to the top of their respective fleets in light conditions including hot temperature and bushfires. ILCA 4s are back in the gold fleet. Anneke Meyer finished 6th U16, Aidan Simmons 23rd and Tom Fader 50th.



Australian ILCA 4 Youth Worlds Team in Volos, Greece

- Twelve Australians competed in the ILCA 6 Men's and Women's Youth and the ILCA 6 Open Men's World Championships in July in Dziwnow Poland. There were 374 all up in the three events.

Team AUS had some great learning and with three in the Gold Fleet in the huge Youth Men's event had some solid results.

- 180 sailors braved some tough North Atlantic Ocean conditions in Under 21 World Championships held in Tangier Morocco. The Australian ILCA 7 squad did well with six sailors finishing in the top 30. The best Australian Stefan Elliot-Shircore was in the top three for most of the regatta but dropped to sixth in the last two days. Frances Beebe sailed consistently finishing 25th in the 66 boat ILCA 6 fleet.
- Many thanks to Don Elks and Geoff Lucas for their work with Youth Worlds Team formation and coach arrangements.
- 200 Masters sailors competed in the 2023 Worlds from Royal Varuna Yacht Club Pattaya, Thailand in February.

In the ILCA 6 GGM 32 boat fleet Australians filled the first four places lead by Jeff Loosemore followed by Lyndall Patterson, Steve Gunther and Martin White. David Early was third in the 42 boat ILCA 6 GMs fleet.

In the ILCA 7s GMs Brett Beyer took out his 15th Laser/ILCA World Masters series winning 9 of the 12 races. Jan Scholten was second and Gavin Dagley 4th in the 38 boat fleet. Steve Gunther and Jeff Loosemore backed up to compete in the ILCA 7 GGMs with Steve finishing second and Jeff third. Christoph Bottoni had a remarkably consistent series to finish second in the ILCA 7 Masters.



The all Australian podium in ILCA 6 GGM Word Championship Event

ILCA Australia Management

ILCA Australia PRO

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Colin Dods as our ILCA Australia Principal Race Officer.

Col is passionate about providing the best race and regatta experience for sailors. His philosophy is that the racing must not only be safe, fair, and fun, but that it is run professionally and in friendly collaboration with athletes, association organising committees and host clubs.

Col's first event as PRO will be the 2024 Australian Open & Youth Championship at Adelaide Sailing Club.



Re-naming New Constitution and URL

Following the unanimous vote of the districts at the 2023 AGM and the approval of the regulator (NSW Fair Trading) the Australian Laser Class Association has a new name ILCA Australia and this new web site <https://ilca.au> from February 2023.

Thanks to Geoff Lucas our Treasurer and Public Officer for his work with the constitutional amendments, registration of the new name and bank account changes.

Future of Laser App and Club Ops

Northstar Technologies Inc. is a 200 employee Atlanta, USA based multinational enterprise cloud management software company specialising in sporting club management. In August 2022 they acquired WA based Top Yacht and now have added ClubOps to their stable.

ClubOps is the originator of Sailor App used by many Australian clubs and Aus Laser App used by most Australian ILCA districts.

Both Top Yacht and Club Ops are running business as usual so far. The Australian Laser App and Sailor App are still on the App Store and are all working as they have been. It is understood

that Northstar are considering how best to integrate their new acquisitions into their extensive range of sporting club operations support software products.

New Coaching Pool Arrangements

ILCA Australia Youth Director Don Elks has compiled and is managing a candidate list of coaches for Australian Teams at Youth & U21 World Championship events. Coaches for the 2023 Youth Worlds and ongoing will be appointed from this list. The list will be amended and added to as coaches express interest in these posts. The list is published on the Governance Page of the ILCA Australia web site.

Youth Coaching MoU and Arrangements with Australian Sailing

We have signed an agreement to co-operate with Australian Sailing in the provision of coaching and support services for the ILCA 6 Youth World Championships. This could result in improved and less expensive support for ILCA 6 youth sailors and their families.

2023 Pacific Games Honiara, Solomon Islands

Evie Saunders, Ellen Sampson, Thomas Farley and Isaac Schotte have been selected by Australian Sailing as part of the eight-sailor team to represent Australia in the ILCA 6 and ILCA 7 events at the Pacific Games to be held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 19 November 2023. Australian Sailing has arranged to assist with supply of some boats and the Australian Government donated \$16.5M AUD to Solomon Islands towards the cost of running the games.

These games are held every four years and over 5,000 athletes are expected to attend. Australia is sending 115 athletes from 24 sports.

ILCA World Council

At ILCA HQ in Texas things are on a much more even keel following several years of turbulent change forced on the class in pursuit of its desire to remain the dominant single handed dinghy class and to keep its Olympic status.

With additional revenue from the new equipment supply arrangements the class has been able to focus resources on improving standardisation and audit of production from the now nine builders around the World. The seven person ILCA technical Team is implementing improved techniques including laser profiling of hull moulds and standardised jigs to assemble the deck and hull structures. Additional funds are being directed at class publicity through improved web and social media presence as well as more professional presentation of event news, video, and photos.

ILCA reports that the 10 year average number of boats produced per year is 1,800 with 6,000 sails and ILCA membership 13,300 from 100 countries.

There is current ILCA focus on the market distortion resulting from the now nine builders and the single supplier of charter boats.

Regards

Ken Hurling OAM
Chairman ALCA



ILCA
Australia Inc.

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Australia

Treasurer's Report Year Ended 30 June 2023

I have pleasure in presenting the financial statements for the above financial year.

The Income & Expenditure Statement shows an excess of expenditure over income for the year of \$2,363.74.

The income from membership subscriptions of the various Australian districts was up marginally by \$402.00 reflecting the slightly higher membership numbers for all districts for the year.

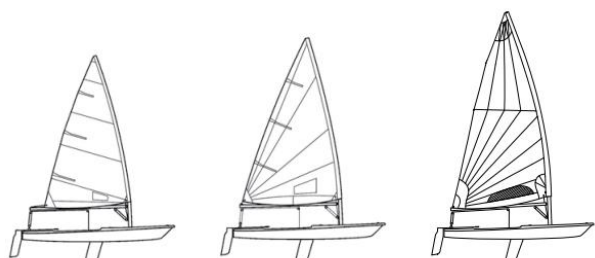
Expenses for the year were up by \$1,718.02. The increase was mainly due to the additional cost of \$2,000.00 for Nationals Hosting Fee and \$2,452.50 for the Solidarity Coaching Program.

The 3rd Party Liability Insurance premium of \$1,720.35 covers all state and territory districts in Australia for that liability. The cost of this cover increased by approximately 10%.

The Balance Sheet shows the net assets of the Association are \$19,116.96. This represents the funds of \$38,961.82 held at Westpac, less the monies held in trust of \$19,884.86 for Australian competitors in two ILCA world championships which, at 30 June 2023, had not been disbursed. The Association does not have any other liabilities.

Thank you

Geoff Lucas
Hon. Treasurer
24 October 2023





Queensland ILCA Report 2022 -2023

December 2023

The past twelve months has been a positive year with modest membership growth, healthy regatta numbers and a pleasing strong growth in the ILCA 4 fleets around the State. In the second half of this season we hold the Australian Masters Titles which will be in April just one week after our State Titles .

QLA Regattas: This year we held our State Titles at Humpybong Yacht Club to the north of Brisbane. We were very pleased to attract 100 entrants which is the first time in Queensland this milestone has been achieved.

We hope to achieve similar numbers at the next States which will be held at Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club near Noosa. They will be held the week before the Australian Masters and we hope to entice Masters sailors from NSW and Vic up to compete in both regattas.

The South Pacific Laser Masters was re-scheduled back to it's usual July timing with numbers up from last year, almost back to pre Covid levels.

Our Metropolitan Titles were held at RQYS in November and proved successful with 45 entries.

Our River titles continue to struggle to attract large numbers of entrants although they are always an enjoyable day. This year they were hosted by Southport Yacht Club with 19 entrants. Notwithstanding the low numbers overall, the representation from SYC was pleasing.

We look forward to hosting the 2025 Open Nationals from 1-8 January 2025 at RQYS.

Membership: Our membership numbers continue to be historically strong Membership currently sits at 132 members compared with 130 last year and 125 the previous year.



Organisational Issues:

Organisation Name: We changed the name of our organisation this year to ILCA Queensland Inc. in line with discussions at last year's ALCA AGM. This has been registered with the relevant statutory organisations.

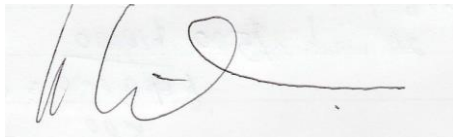
Coaching: This season in the leadup to major regatta we sponsored a bi weekly coaching programme at RQYS for ILCA 6 sailors with coach Adrian Finglass – to complement existing coaching at club level.

We have also assisted the north Queensland cohort to hold coaching at Airlie Beach.

At the more advanced level a number of Queensland sailors have enjoyed coaching support through Australian Sailing's programs.

The QLA has welcomed John Casey to our Committee as our Coaching Coordinator replacing Greg Kemp. Otherwise the committee has remained stable.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Wilson', written on a light-colored background.

Michael Wilson

Chair QLA

19 December 2023



ILCAVic Inc- ALCA AGM Jan 2024 Report.

Membership- Still has not recovered to pre Covid levels. I am not sure why this is. It could be that in both 22 & 23 due to scheduling conflicts we ran combined Open & Masters State championships instead of separate events.

Notwithstanding there has been a high participation rate at events with a record number of 4.7's at the States which included all most 50% girls.

The two major coaching camps were well attended. Indented head at the end of April & Bendigo (Lake Eppalock) on Melbourne Cup weekend. We ran an extra camp this year in December at Flinders to prepare for potential big wave sailing in Adelaide.

The Green Point sessions have been running every Tuesday evening since daylight saving started in October. The location, halfway between SYC & RBYC allows sailors from both clubs to join into a larger fleet.

Regatta coaching support was provided at the 2023 Nationals (GRSC) Schnapper point regatta (MYC), Sail Bellarine (IHYC), Sorrento mid-winters (SSCBC), Sail Sandy (SYC) & the Vic States (PMYC).

My thanks to head coach Rhett Gowans for planning & delivering our extensive coaching program. Rhett also found time in July to accompany the Australian ILCA6 team to Poland as team coach.

Our 5 x ILCA4 training boats were put to good use in 2023. They were available for charter at all the training camps. When not at camps, they were chartered by SYC who were running 4.7 transition programs at their sail training centre. This has resulted young sailors purchasing ILCA's & growing the SYC fleet.

Victoria was well represented at ILCA world championships during 2023. We had sailors attend the following ILCA world championship events: Masters Ilca 6 & 7 in Pattaya Thailand; ILCA 6 youth & men in Dziwnow, Poland; ILCA 4

Youths in Volos, Greece; ILCA 6 Women's in The Hague, Netherlands & the Under 21's in Tangier, Morocco.

Finally, I would like to thank the hard-working ILCA Vic inc. board the other volunteers who make it all happen.

I move that my report be accepted.

John d'Helin

Chair- ILCAVic.



NSW & ACT Report

ILCA Australia AGM 5th January 2024

We had a very big season in 2022-23 running three NSW & ACT District events along with the Oceania & Australian Open & Youth Championships at Georges River sailing Club and the Oceania & Australian Masters Championship at Bay Sailing Centre Port Stephens.

ILCA NSW ACT District Sailing

The Metropolitan Championships in March saw us return to the iconic sailing venue Double Bay Sailing Club. With strong local club support there were 83 entries and good conditions for the event. We ran the Coast Championship at Gosford Sailing Club in October. This was a great event with 64 sailors with a sprinkling of interstate and international visitors competing.

We had 85 sailors competing in the NSW & ACT States in Canberra in November. The beautiful location freshwater sailing and fabulous Canberra Yacht Club facilities were all much appreciated, The conditions were challenging at times as is the way with inland sailing. As always despite circumstances and luck playing a greater role the best sailors do and did make their way to the podium places.

All our events, documents, information, results, and photos are posted on our ILCA NSW & ACT web site at <https://laser.asn.au>

Oceania & Australian Open & Youth Championships

The 180-boat Oceania & Australian Open & Youth Championships were run from Georges River Sailing Club 1-8 January 2023. There were 150 Australian and 30 international sailors from 12 countries competing.

Two race per day were sailed on days 1 and 2 in very good conditions. Racing was not possible on days 3 & 4 due to wind 27 gusting to 35 knots. On day 5 three races were held in testing 18-20 knot southerly winds while the final three races on day 6 were sailed in ideal 15 knot southerly conditions.

The 83 boat ILCA 6 gold fleet saw some great racing with the last race determining the top four places. These were contested between Tokyo 2020 Olympic Women's ILCA Laser sailors from Belgium, Switzerland, Hungary, and Australia. Emma Plaschaert from Belgium finished second in the final race to take a narrow win from Maud Jaynet (SUI) and Maria Erdi (HUN). Maria just pipped Queenslander Mara Stransky by a single point. Mara Stransky was the Australian Women's champion and the overall Australian Champion. Casey Imeneo from Victoria topped some consistent results with two wins on the last day to finish fifth overall.



ILCA 6 Winners – Some of the best ILCA 6 Sailors in the World – Mara Stransky (AUS) 4th , Maud Jaynet (SUI) 2nd, Emma Plaschaert (BEL) 1st, Maria Erdi (HUN) 3rd, Casey Imeneo (AUS) 5th - Photo by Jon West

The under 19 ILCA 6 division was won by Australian Sailing Youth Sailor of the Year and silver medallist in the World Sailing Youth Championships Evie Saunders from Manly Yacht Club

The ILCA 7 fleet was hotly contested with four Australians, four from Great Britain and two from New Zealand finishing in the top ten.

In a drama packed final race Michael Beckett (GBR) needed to win to take the title after Australia's Matt Wearn had some issues and was a DNF. Michael finished second and so Matt Wearn won his fifth Australian Laser/ILCA Championship on a close countback. Elliot Hanson (GBR) was third in front of popular WA sailor Swifto Elliott and leading Kiwi George Gautrey.

The leading youth sailors (under 21) was Stefan Elliott-Shircore from Western Australia.

The ILCA 4 fleet of 55 boats consisted of up-and-coming youth sailors under 18 and under 16 years of age. The first three placegetters were young sailors from Victoria. Aidan Simmons and Angus McIntyre both won four of the ten heats, with Aidan the overall ILCA 4 champion by two points. Riley Cantwell finished third overall and was the under 16 junior ILCA 4 champion.

Thanks to Georges River Sailing Club and volunteers from other Botany Bay clubs and our own ILCA volunteers for on shore and on water management of this very successful series.

Oceania & Australian Masters Championships

The 2023 Oceania & Australian Masters Championships 10-13 March were run from the Bay Sailing Centre Port Stephens.

There were 147 boats sailing in three fleets. There were sailors from all Australian mainland states and territories. The most travelled competitor was GGM Helio Araujo from Rio de Janeiro Yacht Club. It was pleasing to see keen competition in the ILCA 4s. We are keen to promote this rig for Masters as well as Youth age categories going forward.

Weather for the event varied from character building to excellent and from NE to SW.



Brett Beyer winner of ILCA 7 GM Division – Photo by Jon West

Thanks to the Newcastle Cruising Yacht Club (NCYC) who manage the Bay Sailing Centre (BSC) for hosting this event for us. The BSC is only a small club on some of the best dinghy sailing water on the east coast, so the NCYC did a great job recruiting the 30 on water volunteers needed to run this event.

The focus in 2024 will be Adelaide Sailing with the National as well as World Masters and World ILCA 7 Open Championships all being run there.

- 2024 Oceania & National Open & Youth Championships 1-8 January 2024
- 2024 Mens ILCA 7 World Championship 24-31 January 2024
- 2024 Masters World Championships 2-9 February 2024

International Sailing

Congratulations to Brooke Wilson named a finalist in Australian Sailing's NSW Female Sailor of the Year award. Brooke has had an amazing year with fantastic results in the ILCA 6 both domestically and internationally, as well as a string of successes in the Elliot 7s Match Racing here in Australia, America and Europe.

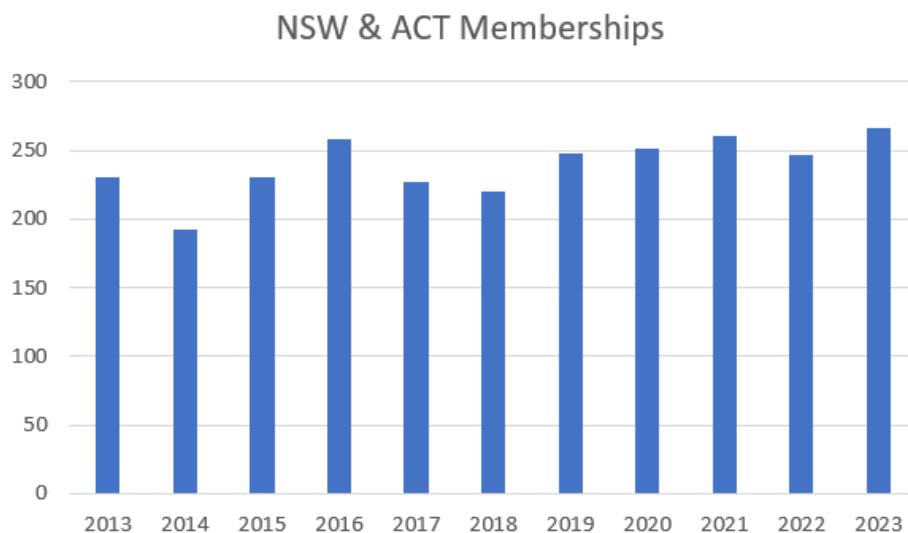
NSW & ACT sailors Evie Saunders and Tom Farley were selected by Australian Sailing as part of the eight-sailor team to represent Australia in the Pacific Games which were held in Honiara, Solomon Islands from 19 November 2023. These games held every four years include Men's and Women's ILCA 6 and ILCA 7 and Sailboard competition among 24 sports.

In the 2023 World Masters in Pattaya, Thailand Brett Beyer won the ILCA 7 GM with Jan Scholten second.



The all-Australian podium in the iLCA 6 GGM Division of 2023 World Masters Pattaya, Thailand Lyndall Patterson, Jeff Loosemore, Steve Gunther and Martin White

NSW/ACT Membership



Our District membership for the year increased slightly to 266 (from 247 in 2021/22 season). Our 10-year average membership is 240.

We pass more than half of our collected membership fees onto ALCA and ILCA through affiliations (\$23 per member to be exact) to help to support their activities. The greater the number of Australian Laser sailors we have as members the larger our allocation of places in limited entry World Championship events.

Changed Name & New Constitution

In 2019 the ILCA was forced to change the name and trademark for the Laser to retain the Class' Olympic status

We have followed the majority of the ILCA world to adopt ILCA naming with NSW & ACT Laser Class Association Inc. becoming ILCA NSW & ACT Inc. To make this change we also needed to change our constitution, registration with the regulator (Fair Trading NSW) and our bank accounts. We took the opportunity to update our constitution not just the naming as the old one dated 1986 was well past its use by date. The regulator required us to have a majority of members support the changed constitution. This was completed with a unanimous vote for the change in the on-line ballot.

All this has been completed largely due to the fabulous work of our Treasurer and Public Officer Geoff Lucas. Thank you Geoff.

District Administration

Hopefully we are keeping sailors informed on sailing, events, results and Laser sailing happenings through laser.asn.au. We try not to barrage members and others on our email list with too many messages. We currently have over 600 people on our email distribution list.

A special thank you to our own small team of helpers R.O. Andrew McLachlan, our treasurer Geoff Lucas, race secretary Sue Phillips, regatta helpers David & Elaine Edmiston and VC Ben Byford. Dave wears the Measurers hat as well. Thanks also to Masters Representative Rob Lowndes for his work, wise advice, and support.

Thanks to the many people who helped out with administration and on the water for our events. Without people just stepping up as required we could never have managed the tasks involved in staging these events.

Cheers

Kevin Phillips

ILCA NSW & ACT

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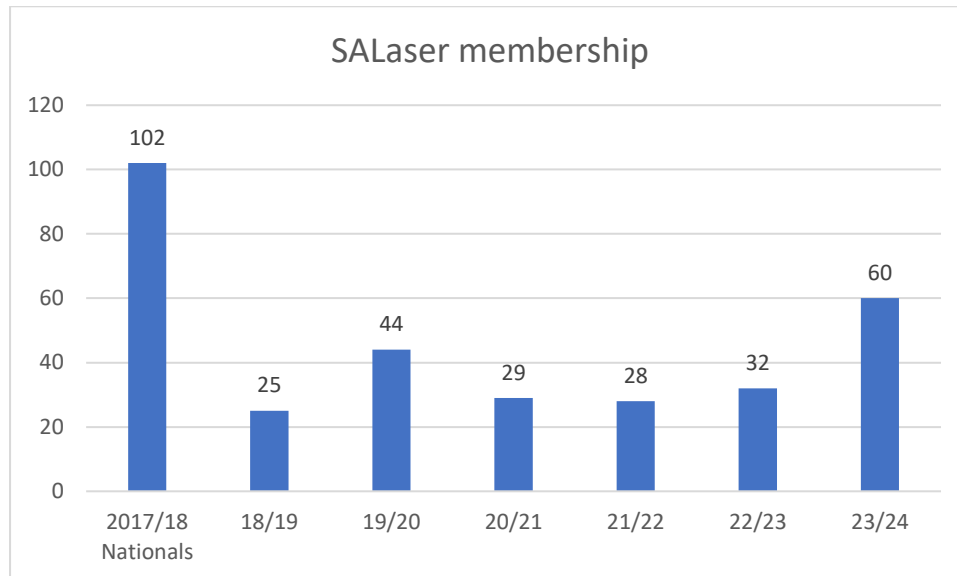


SALASER – Annual Report – Dec 2022

MEMBERSHIP

2023/24 Season – 60 registered members

This years membership doubling aligning with Nationals hosting in the state



SALASER HOSTED EVENTS

This season Salaser will have hosted 5 events. Two events up from the previous year.

A number of events were rescheduled to accommodate Nationals and or changes in interstate event dates.

Where suitable- all events were run on the National waters.

Event	Location	Duration	ILCA boat attendance
2023 Masters and Metros 28/29 th Jan 2023	ASC	2 days	33 ILCAs Including 13 AUS team / International competitors The master were split out from the normal open state championships due to clash with Master event in Pt Douglas
2023 Open and Youth State Championships March 2023	ASC	2 days	24 ILCAs
50 th Anniversary Frostbite regatta June LWE	Goolwa GRYC	2+1 days	57 ILCAs + 28 other boats. The event organised by SALSEr has been successful and approached by other classes to participate. This year a fun slalom event was reintroduced - tacked onto the a third

			day- very well received by the younger crew.
Spring Clinic Sept 2023	GAC	2 days	16 ILCAS Again combining with the optimist and 420 fleets- this event is well attended
October Training Clinic	ASC	2 days	Offered to all sailors- only youth ILCA participated. Was presented to acclimatise the youth to the ASC conditions pre nationals
SALASER ILCA Down Under Dec 8 th /9th	ASC	2 days	39 ILCa AUS and international attendance. Inly 1 over the border attendee. Clash with Sail Melbourne/ Sail Sydney's calendar movements. Proof no one drives over the range to come to SA.

COACHING/CLASS DEVELOPMENT

SALASER continue to work with a small handful of coaches

- Ben Hinks- Primary coach being developed for performance sailors
- Maddy Salter- performance/ engagement coach
- Stuart Templeton- ILCA 4 fundamentals coach
- Adam Spees- (Regional South Coast) Fundamentals coach

Maddy Salters availability diminished with her full time employment outside of sailing.

Coaching events are run on a break even basis. Finicial stress is being reflected in reduced take up of recent coach offerings/events.

VLA Solidarity

Our last year solidarity sailor Keely steel continues her sailing actively

Ros Sayers

c/- SALASER

Mob: 0400 275 025

Email- ros@sayers.id.au

AGM 2024 – General business

changing circumstances affecting ILCA members dictate change

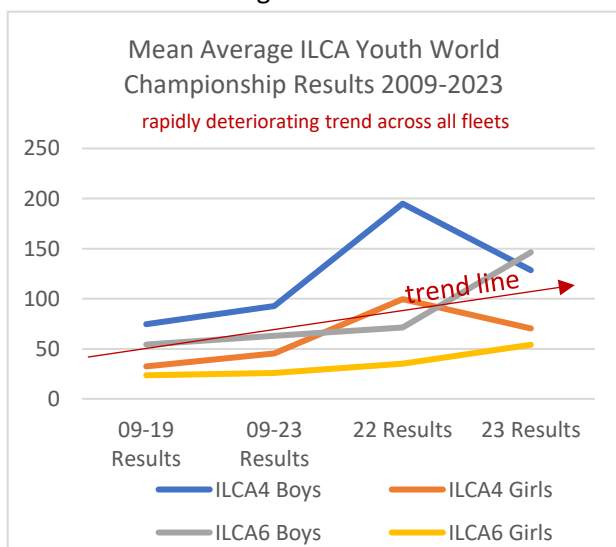
It has become apparent that the transition of junior sailors to the youth class has significant structural problems that affect participations and the standard of sailing. Because the situation has become so dire and because the current arrangement has no means to self-correct, AusILCA is recommending changes to the way districts operate and providing tools to organise accordingly.

The primary responsibility of AusILCA, as the peak association in Australia, is to establish and sustain the benefit and enjoyment of the ILCA dinghy class for its membership and supporters. To that end, AusILCA necessarily must operate in collaboration with its key partners, including sailing clubs and Australian Sailing (MNA).

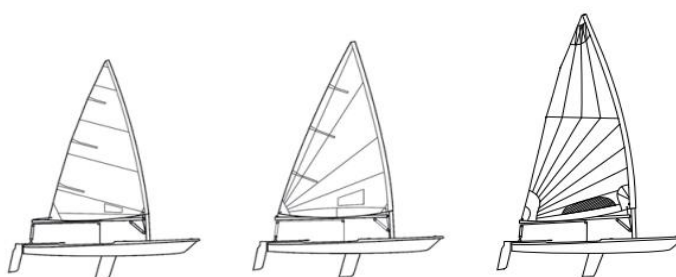
In the 1970s, the ILCA class grew a broad base on the back of state-based district events that evolved to support national and world championship events. The ILCA class became a global success story, from which the Olympic movement and world sailing modelled its medal potential. Feeder classes were aligned to ensure nations around the world supported the ILCA Olympic classes.

The Olympic movement generated funds through national bodies (MNAs), which set up multiple Olympic classes and feeder pathways through club and association sailing, primarily to grow the sport and win medals. The Australian government, like many nations, began channelling resources to club and elite pathways to compete for Olympic medals. The Australian Olympic pathway would be able to draw from a well of talented sailors as long as clubs and class associations to sustain a broad base.

AusILCA is concerned that the pathway structure that feeds the Olympic pathway has become too narrow and inefficient. The Sailing 2032 MNA Strategy document talks about leadership, yet at the same time, clubs are not transitioning numbers at an adequate standard to sustain feeder class association memberships, and there is no strategic consultation with class associations or agreement to resolve the situation.



Australian youth world championship results are a lead indicator for participation and the standards of sailing, as well as for the level of coaching activity in training fleets around Australia ie coaches and sailors prepare more actively for pathway events. AusILCA has been monitoring ILCA Youth World Championship results (published online) and reporting on these results since it implemented its Youth & u21 development pathway and coach development program in 2009. The data source shows that the standards of ILCA youth sailing in Australia by comparison with other nations has fallen dramatically.

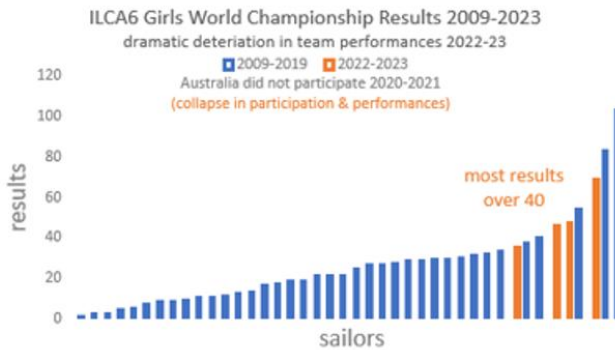
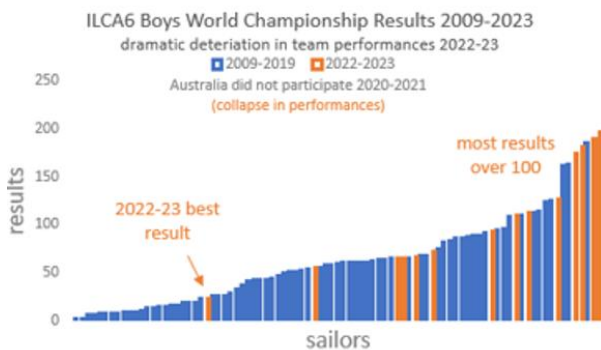
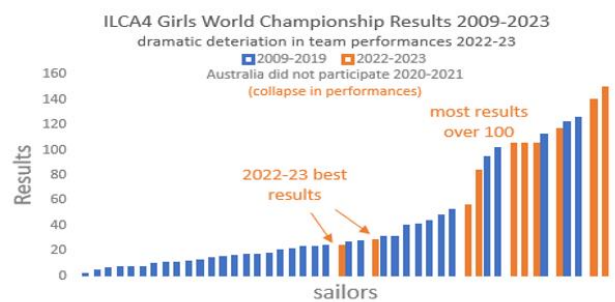
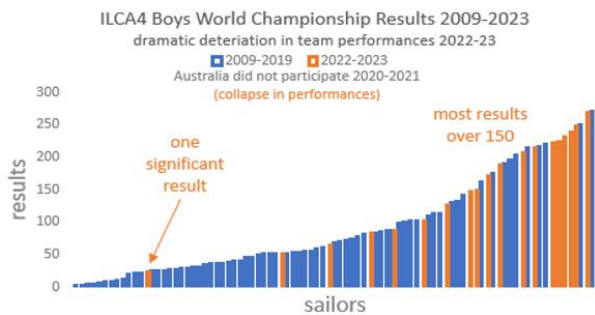


These results are nothing short of disastrous and cannot be ignored, a race to the bottom, it is possible that Australian performances have slipped faster than any other significant nation and there is no end in sight.

A 2022 AusILCA report advised of an emerging performance trend began to deteriorate in 2019. These results should not be attributed to covid, to do so would ignore problems that exist in the current fleets today.

The graphs below represent Australian Youth sailor results 2009-2023. During from 2009-2019 (blue) were healthy, it was relatively unusual to see results on the RHS of the graph, many top 10s to top 50s. In the 2009-2019 results we can also be comforted to know that some of the our best sailor began on the RHS, but were fortunate to have competitive training partners to help them improve. By contrast the 2022-2023 (orange) results show rapidly deteriorating mean results by comparison to other nations, with no top 10 results, 1 top 20, and 5 in the top 50, Orange sailors on the RHS will have very few competitive training

Effect on coaches and sailors



When training fleets have competitive world championship experience it is How does a coach find competitive sailors to build internationally competitive fleets. How does a sailor become internationally competitive without training partners.



This table summarises the scale of the deterioration, showing that sailors who participated in 2009-2019 would perform twice as well as those in 2022-2023, the standard of sailing in Australia has plummeted.

The problem with that is AusILCA is in a position where Districts are reporting that transitions to youth sailing are problematic. Youth sailors and coaches coming back from ILCA World championships are not nearly as competitive as they were, which will affect training fleets around the country and our standard of sailing.

ILCA Youth World Championship Team mean results 2009-2023	ILCA4 Boys	ILCA4 Girls	ILCA6 Boys	ILCA6 Boys
	Mean result averages 2022-2023			
Results sample 2009-2019	215%	280%	201%	209%
10	21	28	20	20
20	43	56	40	40
30	64	84	60	60
40	86	112	80	80
50	107	140	100	100
<i>if you competed with an Australian Youth Worlds team in 2009-2019 your ranking result would have on average been more than twice as good as if you had travelled in 2022-2023 ie less than half as competitive</i>				

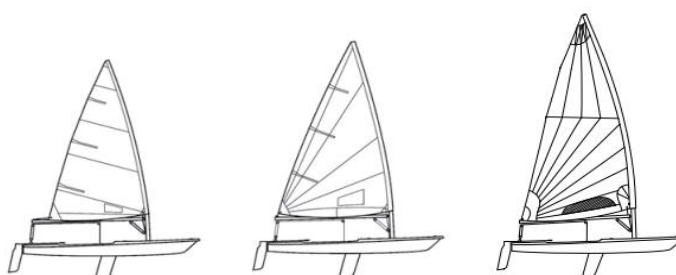
This is an unsustainable and deteriorating structural problem that needs to be resolved because it has the potential to undermine sailing. At the same time our MNA will need champions to produce medals in a high stakes battle to fund itself. The current trend has been to set up elite training pathways in each state where the best sailors get the best coaching. The pathway extended further forming a youth squad in 2022.

Our shrinking membership base participation is problematic, not only for the ILCA fleets, but also other international Olympic feeder classes. The trend to elite pathways appears to cause a migration of sailors to elite programs in search for better coaching, which affects viability and the standards of sailing at club programs, which shrinks the base. MNA development of junior sailors does not require instructors to, transition sailors to the youth classes or to support the grassroots from which the ILCA district associations rely on, a problem that goes to confidence, safety and wellbeing. Because junior instructors are less committed to class standards of sailing, low rates of transition are less likely to be viable for coaches to develop their craft which erodes the standards of coaching.

How so many coaches can be positioned by the MNA in elite pathways could not have noticed early development problems reflects poorly on flaws its own internal feedback system, as well as class associations advice who are not consulted formally or transparently.

The concern is that MNA is driving a pathway model without consultation with its constituent partners that appears to be collapsing, and that to resolve the issue may double down its current direction. One example is where the MNA decided to select its own coach to travel with the team, threatened to shut down the normal course of the u21 World Championship team election to select its coaches if its nominated coach was not selected as a head coach. Not only was it unnecessary, but it removed the incentive and reward for the building of fleets in multiple states, it also undermined the competitive environment for the development of coaches in multiple states, is anticompetitive, and more besides.

This emerging elite pathway activity is forming a narrow base at the same time some key states have been demonstrating significant membership growth results because of increased coaching activity. Unfortunately



other states struggle to build and sustain small fleets with a low cost competitor drawing from an impossibly small base.

Summary

MNA pathway programs without a broad base appear to be eroding club program viability, participation and the standards of sailing. While junior sailors may participate in more courses, they create an unrealistic expectation that competence, safety and transition to youth sailing, families, volunteers membership of Clubs and Associations are designed into the outcome.

While ILCA districts are in mixed health, junior and Olympic feeder class associations generally are in trouble. AusILCA's more recent endeavours have been to focus on a broad base structure to support its membership base and its constituent partners. The Youth and u21 development pathway and Coaching Pool initiative are key. If "we as a sailing community" cannot reinstate the broad base and standards of sailing, we are all in trouble; we need to turn things around.

Where to now

AusILCA will ask District Associations to change the way they operate to broaden the base or risk membership decline and lower standards. AusILCA will prepare a toolbox of strategies in consultation with Districts to develop into a form of best practice. Work has begun on that with the Youth and u21 Development pathway and World Championship Coaching Pools.

AusILCA set up the Pool coaching scheme to incentivise coaches and districts to build small fleets as a means to offset the problems that we are seeing in graphical representations. The Pool coaches who demonstrate that they can build successful fleets are most likely to be elected by Australian Youth & u21 teams to support them at worlds.

Additionally

- There will be no expectation that junior programs and transition are functionally viable, that class associations will have value propositions that they can take to clubs, to improve existing programs.
- VicILCA will be implementing what has been a successful 6 week ILCA4 transition course for clubs who are struggling to transition junior sailors into youth classes. AusILCA is interested in the course and will be discussing implementation with districts during the year.
- AusILCA is developing a draft best practice toolbox to guide district associations ie committee structures and role responsibilities, event schedules, sponsorships, membership management, pool coaches, transition to youth.

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