

# **49<sup>th</sup> Australian Skate Championships. Hervey Bay. Queensland**

**By John Grant**

The 49<sup>th</sup> Australian title was sailed for the first time on the neutral waters of Hervey Bay Queensland.

Breezes were light to moderate with one fresh heat – however the shallow bay and the 3 metre tide managed to build up a fair size chop even in moderate breezes.

The series was won by NSW boat “Any Which Way” from the St George Club in Sydney skippered by David Luck and crewed by Glen Crichton – this being their 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Title win since pairing together in the 1999-2000 season.

The Skate class sailed a combined title with the 14 foot Skiffs, though the two classes were never on the water at the same time.

The officials of Hervey Bay Sailing Club ran an excellent series. The course laying and sailing management was of the highest standard. The H.B.S.C. commodore laid great courses in all strengths of breeze and accommodated the downwind angles for the Skate perfectly.

The class received local TV and newspaper coverage in Hervey Bay something rarely seen in the big cities.

Two boats travelled from Perth to Hervey Bay (a four day trip) and managed to clinch 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place respectively.

The series provided a possible sailing first with a father and three sons all competing in the same championships, Keith Sinton and son Chris sailed together on “Grey Ghost”, son Ben sailed with Tim Sellars on “Double Decker Dog” placing 5<sup>th</sup> place overall and a third son Anthony Sinton crewed for Hayden Pauley on “Random Heads”

“Any Which Way” won the invitation race and heats 1, 3 and 4.

Runner up “Pilbara Constructions - Gary Caporn and Mick Forbes (who travelled from Port Hedland – where he is yacht club commodore) secured 2<sup>nd</sup> place with wins in Heat 2, 6 and the wild Heat 7.

Gavin Caporn and Brett Andrews (“Cho Kon It”) from South of Perth Yacht Club won Heat 5.

“Any Which Way” had a new Composite Spars – Carbon mast and full suit of Ullman Sails and had superior speed in the prevalent light to moderate conditions; they did not need to start in the wild Heat 7.

The two WA boats used aerofoil rudders helping lift the bow in the treacherous Heat 7 where only 3 boats finished.

Results

1. Any Which Way (NSW)	1-2-1-1-2-3-DNS	11.7
2. Pilbara Constructions (WA)	2-1-6-4-4-1-1	19.0
3. Cho Kon It (WA)	4-3-2-3-1-2-2	20.4
4. Never Give n Inch (J.Grant/D.Crawford NSW)	3-5-3-2-3-7-DNF	36.1
5. Double Decker Dog (T.Sellars/B.Sinton NSW)	6-4-4-6-6-5-DNF	55.4

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