

## **Skating Away on the Pressure Bands By Rick Steuart**

The visit by the almost legendary 'Lucky' David Luck and his crew Glen Crichton from St George Sailing Club was enough to stir the pot thoroughly. Joined by *Traction* and *Whisper* there was a suitable interstate presence which in turn generated competitive interest from *Natural Juices* and *Fireworx* from Toronto Amateur Sailing Club joining the fray.

To defend WA's honour, the East Fremantle Yacht Club assembled a mixed batch of locals with a never ending blend of skippers and boats as they challenged the mighty visitors.

The Caporn family from South of Perth Yacht Club was well represented by both Gary and Gavin. *Atomic Rat*, *Blow by Blow*, *Sticky Fingers Too* and the Hudson family on *Every Which Way* were some of the supporters of the EFYC team. Special mention to *Tasty Fish* ( the Fannons ) and *Megasaurarse* ( Paul Shiner and Allan Spencer) for catching the spectators eye over the week. *Gobstopper* ( George Sloan and Nathan Shiner ) was almost famous for the spectacular down wind runs that almost inevitably ended in disaster, but dammed good photography.

The first two days were solid seabreezes with 20 knots or better. The hard work here built the foundations for the rest of the week and spills at this stage, counted a lot in the final result. Good news for Gavin and Jason on *Drive It In Dry*. The breeze dropped and the mix began to change with *Lucky* getting up to claim the third and fifth races with Gavin dropping a place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and three places in the 5<sup>th</sup> race. The 6<sup>th</sup> race saw *Atomic Rat* getting up for the win with *Lucky* second and Gavin Caporn third.

The only result worth reporting was a win for Gavin Caporn and Jason Elliot from South of Perth Yacht Club and David Luck and Glen Crichton of St George Sailing Club not giving an inch until they crossed the line on the final day. Well sailed to them both.

What if?

If *Lucky* hadn't fallen over in the first race it may have been his. If Gavin hadn't fallen over in the fifth, the game would have been over by the end of the race. If Gary Caporn had canned his Bali trip and sailed with Brett Andrews on *Slippery Dip* for the rest of the regatta. If the Fannon crew (*Tasty Fish*) had a bit more luck. Who knows ?

A lot of noise every night at results, some great camaraderie and many thanks to the work of the EFYC start team. To Margaret who dealt with everything for the Skates and to Ann at EFSC who put me on a boat to photograph the first 5 days. ( I was laying marks by the 2<sup>nd</sup> day ) Thanks also to RC of Sailing at EFYC, Stephen Knight who introduced me to so many of the Skate crews over the week.

My last comment is not my own, but from a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Dinghy/Skate sailor on the Swan. "This series will be decided on the pressure bands that sweep over Mosmans and come down the west end of Melville Water." And you know what? He was right.