

## TASSIE 2009/10 SABRE NATIONALS REPORT

It's been a long while since any National Championship was held from BYC –maybe 20 years. The 60 red tipped Sabres who fronted the starter off Bellerive Bluff were not deterred. Visitors warmed to the club and after a few days felt quite at home. A comment from a Victorian sailor summed things well – “It feels like coming to a country town with such a laid back atmosphere”.

The weather turned on a variety of conditions to suit everyone from light and fluky to extreme- two afternoons of light and two of strong sea breezes.

Callum Burns from Victoria sailing “Purple Patch” handled conditions brilliantly with 5 firsts and a second to convincingly win the Australian Championship.

Matt Pearce (LSC) was top Tasmanian in 4<sup>th</sup> place with Matt Westland on his heels in 6<sup>th</sup>. Chris Boon, Rowan Clark, and Andrew Roberts (all from Tassie) also made it into the top 10 overall – Tassie's best Sabre Nationals result ever.

Rowan Clark (LSC) in his first season in the class clinched the Junior Champion.

Zach Williams (LSC) clinched the Light Weight under 60kg division.

Matt Westland (LSC) won the Grand Masters over 50 division.

George Fish (Deviot) won the Veterans over 60 division.

The Sabre Association would like to thank both BYC and LSC for jointly holding the Championships. The amenity of the club, expertise from volunteers, professionalism of staff and a good bunch of sailors made for a memorable regatta.

The Tassie atmosphere of helping out was witnessed in the following anecdote from a day when the fleet was challenged by a 40 knot squall. Over a dozen boats ended up in various states along Bellerive and Howrah Beaches. Members came from everywhere with trailers and 4WDs to help retrieve the boats and crews. A Victorian sailor suggested we write a letter of thanks to those who gave a hand. No need says a local BYC member. That's just normal here.

Matt Westland

President Australian Sabre Association.

To view full results go to <http://www.sabre.org.au/tasmania/200910SabreNationalsinHobart.html>