

WIND WARRIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

AND AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP 2024

REGATTA REPORT

13/11/24

The Wind Warrior World Championship was held on the 9th and 10th of November with a welcome dinner on Friday 8th. Twenty competitors entered with fifteen local sailors, one Victorian and four from New Zealand. The regatta was sailed in the multi fleet format with a process of promotion and relegation of four competitors between A and B heats. Two completed heats constituted a race.

After registration on Saturday morning the seeding heats were sailed in a light south westerly. The breeze then moved to a steadier light south to south easterly allowing five races to be completed before lunch. Local sailors Paul Jones and Brad Quiggin showed early form in these races with Kiwi Paul Ayers nearby. After lunch the breeze was still light but had swung to east to south easterly. Six races were sailed in the afternoon session which saw Paul Jones establish his dominance with three 1st and three 2nd places. A close contest was occurring for 2nd to 5th positions between Brad Quiggin, Ben Taylor, Paul Morrish and Dave Anstey.

After waiting for the breeze to establish on Sunday morning four races were sailed in a moderate south to south easterly before lunch. Again, Paul Jones continued his dominance of the fleet with the same four sailors Brad Quiggin, Ben Taylor, Paul Morrish and Dave Anstey still in the running for 2nd and 3rd positions. The breeze strengthened to a 20+ knot southerly for the four afternoon races. Some skilful and spectacular racing occurred which was appreciated by the large crowd that had gathered to watch. A popular win by local Belmont sailor Eric Law, in the first of these races.

After a total of nineteen races completed (thirty eight heats) with three discards Paul Jones (AU) 1st giving a masterclass to the rest of the fleet with Paul Morrish (AU) 2nd and Dave Anstey (AU) 3rd. The Australian Championship results were Paul Jones 1st, Paul Morrish 2nd and Dave Anstey 3rd. The Trans Tasman Championship Shield was won by Australia and the Trans Tasman Club Series Shield was won by Lake Macquarie Yacht Club.

At the presentation trophies for the top three competitors, World and Australian, and the Championship Shield and Club Series Shield were presented by Club Captain Eleanor Cunningham. A special thank you to Phil Cunningham for running the races and to Brad Quiggin, Paul Morrish, Adam Cooke and Markus Schumi for course laying and boat rescue. Thanks to Eleanor Cunningham who did some filming during the regatta and was able to show an eight minute video at the start of the presentation, to the enjoyment of those present.

Thanks to the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club for the use of the club facilities especially the marquee on Sunday. A big thanks to our Kiwi and Victorian competitors for travelling a considerable distance to compete. The next international regatta will be in New Zealand, November 2025.

Marshall Harper

