



QMBA-QRYA PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT 2003-2004

QRYA Formed 15th August 2003 replacing the QMBA

During the year almost 150 individual publicity matters have been dealt with primarily online through the web site www.rcyachts.net with online Entry Forms, Notices of Race, Regatta Results, Race Reports and photographs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Graeme and Rosalie TURK, Nick LINDSLEY and Bruce MATHERS for supplying the majority of these photos, Graeme and Bruce have also been instrumental in providing a great many of the Race Reports – Graeme has been a great help with reports for regattas he has attended out of town.

There are thirteen (13) clubs affiliated to the QRYA in Queensland, all of whom have taken advantage of the online facilities offered, although it was disappointing when the Catamaran Club postponed their State Regatta as we traveled to the venue to take photos for the website with no one at the venue.

- **Since my report last year hits on the website have increased from 51,718 to 74,177 which is an increase of 22,459 hits or 65.5 visitors per day.**

Matt HUNTER and the FCRYC must also be commended on their outstanding efforts to promote the South Queensland IOM Championship held in October last year. Matt was able to secure more publicity from the following outlets;

1. The Observer 22/8/02
2. The Chronicle 26/9/03
3. Wide Bay Bulletin 18/2/03
4. Wide Bay Bulletin 1/2/03
5. The Chronicle 15/8/03
6. The Chronicle 25/9/03
7. The Chronicle 4/10/03
 - a. Video Tape 2003
 - b. Audio Tape 2003 – ABC Widebay

Originals have been deposited with the ARYA Archivist, Steve Crewes.

The Fraser Coast Radio Yacht Club again achieved publicity through the 'Observer' in April during the Marblehead titles; the club continues to be at the fore of promoting our sport;

Skippers travel far for contest

THE FRASER Coast Radio Yacht Club hosted a Marblehead regatta last weekend.

The event was held on the pond adjacent to the USQ.

Competitors travelled from Townsville, Bundaberg, and Brisbane to challenge the local skippers.

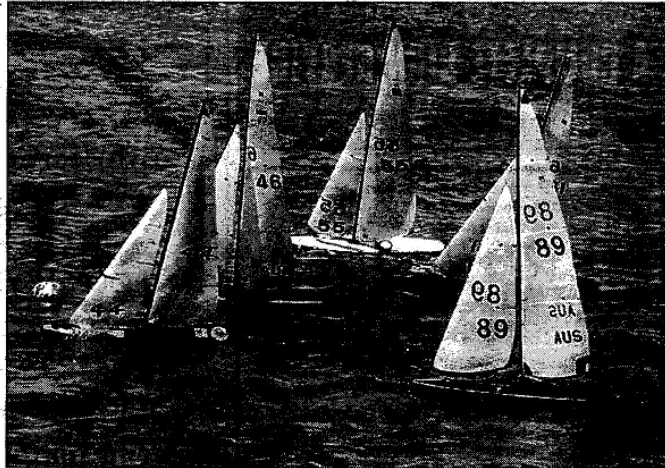
Saturday's event was designed to encourage Clubmen boats to compete with Hi-Tech world-class yachts in a picnic atmosphere.

Nineteen races were held in brisk breezes, with local skipper Robbie Kerr taking home the Hi-tech trophy.

Local skipper John Cash, who has been radio-sailing for just three months, took out the Clubman trophy with his locally built boat.

Sunday's event was the Central Queensland Marblehead Championship, sailed to strict international rules, also held more than 19 races in stiff breezes.

With 10 races sailed there were just four points separating the first three boats. The spectators and skippers alike were bit-



ing their nails as the lead seasawed back and forth resulting in some aggressive tactics, Robbie Kerr eventually taking the Championship by four points from Brisbane skipper Graeme Turk on a count-back who scored equal points with local Bruce Yarrow.

A Marblehead is an international class of radio-yacht which originated over seventy years ago and has evolved as new mate-

rials emerged, with Hi-techs sporting lightweight carbon-fibre or Kevlar hulls, carbon-fibre shroudless masts, and typically costing about \$5000.

In most clubs Clubmen are more common, often built at home from wood, or using a fibreglass shell and can be completed for about \$1000.

The Fraser Coast Radio Yacht Club Inc sails every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon.

HIGHEST READERSHIP IN HERVEY BAY* - Roy Morgan Research

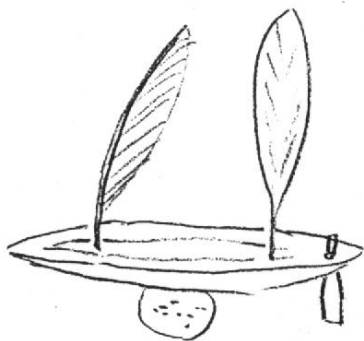
Observer 8/4/04

Publicity in the State has culminated this year in the 2004 Queensland IOM Championship currently being held around this AGM. On Thursday last (10th June) ABC Radio conducted a lakeside interview with the Commodore of the WMRMYC on air publicity has also been achieved through BAYFM which we have been extremely grateful for, unfortunately while print and television media coverage has been disappointing with no responses from the **36 other media outlets** contacted.

Photo supplied;



Nevertheless a three-page article did appear in Airborne March 2004, which covered the ARYA Nationals and also included an article by WMRMYC member John PURSIHEIMO;



"Bark Yachts"

by John Pursiheimo

In 1945, the War had just finished in Europe. Times were hard, there were no toys in the shops in those days. Being about 10 years old, we had to improvise and make our own, for example round logs were cut into wheels for toy trucks and billy carts.

Summertime always meant swimming, fishing, and generally mucking about by the sea. One of our most creative games was the making of "kaarma vene": bark yachts. They were small sailing boats, about 200 mm long. The goal was to free sail your boat to the other side of the bay, and naturally, intense competition to be first took place among the village kids.

The programme for the day's event began with an early start from home with a sharp penknife, swimming gear, fishing rods and lunch. The only rule for the day was that materials for making the boats had to be found along the shore of the bay. A walk along the beach yielded all the necessary materials.

Finding the right bits and pieces was the key to winning the day's sailing. Pieces of bark that had fallen off shoreline trees, with a bit of shaping with our penknives made great hulls, the longer the better. Keels were thin, rounded beach pebbles, that had been shaped for thousands of years by wave action. A slit was cut in the bottom of the hulls for the keel stones; the bark would swell in water thus anchoring the keels. Rudders were made of driftwood and fitted into a hole at the stern.

Usually two masts were fitted for better speed. Sails were usually made from leaves, punched through by the masts. But lo and behold, if you found seagull's feathers, winning was virtually guaranteed. The fastest combination was to have a curved wingtip feather up front, and a flat tailfeather for the mizzen. With feather sails, these boats could point up to 90 degrees and better, with the right keel and rudder.

History repeats, as the old saying goes. How familiar it all is today with high-tech foils and hulls, essentially emulating the successful shapes from all those years ago...



I was also pleased to present an 8x12 colour photograph taken at North Lakes to the Managers of the North Lakes Estate (Lendlease) through Brian LEVER of the North Lakes One Metre Yacht Squadron, the same photo was also presented to Radio Yacht Supplies Australia who used this picture on their 2004 fittings catalogue which is distributed both Nationally and Internationally giving this Queensland sailing venue some great exposure.

Photo supplied;



Late last year, some time was spent liaising with Cherrie NICHOLSON of Manly who was researching the history of sailing clubs in the Waterloo Bay area. Her book is expected to be published later this year and will include the history of the WMRMYC Inc.

Apart from the standard regattas promoted through the QRYA Major Events Calendar during the year one other new initiative was also added to the sailing program through Tom BUTLER and the Pine Rivers Radio Yacht Club with the establishment of the PRRYC IOM Division, after a shaky start due to a double booking at Lake Kurwongbah, the new Division has now held two successful regattas at the venue and at such short notice the webpage and message board and individual E-

mails played an important part in promoting the event. Tom and the PRRYC must be congratulated on this new inventiveness in promoting the sport.

My sincere thanks are extended to the QMBA Committee for their continuing support and also the many members and clubs who continue to supply information, photos and reports for inclusion on the web site.

I am always open to suggestions to promote the sport and eagerly welcome any contributions from individuals and clubs throughout the state for the website.

Happy sailing...

Cheers

Eddie Cowell

QMBA Publicity Officer.