



2017 Australian Association Report for the World Council AGM

Melges 24s in Australia have maintained their active participant numbers again with 24 boats across the country. 50% of boats owners are members and actively participate in Association events.

In February 2017 the [Australian I](#) Titles were held in Blairgowrie, Victoria. Victoria was chosen for the 2017 Titles with a focus on supporting and hopefully developing more interest in the M24 class in Victoria. Currently the strongest racing fleets are in New South Wales (NSW) and South Australia (SA). Nine boats competed in very close racing. There were several different winners for each of the races in the regatta and the overall lead changed several times. 'Accrewed Interest, AUS 807' skippered by Andy Wharton from New South Wales won the regatta.

The Musto Melges 24 Australian Titles 2018 are being held in Port Lincoln, South Australia in February as part of the long established, annual Lincoln Week Regatta. Interest so far indicates a fleet of approximately 12 boats. The objective of this regional location is to show off the Melges to the many keel boat and dinghy sailors from across Australia that take part in the wider Lincoln Week Regatta event.

As a lead up to the Australian Titles, interstate boats will also be encouraged to participate in the South Australian State Titles held in Adelaide two weeks prior to the Nationals. Boats can then be transported to Port Lincoln (an eight hour drive) within the same state of South Australia, creating a tour.

Racing for the 2017 / 2018 season is beginning and regattas for the remainder of the year are:

- November - East Coast Championships being held in NSW at the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club and the NSW States being held at the Botany Bay Yacht Club.
- December – Vostok Europe Regatta and Christmas Sprint Series being held at Adelaide Sailing Club in SA.

We continue to work on a calendar that enables travel between the Australian States.

The International Melges 24 Association of Australia has engaged DownUnderSail (a well-respected sailing media organisation) for promotion of the M24 regattas and National Titles in February 2018. With a small membership base, promotion and publicity is a priority but restricted by our financial resources. Any IMCA publicity funding that could be made available would assist us to promote the class and increase participation in events by current owners that do not race or those wishing to purchase.

The Australian Association AGM will be held in conjunction with the 2018 National Tiles at Port Lincoln, South Australia in February 2018.

Kind Regards
Ken Abbott
President, International Melges 24 Association of Australia.