



# Cobra Tales

Victorian Cobra Catamaran Association Newsletter April 2009

Hi folks and welcome to the April 2009 Cobra Tales. The sailing season is coming to a close although we do have the state titles to be held at Bullen Merri over the Easter weekend. The National titles were held at Rosebud yacht club however the number of boats that attended was disappointing. This was a very well run event and those that did attend had a good time. It was great seeing Matthew on Awesome and Robbie Nixon as skipper sailing their first nationals. Two boats made the trip to Rivoli bay SA (see report later) for their Australia Day seafood regatta. This is a great location and hope we can make it a regular on the Cobra calendar. The 2009 nationals are planned to be held at Victor Harbor in South Australia from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010 so please start making your plans early. It shocked everybody to hear that Laurie Bradford (Redback) had a heart attack soon after Christmas however he has recovered after his bypass surgery and it is great seeing him back out on the water again.

## Rivoli Bay Adventure

Two Cobra's (Dream On and Scream) now call South Australia home. To pass on some sailing tips, and to see how they were going several Victorian Cobra's planned to attend the Rivoli Bay Yacht club seafood regatta across the Australia Day weekend. As it turned out due to a mystery illness that afflicted Rob Nixon after attending a party soon after turning 18 only Stan Blazejewski, David Gannon, David and Amanda Badrock were able to make the trip.

Rivoli Bay is located approx 80km from Mount Gambier and in older times it was known for being a prominent Whaling Port. These days it is a popular tourism destination where whales can still be spotted during the cooler months of the year. The blue waters of the port make the location an attractive destination on the coastline of the Limestone Coast. The yacht club sits at the south east end of the bay and for most wind directions is well protected from the open sea swells. When sailing out to the mouth of the bay however the swell can be quite daunting, at one stage one of these mountains of water coming between myself and Stan and all I could see was the top metre or less of his mast. It certainly makes for interesting downwind sailing as you pick up a wave and surf in. This is a truly magic place to sail; the water is crystal clear and blue. The yacht club members are extremely friendly and welcoming and ran an extremely good series. This is the middle of Lobster grounds; unfortunately this had been a bad year however the pictures from last year showed a large BBQ literally covered in fresh lobsters. This year the BBQ was fresh fish or meat for the non-seafood eaters. I would recommend everybody to attend this event next year if at all possible. There is plenty of camping and accommodation within walking distance of the yacht club. For those with 4WD the beach is open to driving and fun was had playing in the sand.

Footnote: Whilst a reasonable drive to get to Rivoli Bay it is fairly easy, scenic drive although a little forward planning helps. Amanda and I packed up the car and boat and headed off, just as we were going past the last exit ramp to Ballarat I suddenly remembered that I had forgotten to pack the sleeping bags. Once making our way back to the exit and entering Ballarat have you ever

tried parking a car and trailer in the middle of town on a busy Friday afternoon? After eventually parking in two metered parking spots and only having change for 12 minutes on the meter there was a mad dash into Big W. Australia day is the last weekend before returning to school and the place was a madhouse. We managed to find the camping gear and quickly located two marked down sleeping bags and made our way to the checkouts. After standing in the checkout queues for 8 mins 33 sec we had the bags scanned to come up with a price that was three times higher than expected. A run back to the camping area with a shop assistant in tow, to prove that the scan was wrong, highlighted that we had grabbed the wrong bags due to poor layout on the store shelves (my story and I'm sticking to it). After paying the revised prices we hit the road again. I had originally loaded the GPS with Beachport in SE SA as I knew that was nearby to where we were going but I reset it to Southend where the yacht club was located. The GPS had no listing for this address so working backwards I entered the street address of the yacht club ( Leakes Road) and found a listing for Leakes in SE SA. Making up for lost time we motored past the southern Grampians and punted the car around the hills behind the back of Portland dropping onto the Princes Highway just on the Melbourne side of the SA border. After stopping for fuel in Mt Gambier I soon became aware that the lid to the sail box had somehow come adrift, whereabouts unknown. There was a sinking feeling in the stomach as I wondered first if we had hit anything as it had flown off and then what was missing from the box. I tied everything back in and hit the road again. Approx 40 km from Mt Gambier the GPS suddenly tells me to make a right had turn. Initial thoughts were, beach on left, why turn right but who would argue with a GPS. Turning into this opening it became obvious that this was little more than a dirt track however with the boat across the Princess Hwy there was no room to back out at this stage. With wanning faith in the GPS we continued down this track as rabbits jumped out of our path and eventually stopping to place the vehicle in 4WD as the track became sandy and soft. Whilst the GPS continued to deliver directions, the track became narrower and rougher and the trees closed in. All of a sudden the screen on the GPS blanked out and a message came up stating "make way to nearest main road" .....With little room to manoeuvre we continued on blindly until eventually we broke out into an opening and a road suddenly appeared on the GPS screen that we made our way towards. On the way back we found out this was in fact Leakes Sheep Station. Without further incident we did make Rivoli bay.

What did we learn?

1. Don't trust GPS
2. Make sure you pack everything and double check.
3. Don't trust GPS
4. Even tied down sailbox lids came come loose, put extra ties for a long trip
5. Don't trust GPS
6. Even without a lid stuff does not appear to come out of a sail box.....
7. Don't trust GPS
8. Make sure you take a map because you cant trust a .....

DB

**ATTENTION**  
**VICTORIAN COBRA CATAMARAN STATE TITLES!**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 10<sup>th</sup> – MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup>**



The State Titles are to be held this year on Lake Bullen Merri (a few K's south of Camperdown), so here's your chance to join in the second most exciting and enjoyable event on the Cobra calendar.

The venue provides

- Permanent, deep, fresh water for sailing
- Camping facilities on grass on the shore of the lake, suitable for tents, campervans etc and within touching distance of your boat.
- No need to pack up the boat each day.
- A family friendly atmosphere with loads of space for activities other than sailing.
- All amenities to make camping enjoyable – toilets, showers, club room
- An organised regatta run by Yachting Western Victoria
- The organisers provide a separate start for the Cobras
- A programme of at least six races over 4 days (weather permitting of course) to hone your skills and provide hours of sailing enjoyment.

Haven't sailed in States or Nationals before?

**DOESN'T MATTER!!!!**

This is an opportunity to learn how to sail well. Any level of ability can be involved and you can be sure you will go home a much better sailor. Prizes cover both scratch and handicap, so anyone can win.

All you need is a boat, insurance, yacht club membership (and therefore a YA card)

**AND LOTS OF ENTHUSIASM!**

So get the diary out now and put this note on the following dates

**APRIL 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>**

**VCCA STATE TITLES**

**LAKE BULLENMERRI**

Notice of race and full details can be viewed on [www.cobracat.com](http://www.cobracat.com) (where you can also see photos of last year's titles at the same venue)