

Sports reports

THE *Esperance Express* endeavours to print all sports report contributions received but on occasion we receive more than we can fit into the paper.

In order to ensure that every sport has the opportunity to present their reports please limit contributions to 500 words.

If clubs would like to go above that limit please contact us first before submitting longer reports.

Please provide all photos in JPG format when emailing and check your email software setting to make sure that it is sending photos at full size.

EXPRESS
Sport

ISSN 1328-3723
9 771328 372087

Wednesday, April 8 Email: sport.espexpress@fairfaxmedia.com.au

World champions take win

SAILING

By **JESSE McCARTHY-PRICE**

AFTER three days of racing, former world champions Nick and Janet Jerwood took out the WA Flying Fifteen State Championships in Esperance.

A total of 33 boats greeted the starting gun on day one of the championship on Friday.

The Jerwood's, who were sailing *Ineffable*, took out the title, with El Toro team Grant Alderson and Dean Mac-Aullay in second and Glamour Buoys duo Greg Leaversuch and Peter Barblett coming third.

Esperance Bay Yacht Club sailors David Swan and Matt Elliot did exceptionally well in Changing Lanes, placing fourth against international-level athletes.

Mr Swan also received a life membership of the WA Flying Fifteen Association.

He said he was "very pleased" with the result, which had been a warm-up to upcoming events.

"This wasn't a qualifying event but we're off to France now for the World Title in August," he said.

"Last year, we got 15th in Hong Kong out of 55 boats – once you start getting into that level, anything in the top 20 in those sorts of fleets has got to be pretty good."

Other notable results came from Chris Wells, who placed second in one race and Ashley Reichstein who finished fourth in another.

Despite minor delays to some race starts based on wind speeds, conditions proved popular among sailors.

"The weather was light overall and that presented some challenges for race officials, but in general it provided good, clean, fair sailing," Mr Swan said.

"Over the course of the weekend we had a bit of everything, and we had a bit of wind speed in the final race.

"But people love sailing out on that bay with the islands in the background, and we were sailing right against the shore so there were people spectating along the jetty and lined up along the foreshore."

For the less competitive sailors, the state titles brought plenty of opportunities to socialise and network.

The club hosted welcome drinks and an a la carte meal on Thursday night and a presentation dinner after the final race on Sunday.

To welcome visitors to the town, EBYC members Sally and Casper Castledine and the Wallace family both hosted meal events at their homes after hours over the course of the weekend.

Mr Swan said the benefits of hosting the event had been evident.

"No doubt the event was an absolutely outstanding success – everyone was in raptures with the way it was run, with the club, the hospitality, the race management and the weather, by having so much positive feedback helps build confidence within the club," he said.

"We had some really good people come down with race management, so sailors and local management were able to learn the technical aspects of it.

"I think the club learnt a lot and it was a real training run for the National Championships, which the club will be hosting in 2017."



Downwind: Sailors put their spinnakers up.



Ready set: Flying Fifteens along the start line.



In pursuit: A Flying Fifteen takes the lead over the pack.



Competitive: Skilled sailors maintain close proximity.



Aligned: Conditions were light but provided clean, fair sailing.



Champions: Nick and Janet Jerwood sail in Esperance Bay.