

Flying 11's storm Port Stephens and leave club with an unexpected gift.



Have you noticed all those colourful spinnakers filling Salamander Bay over the past week? Below the sailcloth were 176 smiling boys and girls showing their sailing skills in testing conditions on the waters in front of Port Stephens Sailing and Aquatic Club (PSSAC).

They were competing for the title of National Champion in the Flying 11 sailing dinghies class. The battle was fought out between 88 boats over 12 races, with the final winners being Kurt Hansen (14yrs) and Lindsay Pike (13yrs) from Gosford Sailing Club in their boat "Oscar". The event attracted 150 families to the area who were made very welcome by the local sailing community.

Trophy presentation formalities and celebration party at Salamander Shores, were topped off with the Flying 11 National Association presenting PSSAC President, Karen Nye with a Flying 11 sailing dinghy as a gesture aimed at getting their own F11 fleet started straight away and boosting their sailing program for local children. Junior class delegate Geoff Campbell said "We've been looking for a dinghy to allow the kids at the club to take the next step from our successful O'pen Bic training boats. The Flying 11 ticks all the boxes for us, and the kids we have seen here this week are having so much fun, so we are thrilled to be involved!" The Flying 11 sailing dinghy has been one of the most popular in Australia for many years and is suited to children aged between 10 -17. It has been recognised by Yachting NSW as a valuable training boat for youth sailors and has produced Olympians such as Malcolm Page, Nathan Wilmot and the Hunter's own Nathan Outteridge. For more details contact PSSAC on www.PSSAC.com or go to www.flying11.yachting.org.au Read all about the weeks sailing action on <http://www.flying11.yachting.org.au/news.asp>

This week's successful Flying 11 regatta at PSSAC was preceded last week by 28 boats from the MG14 class also enjoying perfect conditions for their 21st Australian Championships which was won by Rohan Nosworthy and Sophie Holt in Aqua Rodent. So impressed by the spectacular waterway and friendly club, MG14 Association President Martin Pryor has already booked again for next year. Action from the event can be seen on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmugLXSUix4> .

The ultimate thrill for PSSAC this month will be hosting their first NSW State O'pen Bic Cup this Friday 27th and Saturday 28th January 2012. PSSAC President Karen Nye said "this is a great way to conclude our busy regatta month, as we host up to 40 sailors from our junior sailing class for the 2nd round of the state titles. Twelve months ago we had just 2 junior sailors in the club. This week 15 of our local children will compete in their first regatta, all of whom have participated in our 'Learn to Sail' program under instructor Oliver Riorden, which has seen almost 60 children introduced to this great sport. We will also be taking a team to the O'pen Bic nationals in Noosa at Easter and participating in the inaugural junior regatta as part of Sail Port Stephens on the 19th & 20th of April. Spectators are welcome to take in the action at PSSAC.

