

DREAM RUN FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SAILORS

By **CARLIE WALKER**

South Australian sailors John Heywood and Brett Littledyke are feeling pretty good about their performance so far in the International Fireball Sailing National Championships, being held at Hervey Bay Sailing Club on the foreshore.

The pair went into competition yesterday leading overall and didn't harm their chances of taking home the title, coming third in the first race and first in the second race.

The two sailors are enjoying their time in the Bay so far and especially loving the near-perfect sailing conditions.

"We've had a nice breeze today," Heywood said.

"The wind was probably stronger than yesterday."

"It was probably 5 or 10 knots stronger than yesterday."

In the first race Ben Schulz and Ben Neaylom came first followed by Nathan Stockley in second place.

Heywood and Littledyke weren't far behind in third.

In the second race Heywood and Littledyke turned it around to come in at first, Schulz and Neaylom came second and fellow South Australian's Robin Inns and Joel Coultas came third.

Sailing will continue at the foreshore tomorrow but only one race will be contested.

The sailors will then have a rest day on New Year's Day before racing resumes on January 2.

The sailors are planning to see in the New Year together, celebrating an enjoyable of racing.

Speed trials could set a few new racing records

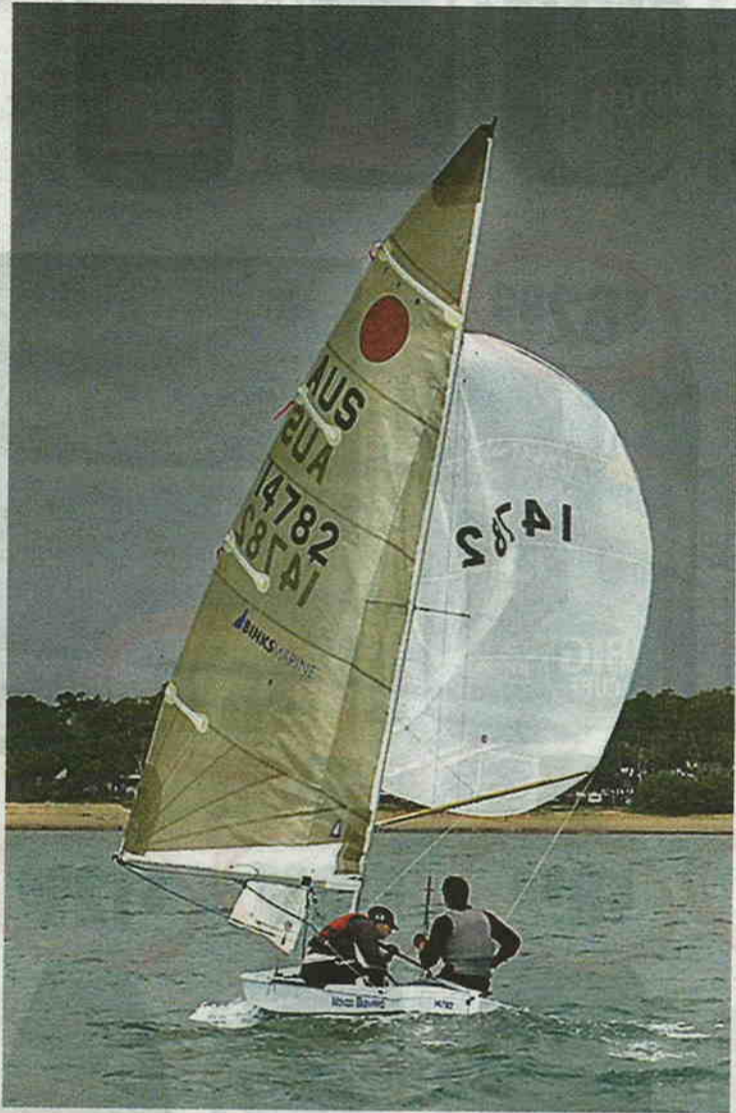
Tim and Laura Robba used Monday's invitation race to shake out the cobwebs ahead of Maryborough's 125 Sailing Dinghy state and national titles - and the Brisbane Sailing Squadron sailors certainly managed to do that, winning convincingly by 1 minute and 23 seconds.

Coming in second was Jenny Anderson and Joanne Luscombe, also from Brisbane Sailing Squadron.

The first heat of the national titles was held yesterday and the Robbas demonstrated how formidable they could be.

The Robbas took the lead and won the first heat of the series. Speed trials will be conducted over a short course on January 3 at the foreshore at Maryborough Sailing Club.

With strong winds forecast organiser Bob Sayer is predicting that new speed records could be set by the sailors.



Set sail ... Mondo Bizarro Robin Inns and Joel Coultas are racing strongly in the International Fireball Sailing National Championships.

Photo: ALISTAIR BRIGHTMAN 08h2594e

The Squid



All smooth sailing on colliding courses



On a collision course ... The course set for Maryborough Sailing Club's 125 Dinghy National Titles overlapped with Hervey Bay Sailing Club's International Fireball Sailing national titles yesterday leaving dinghy "Blurred Image" (third from left) to make its way through the Fireball fleet. SAILING WRAP: PAGE 29

Photo: ALISTAIR BRIGHTMAN 08h2604g



Sail away ... John Heywood and Brett Littledeke on Renegade edge away from the field in the International Fireball Sailing national titles at Hervey Bay.

Photos: ALISTAIR BRIGHTMAN 08h2605b

Sailors seize Fireball race in light winds

By **CARLIE WALKER**

The conditions were just right for South Australian sailors Robin Inns and Joel Coultas to score a convincing victory in the International Fireball Sailing national titles.

North-easterly winds of three to eight knots signalled a change in conditions for the sailors who had experienced much windier conditions during the past two days.

"We raced in very light conditions," Inns said yesterday.

The win, their first for the series, propelled the sailors back into third position overall, putting them back in the running for the national title.

"We were very happy with the win.

"The conditions suited us a bit better today.

"We've enjoyed some consistent racing."

Only one race was held yesterday, a long-course race instead of the usual two shorter races."

Inns said all the sailors, who have come from as far as South Australia and New South Wales to compete, have enjoyed racing in Hervey Bay.

"We've loved it - the warm water and nice breezes."

Nathan Stockley and Sam Muirhead finished second in yesterday's race.

In third position were Greg Allison and Richard Watson.

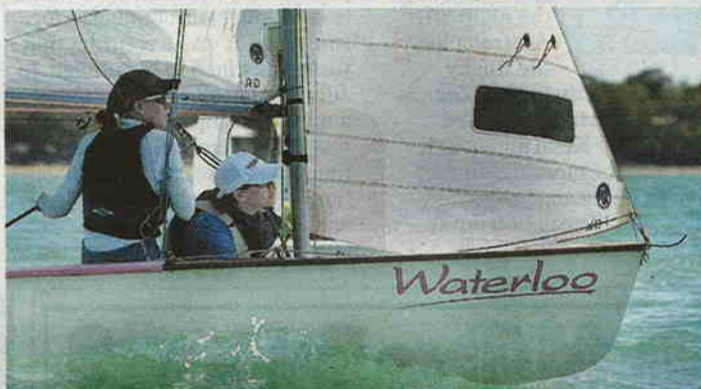
Inns is looking forward to relaxing during their rest day today.

We have five more races in the New Year," he said.

"We will just relax and recover."

Maryborough Sailing Club's 125 Dinghy national titles also continued with its second round of heats yesterday.

They will also enjoy a day off today.



Jennifer Anderson and Joanne Luscombe head out to sea on Waterloo in Maryborough's 125 Dinghy national titles. 08h2604e



Butterfield Services duo Greg Allison and Richard Watson lead the way in the Fireball nationals. 08h2605a



Jim Scott and William Morris on MK2 in the 125 Dinghy nationals. 08h2604d



Aftershock with Luke Johnson and Scott Charlton from NSW are the first to get their spinnaker up in the 125 Dinghy nationals. 08h2604h

Chilled Out with Trevor Lrance and Nathan Price from NSW get away to a good start in the 125 Dinghy nationals. 08h2604b



Start of the days racing in the 125 Dinghy nationals hosted by the Maryborough Sailing Club. 08h2604a



Robyn Charlton and Andrew Foster on board Blonde in Disguise. 08h2604c

International Fireball Sailing and Maryb'h 125 Dinghy state and national titles

Lack of wind fails to stop sailors from competing

By **CARLIE WALKER**

Heavy rain didn't stop the International Fireball sailing national titles from getting underway yesterday - but a lack of wind did. The racing was delayed until late in the afternoon.

"We had to delay racing because of a lack of wind and unpredictable winds," organiser Terry Thompson said.

"That's what happens some days.

"But the sailors were determined to get in a full range of races in the regatta," he said.

The sailors were so determined to compete they took to the water at 4.15pm in spite of the heavy rain that fell.

"It looks like they're disappearing in the rain," Thompson said, describing the weather conditions yesterday.

Organisers are hoping for fresh,

consistent south-easterly winds today.

"There will probably be strong winds tomorrow.

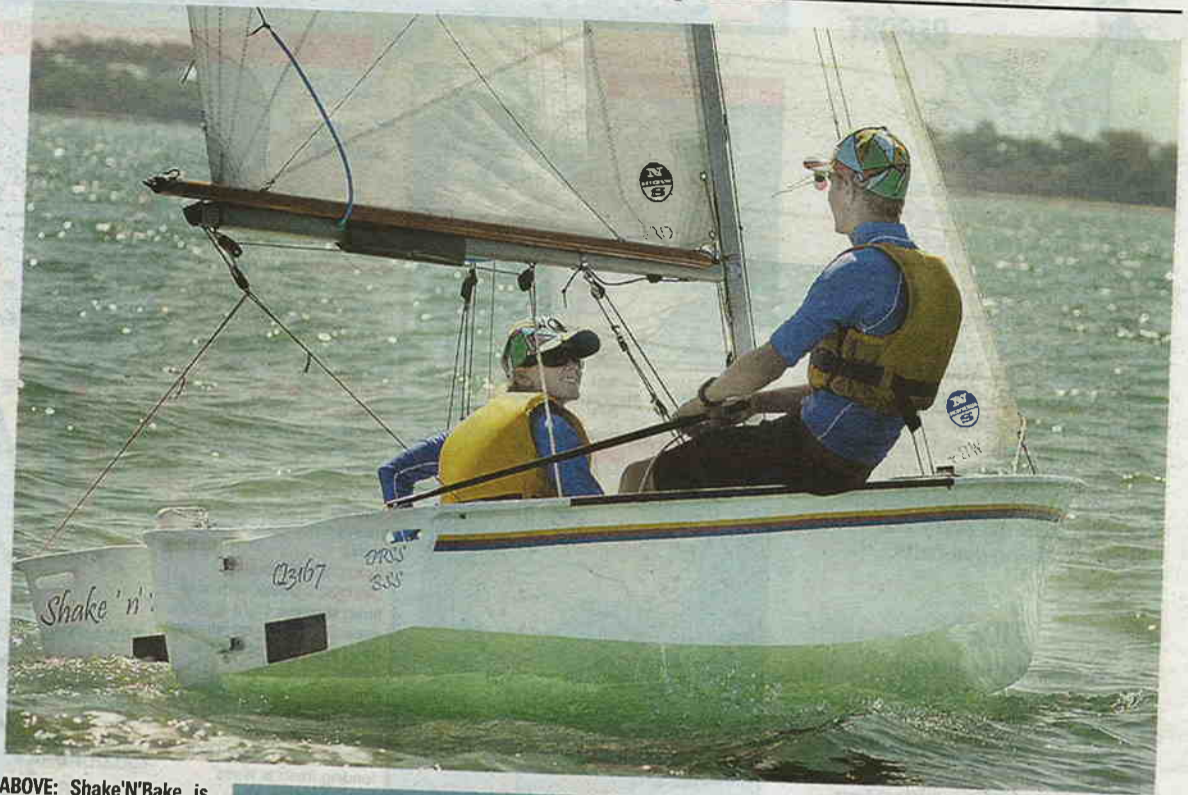
"We are hoping for a fresh south-easterly to finish the regatta off."

The second heat in Maryborough's 125 National Dinghy Championships ended in celebrations for a Maryborough crew.

Graham and Ryan Brown from New South Wales came first in the heat, followed by Doug Brewer and John Anderson from Brisbane.

But in third spot was Thomas Richers and Wayne Price from Maryborough Sailing Club, competing in their first national titles event.

Shake'N' and Bake, sailed by Timothy and Lauren Robba, is still coming first overall with After-shock, sailed by Luke Johnson and Scott Charlton, in second place.



ABOVE: Shake'N'Bake is skippered by Timothy Robba and crewed by Lauren Robba in the 125 National Dinghy Championships hosted by the Maryborough Sailing Club.

Photos: ALISTAIR BRIGHTMAN 08h2604f

RIGHT: Smooth Criminal (left), MK2, Shake'N'Bake, J and Chilled Out work their way around the first buoy.



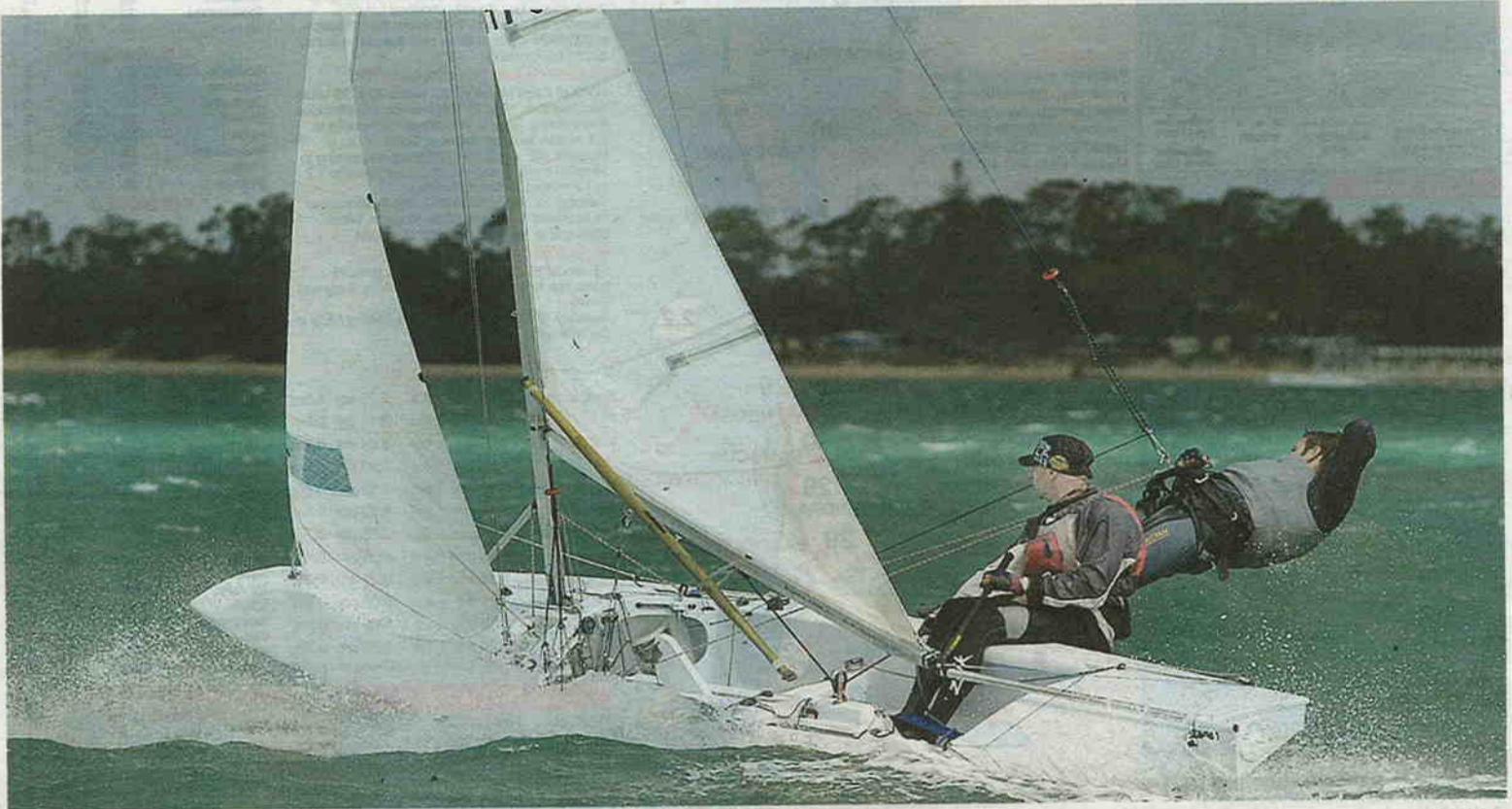
Blurred image and MK2 head to the first buoy together.

08h2604i



The national dinghy fleet with spinnakers flying.

08h2604k



Winners are grinners ... Robin Inns and Joel Coultas sailing Mondo Bizarro head to the finish line to win the first race on Saturday.

Photo: ALISTAIR BRIGHTMAN 09h24a

SAILORS DEFY STRONG WINDS TO WIN TITLES

By **CARLIE WALKER**

Going into yesterday's racing South Australian sailors Robin Inns and Joel Coultas were in third place and needed a special performance if they were going to come first overall in the International Firebird Sailing national titles.

The two didn't fail to deliver.

The last two days of sailing, which took place at Hervey Bay Sailing Club by the foreshore, were hampered by strong winds.

The sailors struggled in the high winds with two boats breaking masts and three boats having their rudders broken. But Inns and Coultas stayed focused, winning the last race to secure first place.

Eight of ten planned races were completed during the season, but two had to be abandoned because of the dangerous high winds.

"We have had quite strong

south-easterly winds," sailor Ben Schulz said yesterday.

In second place were Greg Allison and Richard Watson while Nathan Stockley and Sam Muirhead were in third place.

Stockley and Muirhead had a chance of taking second place, but tipped over in the race to the line during the last race.

Schulz said the sailors had enjoyed their time in the Bay.

Maryborough Sailing Club's 125 Sailing Dinghy state and national titles were postponed on Saturday due to the strong winds.

"Winds being experienced were consistently over 25 knots with gusts even stronger," organiser Bob Sayer said.

Two races were scheduled to go ahead yesterday.

In Saturday's speed dash race Maryborough sailors Thomas Richers and Wayne Price clocked the fastest time.



Off and racing ... Mono Syndrome, sailed by Andrew Martin and Scott Slater and I Mount Books, sailed by Don Allen and Sam Gunner do battle. 09h24c



Set sail ... Andrew and Peter Crossley on board What's the Story sail the second last leg in the first race. 09h24b



Giving chase ... Hit N' Run, sailed by Jim Hughes and Beth Fawcett and Ragdoll, sailed by Steve Luders and Lisa Lavery, battle it out. 09h24d