



# Fleet 27



Newsletter of the International Thunderbird Class Association's Fleet No.27 - Perth Western Australia

Issue 9

May 2001

## The Winter Season has Begun

You may have noticed the grass is now a bit damp when you get up to fetch the morning paper off the front lawn. The sun is also getting a little lazy and that favourite jumper may have come out of the wardrobe once or twice - yep the autumn/winter season is here.

It is not all despair as there are some really great days through this "winter season. Unlike some of our fellow Fleets in Canada and the Northern USA our grass stays green and the water doesn't get a white crust.



The photos here are of Toronto's Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club, which is home to Thunderbird Fleet 10.

The coming World Championships are being run by Fleet 10 from this club from 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2001.

If you wish to follow the progress or thinking of getting over to the event there is a web link giving all the details:

[http://home.istar.ca/~itca/2001\\_internationals/](http://home.istar.ca/~itca/2001_internationals/)



## A Couple more shots from Closing Day



Chris Semmens waiting for a start



Jim Baker willing up the wind



Condor on her way home after a long day

## What's Behind the Name?

# *Lyelta*

Though the name Lyelta is no longer on the current roster, for nearly 20 years David Orr successfully campaigned the light blue flyer. David recently penned this article on the background behind the name:



When I joined Royal Perth in 1955 I had a 22 footer called "Flamingo" which I had based in Rockingham where my family had a beach house along the waterfront.

I used this yacht to do a Naturaliste and a Bunbury and a few other shorter ocean races sailing out of Rockingham. After putting up with a very wet and windy Bunbury I decided that to live a little longer I needed a longer boat.

The purchase of the second "Lyelta" followed in 1958/59. During that period many of the yachts in Royal Perth had names ending in an "A". Names such as Panamuna, Celta, Yuna, Winya, Cimba, Nerrima, Sandra, Wynella, Lakoa, Yuelba seemed to be the choice when naming a yacht. As I previously owned a 10ft sailing dinghy that I called "Lyelta" I decided to rename my new purchase "Lyelta".

Lyelta is an aboriginal name meaning "rippling waves" or "rippling water", I can't really remember which, but it is a name I rather like and not being one for rapid change have stuck with it over the years.

The third "Lyelta" was a Carmen Class built by Stewy Ward and was a real good ocean racing boat, and a comfortable live aboard at Rottneest, when I had a young family to consider.

The fourth "Lyelta" I purchased around 1981 from a great competitor and Thunderbird

enthusiast, Neville Taylor who sailed it with his son Mark.

Neville was a great organiser for Fleet 27 and we all remember lots of fun in his company. The yacht was named "Nimbus Cloud" on purchase but Neville was not very concerned when I changed it. Like John Wager's "Falcon", Nimbus Cloud originated from Bunbury and was brought to RPYC by Neville and his sons.

It is hard to make a comparison between different yachts, but I never had any regrets in owning a Thunderbird, which I still consider one of the all time outstanding designs in its class, and certainly well ahead of its time in performance, comfort and general handling. Coupled with the fact that it always seems to have attracted a varied but good group of people, the T'bird concept still takes a lot of beating compared with some maybe more modern classes of yacht.

Happy sailing!

**David Orr**

David now has a Space Sailer 24, which he has of course named "Lyelta". David's move from the class was driven by a need to have boat with a motor as he regular sails just 2 up on Wednesday afternoons. Keep an eye for David when you out on Wednesdays.

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## RPYC's Annual Senior Prize Night Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June

That time of the year is coming up again - who could forget the dulcet tones of the Thunderbird ensemble at last year's prize night - not many!

It is time to begin organising tables for this popular night out. Skippers should be contacting their crews for this end of season celebration.

We should coordinate table bookings through Colin Smith - our esteemed Social Secretary.

**Don't Forget Prize night**  
**Friday - 8th June**  
**Organise a table**  
**NOW**



# From the Rules:

## Blue Book - The Racing Rules of Sailing:

The new season's Blue book is now available from the Royal Perth Yacht Club office or chandleries. The format has changed a little with this edition being spiral bound.

One change is the starting:





### **26 STARTING RACES**

***Races shall be started by using the following signals. Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.***

Signal	Flag and sound	Minutes before starting signal
Warning	Class flag; 1 sound	5*
Preparatory	P, I, Z, Z with I, or black flag; 1 sound	4
One minute	Prep flag removed; 1 long sound	1
Starting	Class flag removed; 1 sound	0

*\*or as stated in the sailing instructions  
The warning signal for each succeeding class shall be made with or after the starting signal of the preceding class.*

This is a major change - we no longer get a 10 minute warning and 5 minute preparatory signals - you will need to be fully aware of what signals are being made. Remember there will no longer a rolling 5 minute sequence. The new sequence for our fleet will look like:

Thunderbird Fleet Flags	Minutes to Start
	5*
	4
	1
	0

*\*or as stated in the sailing instructions*

## Black Book - Class Rules:

The Black Book includes the Associations Constitution. The following underpins the Association and should never be far from our minds in Fleet matters:

### **ARTICLE 3 - OBJECT**

**3.0 To promote and develop Thunderbird racing under uniform rules governed by the International Thunderbird Class Association.**

### **ARTICLE 4 - POLICY**

- 4.1 To cooperate with all other yachting organisations and to request in return, recognition of this Association and its rules.**
- 4.2 To keep the Thunderbird yacht within the financial reach of sailors of moderate means without handicapping ability, or encouraging neglect in conditioning yachts. or retarding the development of the Thunderbird class.**
- 4.3 To maintain a one-design class in order to insure that all Thunderbird Class races held under the auspices of this Association be to determine the skills of the skipper and crew and to eliminate variation in the construction of the yachts that would be detrimental to the best interests of the Association. Everything in the Constitution and Specifications is intended to insure competition between yachts of one design. and the spirit of the Constitution and Specifications is to this end.**
- 4.4 To promote the inherent cruising ability of the yacht.**

## Red Book - Sailing Instructions:

The new Red Book has not been written yet! The existing 2000/2001 book stays in vogue until Opening Day in October this year.

There are bound to be a few changes in the sailing instructions with the issue of the new Blue Book. Keep an eye out for the new Red Book, which should be available from the RPYC Office just before Opening Day.

**Remember - the new rules  
come into vogue in Australia at  
the start of the coming summer  
season**

## Now's the Time to get to those Maintenance Projects

Remember the last minute rush to get sails repaired or get that antifouling so the boat would be ready for Opening Day. Do yourself a favour and attack the seasonal maintenance in leisure - start now



Accept it, that excuse about waiting for the weather to get better is a furphy. It does not rain in the sail lofts and there are plenty of sunny days in May, June and July. If you are painting or varnishing you may need to watch the forecast and remember



Get down to those winches, cleats and blocks. Pull them apart and get the salt, dust and grime out. Grease and oil where appropriate.

Also it's a good idea to get as much out of the boat as possible to reduce moisture traps (leaving enough to go for that off-season sail of course). Remember to clean out though the bilges and ensure drain holes through the bulkheads are clear and running.

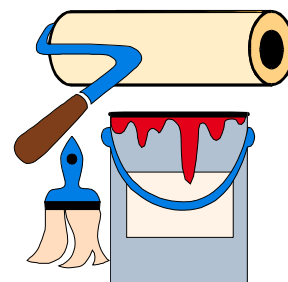
All sails should be washed in fresh water - the salt residue will attract moisture - salt being a deliquescent compound, attracts moisture from the air. This will reduce the chance of any mildew on the sails or in the boat.



Another timely job is checking those mooring lines. Each pen at Royal Perth Yacht Club has specific line configurations and the boat length sets the line size. Mounts Bay Sailing Club would have similar requirements. By getting these sorted out now, you can sleep a whole easier on those odd stormy nights.



If you looking to get up on the hard stand do it in plenty of time before Opening Day. Also remember to look after the safety of yourself and those helping you. Ladders drums and planks should be correctly used - it may be worthwhile bringing down your own ladder.



Another thing to do is work out what paint, sealants, fillers, varnish, sandpaper etc do you think you need and start to shop around and find the best price - it can quite surprising how much variation there is. Ask other boat owners what they use, how they find it and what it cost - you may not just pick up a bargain but also some good tips.

## Fleet 27 Web Page - Going Strong

While talking statistics, the Fleet's own Web Page <http://www.iinet.net.au/~fitzies/fleet27> It received over 1000 visitors this season who logged on to the Fleet's Main Web Page.

The pages contain a myriad of links to other Thunderbird sites, the weather, rules, news, photos, comprehensive results etc as well as links to all the other Thunderbird spots on the web.

**The page is kept up to date by Mark Fitzhardinge who is always looking for anything to include.**



## For Sale - Tbird

..... **but its in Canada**

I thought you might be interested in the following for sale posted through the web recently - it's a shame the boat is in Canada - how much is deck cargo anyway!

T-bird #1232 presently at Royal Victoria Yacht Club, British Columbia. Booth hull and deck launched 1987. High aspect rudder and updated keel. Racing record --top 25% of the fleet. THE FASTEST AND PRETTIEST T-BIRD IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

New 2000 Honda 9, Dacron Hood Genoa, Mylar Sobstad Genoa, Hood blade, Hood spinnaker, Hood main, Booth 6 ft 6 in. dinghy. Head with built in holding tank, 2 burner propane stove, 12 volt electric's with solar panel. 4inch foam cushions throughout (hardly used). Gold Seal 1987. Last survey Sept 1995. The Boat is in Excellent shape!

Asking \$14,000Cdn. available now. Call for details 250-658-3611, Fax 250-658-3411. email [edgell@coastnet.com](mailto:edgell@coastnet.com)

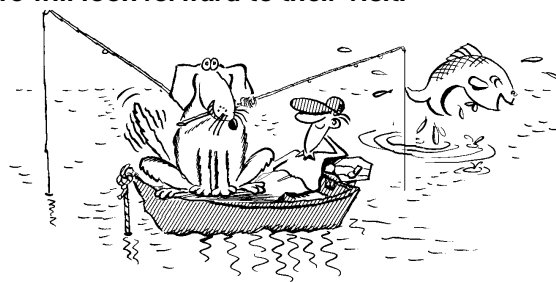
Additional items available: (in Canadian \$s)

- UK April 2001 Tape Drive genoa (unused) \$2040
- North July 1999 Mylar Dacron Genoa (used internationals and regionals) \$1500
- Shark(Alex Fox Design) June 1997 Dacron Genoa \$850
- UK July 1999 Matrix spinnaker 30/20 \$1575
- North 1997 Dacron mainsail \$2000
- Auto helm 800 \$400
- Force 10 BBQ with rail mount \$195
- CQR 20 anchor 12ft chain & 165ft 1/2 in "gold braid" line \$200
- Chimp 2 Henderson gusher pump \$60

Also a long list of miscellaneous equipment.



**John and Linda Edgell are planning to escape the northern winter and visit downunder early next year. John has been a long time supporter of the Thunderbirds and we will look forward to their visit.**





**Fleet 10 is host club.  
July 14-21, 2001  
Ashbridge's Bay Yacht Club,  
Toronto.**

Details can be got from the Regatta co-chairman Andrew Robertson on:  
[robertson@skippersplan.com](mailto:robertson@skippersplan.com)  
[http://home.istar.ca/~itca/2001\\_internationals/](http://home.istar.ca/~itca/2001_internationals/)

### What's on Your Calender:

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May  
**WAYF Champion of Champions Regatta**

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May  
**1<sup>st</sup> Race of Frostbite Series**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June  
**RPYC Senior Prize Night**

Sunday 10 June  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Race of Frostbite Series**

Sunday 24 June  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Race of Frostbite Series**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July  
**4<sup>th</sup> Race of Frostbite Series**

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
**5<sup>th</sup> Race of Frostbite Series**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July  
**RPYC Annual General Meeting**

4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> August  
**Cowes Week Regatta**

19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August  
**Americas Cup Jubilee, Cowes**

A Saturday or Sunday in winter  
**Thunderbird Wine Cruise (in a bus!)**

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October  
**RPYC Opening Day**

### Australia II back in Action:

The worlds most famous contemporary racing yacht, Australia II went back in the water at Fremantle on 19<sup>th</sup> May. It will sail from Kailis' jetties on the weekends leading up the 19<sup>th</sup> June when it is placed on a container ship together with the original tender Black Swan to go to Cowes. Get down to see this most special of sailing boats before she leaves - this will be the last chance to see her outside the museum.



Fleet 27 is the newsletter of the International Thunderbird Class Association's Fleet No.27 that is based in Perth Western Australia.

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