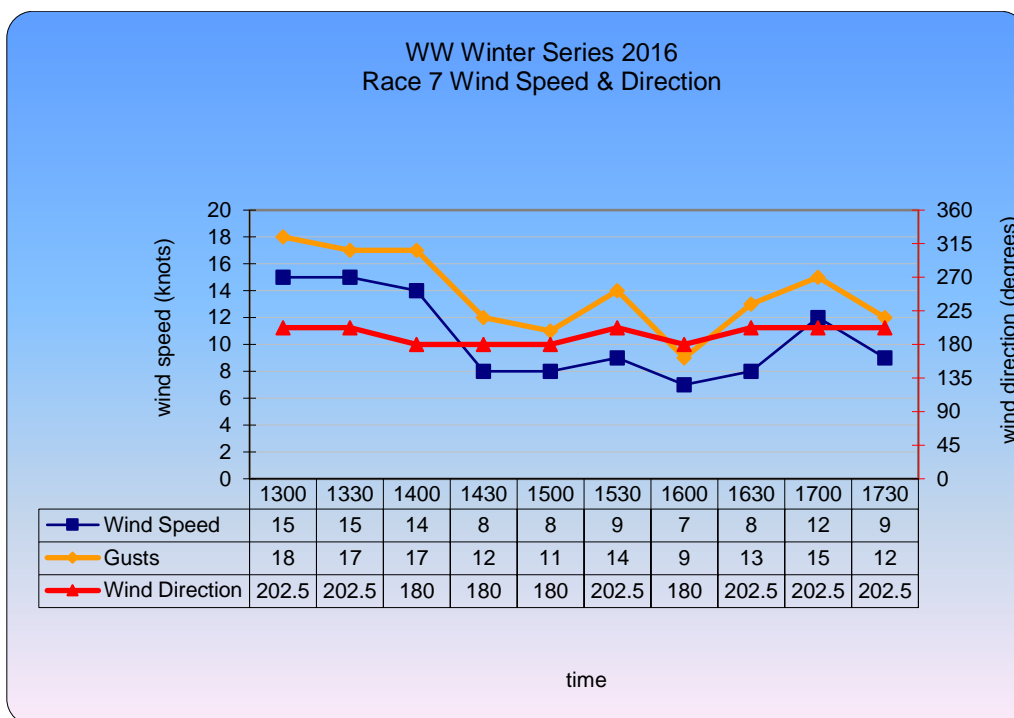


Shortened Course Saves Race Wednesday Wonders Winter Series 2018 Race 7 (16 May 2018)



With a forecast of a 10 to 15 knot breeze something stronger than what was received could have been expected. The start of the race did see a breeze of the higher strength but it had eased at Fawkner by 1430 to less than 10 knots. The average for the afternoon was about 11 knots. The lighter breeze resulted in a shortened course that saved the race. Had the 9.9 nautical mile 6 leg course 14 not been shortened then it is unlikely anyone would have finished the race. It was still a very close call. The winning yacht crossed the line with only 7 minutes 18 seconds spare. This gave the remainder of the fleet an additional 30 minutes to finish the race. Full use was made of the extra time with the last of 35 yachts crossing the finish line with 2 minutes 30 seconds to spare.



The first 3 yachts to cross the finish line each recorded their first podium finish. CLUB COMEDIE (Darren Eger) became the 6th different yacht to win a race this series. WILLARIE (Graeme Kaufman) started from 2nd place and finished in second place. Rounding out the podium finishers was FOGGY DEW (Frank Hilliard) who had her best result by far this series.

Maintaining the very high standards set by Start of the Day winners was STAMPEDE (Christopher Gendala) who recorded the 5th perfect start in the series. In what was the slowest race of the series ESPRIT (Garry Anderson) sailed the shortened course in the fastest time of 2:13:18 - 1 minute 49 seconds faster than her closest rival WHITE NOISE (Daniel Edwards).

The result of the race saw changes to the top of the aggregate. VINDALOO (John Taylor) remains as leader for the 3rd consecutive week but is now joined by SALTSHAKER (Ken Gayler) equal on 27 points. Finishing 8th in this race was enough to lift PHOENIX (Alex Tseberg) into 3rd place in the aggregate 1 point behind the leaders.



CLUB COMEDIE started this race from 7th place 22 seconds late for her 15 minute handicap. She rounded number 4 at 15:20:53 in 3rd place behind the leader DOLPHIN PLAY (John Brennan) and WILLARIE in 2nd place. CLUB COMEDIE was able to pass both during the last 2 legs of the race to be first across the finish line at 16:22:42. She had sailed the course in 2:37:42. CLUB COMEDIE started the series with a handicap of 23 minutes which became 20 minutes in race 3 before becoming 15 minutes in race 4. Although her results have been generally improving as the series progressed this was by far her most outstanding result. CLUB COMEDIE moved up from 46th to 39th in the aggregate.

WILLARIE has completed all 7 races this series, accumulating 3 top ten places but this is her first podium finish. She started the race from 2nd place 5 seconds late for her 4 minute handicap. She completed the first 3 legs of the race in 1:38:38 and remained in 2nd place. During the final 2 legs she overtook DOLPHIN PLAY and was overtaken by CLUB COMEDIE. She sailed the entire course in 2:49:14 and crossed the finish line at 16:23:14. Before this race WILLARIE was 20th in the aggregate. This 2nd place helped her up 11 places into 9th place.

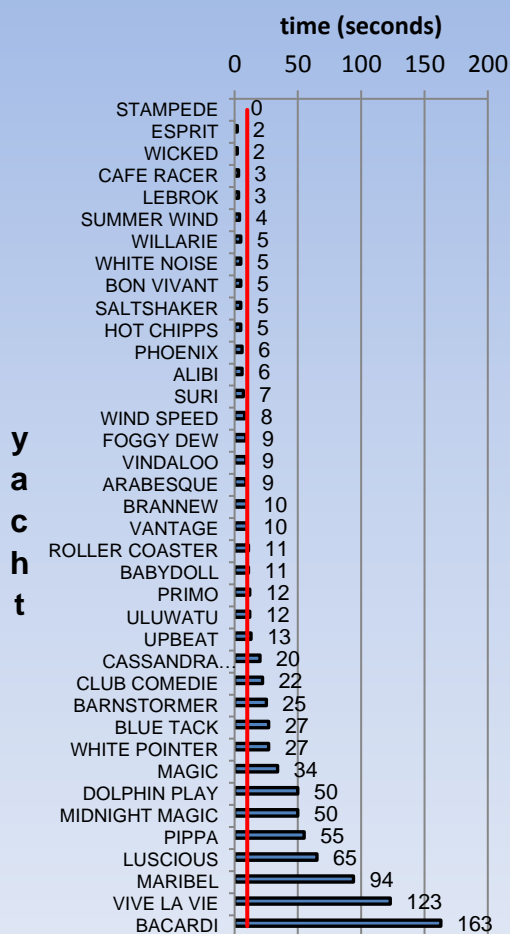


FOGGY DEW has not had the best possible start to the series. In her 3 previous completed races she was 39th, 42nd and 44th. Consequently her handicap has fallen from 20 minutes to 19, to 17 then 14 minutes for this race. She started from 6th place 9 seconds late for her handicap. FOGGY DEW rounded number 4 in 4th place at 15:21:44 – 9 minutes 35 seconds behind the leader. She sailed the last two legs in a time of 1:02:36 to cross the finish line at 16:24:20 only 1 minute 38 seconds behind the winner. FOGGY DEW moved up from 47th to 42nd place in the aggregate.

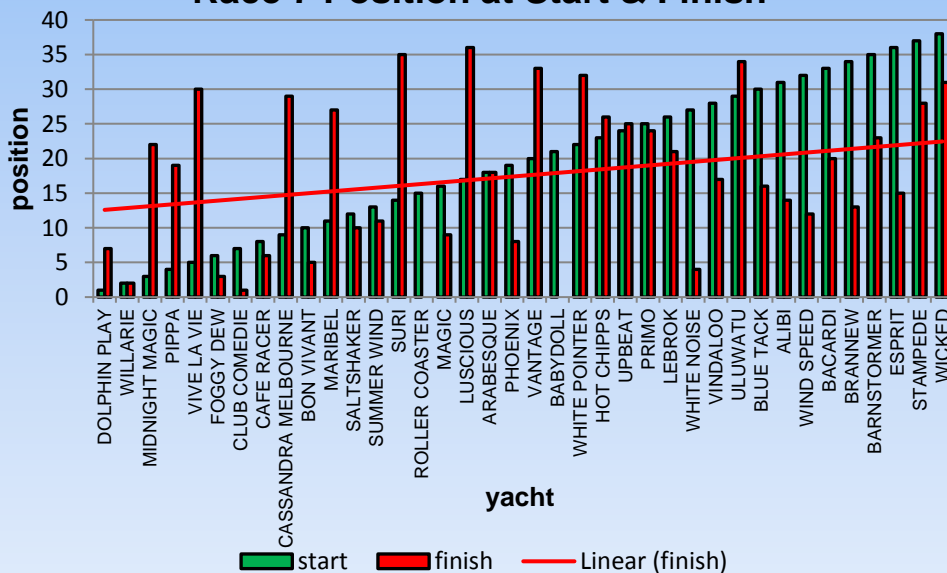
With half the 38 yacht fleet starting within 10 seconds or less of their handicap this was one of the best starts of the series. Nevertheless there were 4 yachts that were a minute or more late but none started too soon. As mentioned earlier STAMPEDE won the start. ESPRIT and WICKED (Mike Welsh) started 2 seconds late.



WW Winter Series 2018 Race 7 Start of the Day

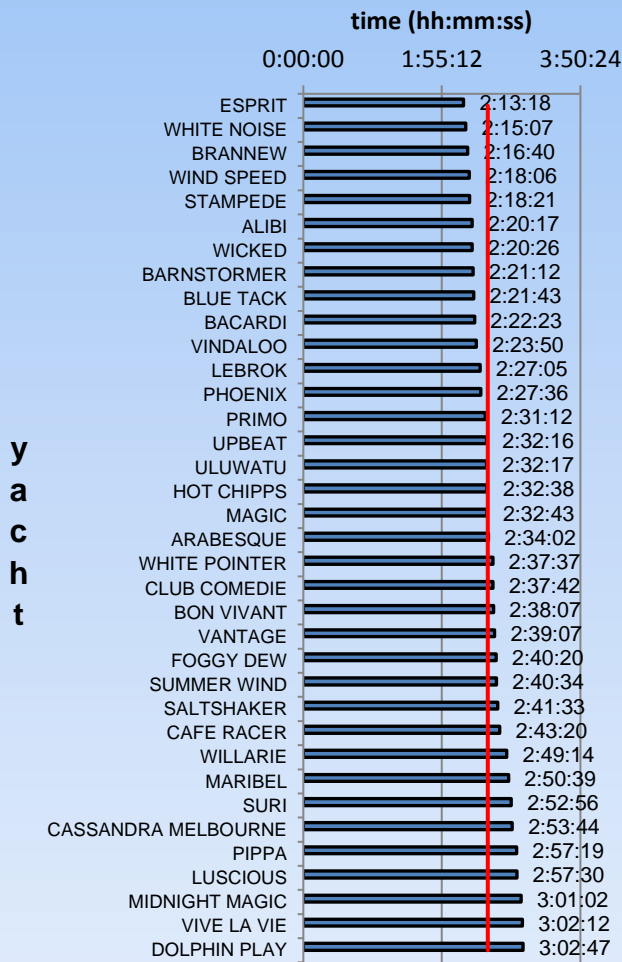


WW winter Series 2018 Race 7 Position at Start & Finish



An easing breeze coupled with a shortened course made it difficult for the late starters to catch the early starters. Of the first 13 yachts to start, 8 were among the first 13 to finish. WHITE NOISE (Daniel Edwards) put in a strong challenge starting from 27th place and finishing 4th.

WW Winter Series 2018 Race 7 Elapsed Time



With a median elapsed time of 2:33:22 (red line) this was the slowest race of the series. Three yachts received good value for money each sailing in excess of 3 hours. The range of elapsed times of 49 minutes 29 seconds, was less than the 56 minute range of handicaps. It was the second time this series that ESPRIT recorded the fastest elapsed time.



By The Way

The winter series is shaping up to be quite a bit different to the summer series. There were 5 abandoned races in the summer series but only one race was shortened. Although there have been no races abandoned so far this winter 3 out of 7 races have been shortened. The average wind speed per race in winter is about 4 knots less, reducing not only boat speeds but also course length.

SERIES	Ave Wind Speed (knots)	Ave Course Length	Ave Elapsed Time	Ave Yacht Speed
Summer 2017-18	15	9.9	2:09:35	4.83
Winter 2018	11	8.6	2:03:03	4.41

WW Winter Series 2018 Handicap Adjustments								
YACHT	AVERAGE HANDICAP	RACE						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
ALCHEMIST	40			40				
ALIBI	43.8	42	44	44	44	45	45	45
ALLIANCE	31	29	32	32				
ANDANTE 1	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
ARABESQUE	32.8	35	33	32	32	32	32	32
ARCH DE TRIOMPHE	39.8	40	40	40	39	40	40	40
BABYDOLL	36.4	37	37	36	36	36	36	36
BACARDI	44.4	46	44	44	44	44	44	44
BARNSTORMER	46.6	47	46	46	46	48	48	48
BLUE TACK	43.2	45	43	42	42	44	44	44
BON VIVANT	21.4	23	21	21	21	21	21	21
BRANNEW	47.4	49	47	47	47	47	48	48
CAFE RACER	15	15	14	14	16	16	16	16
CARPE DIEM	51.6	54	51	51	51	51	51	51
CASSANDRA MELBOURNE	18.4	20	18	18	18	18	18	18
CLUB COMEDIE	18.25		23	20	15	15	15	15
CONQUEST	51.2	52	51	51	51	51	51	51
DOLPHIN PLAY	-1.2	0	0	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2
ESPRIT	52.8	55	53	52	52	52	52	52
FIREFOX	26.5		25	25	28	28	28	28
FOGGY DEW	16.8	20	19	17	14	14	14	14
FUN AND GAMES	36.8	38	36	36	37	37	37	37
HOT CHIPPS	35.6	32	35	37	37	37	37	38
LEBROK	39.8	41	39	39	40	40	40	40
LUSCIOUS	34			34	34	34	34	30
MAGIC	30.2	32	29	30	30	30	30	30
MARIBEL	20.2	24	19	18	20	20	20	20
MIDNIGHT MAGIC	5.2	4	4	4	7	7	7	7
MYUNA III	28.8	32	28	28	28	28	28	28
OASIS	29				29			
PERFECT SENSE	21					21		
PHOENIX	33	29	31	35	35	35	35	35
PIPPA	6.8	4	7	7	8	8	8	9
PIAZZ	25.2	24	26	26	25	25	25	25
PRIMO	37.2	38	36	36	37	39	39	39
ROLLER COASTER	25.6	26	26	26	25	25	25	27
SALTSHAKER	19.8	18	19	20	20	22	22	22
SECOND NATURE	33		33	33	33	33	33	33
STAMPEDE	53	53	53	53	53	53	53	53
SUMMER WIND	22.25		23	22	22	22	22	23
SURI	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	23
THE SECRETARY	46	44	45	47	47	47	47	47
ULUWATU	43		43	43	43	43	43	43
UPBEAT	37.6	37	37	38	38	38	38	38
VANTAGE	34	29	33	36	36	36	36	36
VINDALOO	37.6	33	35	40	40	40	42	42
VIVE LA VIE	7	6	6	5	9	9	9	11
WATERMARK11	31.75		35	32	30	30	30	30
WHITE NOISE	41.8	44	42	41	41	41	41	41
WHITE POINTER	35	32	35	36	36	36	36	37
WICKED	50	51	49	49	49	52	54	54
WILLARIE	4.4	7	4	3	4	4	4	4
WIND SPEED	45	44	45	45	45	46	46	46

Handicap adjustments this series are shaping up to be much different to those applied in the summer series. It was not uncommon for most if not all handicaps in summer to receive significant weekly adjustment. In the last 3 races of the winter series less handicaps have been adjusted and the adjustments have been relatively small. For example, only three handicaps were adjusted for race 6. These were the 3 podium finishers. For race 7, seven handicaps were increased and one reduced. Again, three of the seven were the podium finishers from the previous race.

VINDALOO finished 17th which was good enough for her to stay on top of the aggregate.

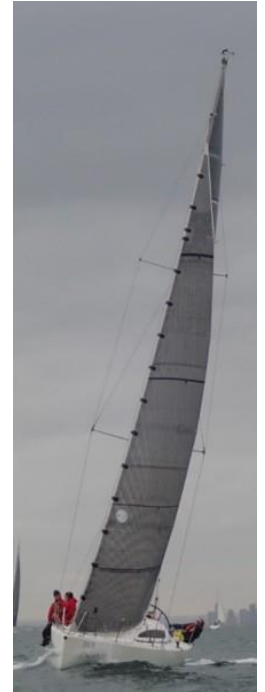




CASSANDRA one of 17 yachts to have completed 7 races.



(Above) Just how many people fit in the LEBROK cockpit?



Getting the right angle of heel



(Left) BABYDOLL sailed well before deciding to retire.

(Right) MIDNIGHT MAGIC was in 7th place after the first 3 legs and went on to finish 22nd.



(Left) SUMMER WIND made good use of the winter wind to finish 11th.

(Right) DOLPHIN PLAY recorded her best result of the series when she finished 7th.





BRANNEW started 34th and after recording the 3rd fastest elapsed time finished 13th. Not too far behind MAGIC and SALTSHAKER in 9th and 10th place respectively.

(Right) BACARDI had some big sails well set and finished 20th.



(Left) BARNSTORMER making a bit of a splash on her way to number 5.

(Below) A good celebration after a good race.



Photos by Bruce Parry
&
Andy Lynch

*Windward
Buooy*