

Australian Tasar Council

Report to World Tasar Council – Hayling Island, UK

On behalf of the Australian Tasar Council Inc. and Australian Tasar sailors, it is my pleasure to present this report via video link to the World Tasar Council meeting in Hayling Island, UK. Apologies I cannot be there in person, but with a new addition to our family earlier this year we have made the difficult decision to sit this one out.

Since the last report given in July 2017 at the Worlds in Gamagori Japan, the ATC has conducted two national championships - in July 2018 in Darwin, NT with 52 Tasars competing and was won by multi-national and worlds champions Rob and Nicole Douglass. In January 2019 in Largs Bay SA, this event attracted a fleet of 49 Tasars and was won by James and Tara Burman from NSW. Whilst Australian Tasar sailing is generally stable, attendance at both events was a little lower than on recent years and we are reflecting on how we continue to grow participation in the largest Tasar sailing region.

There are 19 Australian boats competing in this event in Hayling Island and similar to the arrangement for the worlds held in Gamagori, we are also pleased to be able to supply charter boats for the North American fleet which helps to ultimately subsidise shipping costs for all competitors. As I reported at the last WTC AGM, sending containers offshore remains cost prohibitive and we need to consider more innovative arrangements to ensure that class participation remains strong at the world level.

The ATC has recently completed its tender evaluation process to determine the host club for the next Australian world championship rotation. We look forward to formal ratification by the WTC to endorse the Sandringham Yacht Club in Victoria to host the World Championships in 2024. This will be an event that will endeavour to have significant participation, supported by strong local infrastructure.

As many would also be aware, the ATC has taken an active approach to re-establish engagement with Julian Bethwaite to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the class. The focus more recently in our discussions has been the ongoing challenges and complexity of our supply chain arrangements. Generally, the high cost of sails and spars is a perceived barrier to entry into the class and I am of the view that more holistic changes toward a single source supplier of unique to Tasar parts should be actively considered.

Finally, the ATC offers its congratulations to World Tasar President Rod Porteous and the Tasar Association of the UK on what is sure to be an exciting and memorable event. A fleet of 67 Tasars is an excellent result. I wish all competitors the very best of luck.

Nicole Kidman President, Australian Tasar Council

24 July 2019