

2007 Etchells Victorian Championships.

Mark Bulka, Steve Young and Tony Nash win 2007 Etchell Victorian Championships for the second year in a row. The regatta attracting many local legends all keen to perform on the beautiful waters out of Mornington on Port Phillip Bay.

The fleet included John Bertrand with new crew of Mark Tonner-Joyce and Ernie Lawrence, Ian Johnson sailing with 2004 World Champion and recent NSW champion Peter McNeill and Tim Ede, Grant Wharington, Chris Jackson, David Clark, Jake Gunther, Damian King, Ross Loyd and all the way from New Zealand; Alisdair Gair runner up in the recent 2009 Audi Etchells World Championships in Fremantle.

Race1 Racing started on Saturday with two races sailed in a 5 knot variable breeze. Shifts were big and hard to predict. Many boats had a look at the lead with Bulka and crew staying in the middle to claim the last shift and win Race 1.

Race 2 The wind settled into a light sea breeze. Ian Johnson was quick away at the pin with Bulka just to leeward. Johnson took an early opportunity to cross the fleet. Bulka hung on a little longer and sailed into a heading breeze, tacked and crossed the fleet to lead at all marks and claim there second win for the day.

Race 3 On Sunday brought what looked like a big breeze, though settled around 15 to 18 knots. Most of the fleet seemed to be thinking about the left, though Ross Loyd thought otherwise and headed out hard right to pick up a big right hander and go into the top mark with a huge lead. No one was ever going to catch him from there, as he cruised to an easy victory.

Race 4 The New Zealanders finally got their boat going. Racing was tight with Jackson, Johnson, Bertrand, Bulka and Gair all having a look at the front. But Gair and his crew were the most solid, enjoying the building breeze and sailing away to a win. Going into Monday Bulka and Bertrand were tied on points with Johnson and Loyd still within striking distance.

Race 5 A perfect 16 knot South Easterly breeze awaited. Bulka and Loyd had the best of the pin and headed left with the New Zealanders doing the best of the right hand group. At the top mark Loyd again led with Gair and Bulka just behind. Bertrand and Johnson both back in the main pack saw their chance of winning the regatta slipping away. Down the first run Bulka slipped into leeward of the front two, then jibed to take the lead at the bottom mark. They then just worked the shifts to sail away to there third win and the Championship not needing to sail the last race.

Race 6 Bertand won the pin and was off to a flying start in a now very shifty 18 knot breeze. The fleet tacked together as 20 degree shifts thumped the fleet from one tack to another. Bertrand came out on top at the first mark, though Jackson and Clarke were still in the hunt. Up the second beat the fleet again favoured the left with big shifts, though a bigger shift was happening out on the right where Johnson and Mary Hannah picked up a big right hander to launch Mary into the front group and Johnson 50 meters clear. Johnson then sailed conservatively to win the last race.

Final Results saw Mark Bulka, Steve Young and Tony Nash sailing Critical Balance win from John Bertrand, Ernie Lawrence and Mark Tonner-Joyce sailing Triad followed by Ian Johnson, Peter McNeil and Tim Ede sailing Magpie.

Final Results:

Place	SailNo	Skipper	Fleet	Series Score	Race1	Race2	Race3	Race4	Race5	Race6
1	AUS1277	Mark Bulka	Melb				[6.00]	5.00	1.00	4.00

				12.00	1.00	1.00				
2	AUS1321	John Bertrand	Melb	16.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	[10.00]	3.00
3	AUS1318	Ian Johnson	Melb	19.00	6.00	[8.0]	2.00	3.00	7.00	1.00
4	AUS1274	Ross Lloyd	Melb	26.00	2.00	[14.00]	1.00	7.00	8.00	8.00
5	AUS1131	Dave Clark	Syd	27.00	8.00	2.00	[9.00]	8.00	4.00	5.00
6	AUS1101	Chris Jackson	Morn	32.00	9.00	[16.00]	8.00	2.00	11.00	2.00
7	NZ950	Alisdair Gair	NZ	33.00	7.00	13.00	[15.00]	1.00	2.00	10.00
8	AUS1237	Grant Wharington	Morn	35.00	5.00	[18.00]	7.00	6.00	5.00	12.00
9	AUS882	Brendon Jukes	Melb	54.00	16.00	[20.00]	11.00	10.00	6.00	11.00
10	AUS1122	Kirwan Robb	Melb	55.00	14.00	6.00	5.00	14.00	[17.00]	16.00
11	AUS1024	Guyon Wilson	Geel	62.00	10.00	5.00	13.00	[21.00]	19.00	15.00
12	AUS1293	Ian Crisp	Melb	63.00	13.00	4.00	14.00	[18.00]	14.00	18.00
13	AUS892	Jeff Rose	Meet	66.00	12.00	9.00	16.00	15.00	[23.00]	14.00
14	AUS1162	Campbell Myles	Melb	68.00	30.00	7.00	10.00	9.00	12.00	[32.00]DNF
15	AUS1288	Steve Gunther	Melb	68.00	15.00	25.00	12.00	[32.00]DSQ	9.00	7.00
16	AUS1335	Mary Hanna	Geel	69.00	[23.00]	19.00	18.00	12.00	14.00	6.00
17	AUS1257	Barry Hawkes	Blair	77.00	4.00	10.00	27.00	16.00	20.00	[32.00]DNF
18	AUS858	Andrew Pope	Morn	82.00	19.00	[21.00]	17.00	19.00	18.00	9.00
19	AUS872	Nick Knezic	Melb	84.00	20.00	12.00	21.00	[22.00]	14.00	17.00
20	AUS1223	Chris Hampton	Melb	92.00	27.00	[28.00]	20.00	11.00	21.00	13.00
21	AUS747	Niesje Hees	Melb	99.00	11.00	[29.00]	25.00	20.00	24.00	19.00
22	AUS1082	Rob Hanna	Geel	101.00	26.00	23.00	19.00	17.00	16.00	[32.00]DNF
23	AUS1244	Jake Gunther	Melb	115.00	17.00	30.00	4.00	[32.00]DNC	32.00DNC	32.00DNC
24	AUS941	Garrath James	Morn	117.00	31.00	26.00	22.00	13.00	25.00	[32.00]DNF
25	AUS1026	Barry Fairley	Melb	119.00	21.00	31.00	[32.00]DNC	32.00DNC	3.00	32.00DNF
26	AUS817	Michael Daddo	Morn	123.00	24.00	22.00	28.00	23.00	26.00	[32.00]DNC
27	AUS924	Damien King	Melb	125.00	18.00	11.00	[32.00]DNF	32.00DNC	32.00DNC	32.00DNC
28	AUS948	Ken Vaughan	Morn	125.00	28.00	15.00	26.00	24.00	[32.00]DNC	32.00DNC
29	AUS850	Graeme Alexander	Morn	127.00	22.00	27.00	24.00	[32.00]DNF	22.00	32.00DNF
30	AUS1141	Peter Stubbings	Melb	131.00	25.00	24.00	23.00	[32.00]DNC	27.00	32.00DNF
31	AUS769	Ian McIntosh	Morn	142.00	29.00	17.00	[32.00]DNF	32.00DNC	32.00DNC	32.00DNC

Report by Amanda Coates and Mark Bulka.