



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Weta National Championships 28<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**

### **Port Kembla Sailing Club Lake Illawarra NSW, Australia General information for competitors**

Dear competitors,

On behalf of the committee and members of Port Kembla Sailing Club, we warmly welcome you to the shores of Lake Illawarra 'pleasant place by the sea' in Dharawal country.

Lake Illawarra is a large, shallow, coastal lake separated from the sea by a narrow land barrier, with an imposing escarpment to the west. Whilst the lake is tidal to a degree, there is no current to speak of at the top of the lake where we sail. At this time of the year (at least in a normal summer!) the prevailing breeze is a NE sea breeze that builds as the day warms up. It can easily reach 25 knots with a short chop. The other main breeze is the S or SE pattern which often accompanies a 'southerly buster' after several hot days. In very hot weather the wind may be from the W or NW. For real-time wind data, use the Holfuy app and search for Lake Illawarra. This weather station is situated on the eastern edge of the racecourse.

There is a map of the clubhouse precinct below. The intention is to open up the gate to the boat park during the morning of Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> and allow access to the clubhouse toilets and showers. If you arrive earlier than that and wish to camp, you can set up your tent in the designated area or in the car park adjacent to it. We 'own' this area for the duration of the regatta and if members of the public set up gazebos and the like, they will be politely asked to move elsewhere. There are some very basic always-open public toilets on the western side of the clubhouse building should you arrive before the club is open. There is plenty of room to drive in and leave trailers along the northern fence and park cars in front of the trailers. Like anywhere else, it is most prudent to not leave out anything that you don't wish to become owned by someone else, especially overnight.

The canteen will be open for lunch each day, serving its now-famous 'Netty burgers' and wraps on alternate days. On the final day, bacon and egg PkMuffins will be served early instead, because of the earlier start to racing. The canteen will also have the usual pies, sausage rolls, drinks, coffee etc. Vegetarian options will be available. The club is also licenced and will have beer and wine available after sailing. We would really like you to buy our alcohol rather than bringing your own as it is an income stream for the club.

There will be a welcome sausage sizzle after the invitation race on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup>. Due to the precarious nature of the regatta proceeding at all, it was decided that no 'in-house' dinner would be organised, apart from a finger-food presentation at the conclusion of the regatta. Nevertheless, there are plenty of local dining options available - for example, there's a fish and chips right next to the club, Berkeley Sports Club just up the road, The Open Hearth Hotel at Warrawong, Illawarra Yacht Club, and plenty of others. The main shopping is at Warrawong Plaza (a 10-minute drive) but also a Coles in the small shopping centre at Berkeley. For boat parts, the Yacht Shop adjacent to Illawarra Yacht Club won't be open, but Kevin (0409 324 415) is very happy to be contacted to provide parts and repairs on a needs basis. If you realise that you will need something at the last minute (eg. on Boxing Day) ring him and he'll see if it can be done for pick up when you arrive. He's very supportive.

New Year's Eve is somewhat problematic. Nothing can be/has been formally organised and depending on what people are prepared to risk/do on an individual basis, some suggestions

may be put forward closer to the time. Wollongong has scheduled a fireworks display around its harbour (Belmore Basin) which attracts largeish crowds, but this may or may not go ahead.

The region abounds in natural beauty. The escarpment is renowned for bushwalking trails within easy reach. A short drive brings you to places like Kiama and its famous blowhole, the city of Wollongong and its harbour precinct (home of the UCI World Cycling Championships in September), Mt Keira lookout, the aviation heritage museum (HARS) at Shellharbour airport, the ocean beaches, and the list goes on. A lay-day day-trip could take you to the village of Berry, Shoalhaven Heads, Kiama and Shellharbour village, for example.

We look forward to seeing you and renewing friendships after what seems an eternity of ups and downs. Safe travels to you all.

Stephen Watts (0403 815 889)  
Secretary PKSC

Ian Richardson (0412 272 664)  
NSW/PKSC Weta Delegate

