

NSW Nationals Report 2015/6

Crews from NSW skippered 6 of the fleet of 28 boats for the 50th Mirror Australian Championships held at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club in Perth for a week of close sailing in great conditions with the Fremantle Doctor kicking in breezes most days of up to 20 knots over the 2015/2016 new year week.

Local boats took the first three places in the Open division with Liam Wilson, son of legend Geoff Wilson who won the Bill Jaffray Trophy, taking first by one, yes one point, from Simon Barwood the WA and Australian Association President who won the Veterans Trophy, and local youth gun sailors Ethan and James taking third, and Youths, with Douglas Rafteshaft from NSW picking up the Family Trophy in Sandy with son Miles, and daughter Charlotte, the Junior Trophy in Lollyhead. A true family commitment with Mum in support!

Tara Wilson won the Ladies Trophy despite taking a few capsizes. Sigi Bailes and daughter, a South African entry will be a contender for the Worlds, beating Tara by a meagre 6 points, but not being Australian was ineligible for the Australian ladies division.

Other NSW entrants fared well with Gavin Cooke and son finishing 7th, Stan Bland and local crews, Diane and Lucy 12th and winning the Masters Division (Norm Dean trophy), and ladies legends Sue Hextel and Celia May ranking 20th in what was a remarkably strong fleet.

Next Year's Nationals in South Australia will be a milestone with the local fleet being restarted after being dormant for a number of years.